

Positivist Criminology:

Comte: (1798-1857)

Physicist observes physical bodies in space. Then describe the movements, laws.

Comte believes that you can study society the same way physicist study the material world. How society will ideally operate: laws and principles, done through direct observation. Society need to be directly observed.

This is the positivism, by identify the laws and principles that the society operates.

Comte: new science of society: social physics. Society works with the same mechanical laws as the physical world. His positivism set an entire school of criminology. The criminal behave, move around by social forces. Crime is determined. People are made by society to commit crimes.

P: crime is chosen. C: crime is not chosen.

Quetelet (1796-1874): an astronomer: movement of heavenly bodies. The astronomer can determine the movement according to the math formulae. Q believed for crime, society had similar regularities to it. Crime rates: crime would commit the same regularity as the sun come out everyday. The universe operates as a machine; the society works the same way. Social mechanics: society is like a machine.

Statements: crimes can be determined by some formulae. Such regularities are in the social world.

Mid 19C: one condition tend to produce crime: crime is assumed to be caused by poverty. Q was living in a time with econ development. Wealth went to moral depravity, especially among young males.

Moral education: the solution of crime. Attributing crime to moral deficiency. Morality: no measurement, I couldn't see. Positivism doesn't work with the ideal of moral education. Q: abandon the moral issue and start measuring people's heads—moral disposition. He took physical features as science and measure moral depravity. Moral depravity could be seen in the physical body.

Darwin: D showed that man have descended from lower life forms. We are biologically related to them.

Lombroso: Darwin suggests a positivist biological theory of crime: the concept of atavism.

All living creatures are related to one another. The genes in early life forms could reappear in later life forms.

Atavism: you look like a monkey. Darwin: early life forms could be reappear in humans.

L: carnivorous plants: the dawn of criminology. Female dove may kill their original mate: animal do that due to their nature. Criminal behavior: atavism behavior, early life forms.

Challenge: to identify which human to be atavist, animal-like. They observe facial and bodily features.

"Stigmata" :If someone has the behavior like a monkey they must look like monkey."

L: exaggeration, not actual measurement according to positivist principles:

feet: right: prostitute's feet. Stigmata of immorality. Like a monkey's foot: promiscuous.

Biologically inferior: primitives, bodily endowment: L: indication of atavism. bodily decoration: primitiveness.

Europeans are too evolved for that. Tattoos hurt. These people were immune to pain: primitiveness. They found those characters in criminals: criminals have tattoos: primitiveness.

L: implications for the criminal justice system: classical criminology: determinant sentiency. L: indeterminant

sentencing, positive schools. Different sentencing taken into psychological, physical account. Everything determines the sentence to be longer or shorter. You should not punish some poor people who make a mistake, but rather biology that cannot be changed.

L: advocate himself to death penalty: for those biological criminals, as born criminals. You can't change them.

Darwin: the less favored species will die out: natural selection. Unfit species: society will deliberately kill them in the death penalty.

L: sophisticated thinker at his time. 5 editions: less biological factors, more social factors as the cause of crime.

criminology: although mental disorder, but he look into social factors. Like Q: he didn't see poverty, but wealth.

He started as a biologist and ended as a sociologist. Crime is determined.: the central of positivism. 35% criminals were born atavistic, he moved away from his original assumptions.

Positivist criminology: biology is inside the body but not inside the consciousness.

Causes of crime: since L, most criminology has been positivist.