

Chapter 2 Crime and Deviance

Topic 8 Globalisation, Green Crime, Human Rights and State Crime

Answers to QuickCheck Questions on page 141

1. The drugs trade; green crimes; immigrant smuggling; arms trafficking; international terrorism. More examples on page 127.
2. Late modern society, which is threatened by risks that are human-made and have never been faced before, such as global warming and nuclear accidents.
3. An organisation dependent on global connections, but that still has a local network.
4. You can see clearly what is or is not a crime.
5. Many harmful actions are not in fact against the law, or may be against the law in one country but not in another.
6. The study of environmental harm and of harm caused by the powerful (e.g. states, big business).
7. An anthropocentric view is a human-centred view that assumes humans have the right to dominate the environment; an ecocentric view sees humans and their environment as interdependent, so that environmental harm hurts humans also.
8. Primary green crimes are crimes that directly involve harm to the environment (e.g. destroying the rainforest); secondary green crimes are crimes that result from the flouting of rules designed to prevent environmental harm (e.g. breaking laws against dumping toxic waste).
9. State corporate crimes are crimes that states commit in conjunction with corporations.
10. It recognises that much of the harm done by states is not against the law; it includes not just illegal acts, but also legally permissible acts similar to illegal acts in the harm they cause. It takes a wider view of state wrongdoing. It prevents states from ruling themselves 'out of court' by making laws that allow them to misbehave. It creates a single standard that can be applied to different states to identify which ones are most harmful to human or environmental wellbeing.
11. Because states that practice imperialism, racism, sexism or economic exploitation are committing crimes because they are denying people their basic rights. Because virtually all states care about their human rights image, because these rights are now global social norms. Because if we accept a legal definition (that crimes are simply whatever the state says they are), we become subservient to the state's interests. Because the sociologist's role should be to defend human rights, if necessary against the state's laws.
12. Division of labour – bureaucratisation – instrumental rationality – science and technology.
13. Ways that are used by delinquents and by the state to justify their crimes, e.g. denial of victim, of injury or of responsibility.