

have, thus far, perpetuated it, but may, in the end, contribute to its demise.

Erich Fromm and Critical Criminology: Beyond the Punitive Society, edited by **Kevin Anderson** and **Richard Quinney**. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2000. 192 pp. \$34.95 cloth. ISBN: 0-252-02514-8. \$15.95 paper. ISBN: 0-252-06830-0.

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This book provides a small collection of criminological papers on and by the Freudo-Marxist Erich Fromm. Though Fromm's work is well known across the social sciences, his contributions to criminological thought are neglected. This is no surprise to the extent that Fromm published only a few short articles explicitly dealing with matters of crime and criminal justice. Yet, given Fromm's prominence in the history of modern social thought, the intention of this volume to theorize further on and apply the criminology of Fromm cannot be dismissed. The results of this endeavor in *Erich Fromm and Critical Criminology*, however, are not intellectually satisfying.

The volume starts off with a rather detailed introduction into Fromm's life and work by Fromm expert Rainer Funk. The chapter is interesting but not integrated with the central theme of the book, providing an excursion with marginal appeal to historians of selected aspects of social thought. The following five chapters deal with theoretical and empirical issues that relate Fromm's Freudo-Marxism with a variety of criminological themes. Of these, the chapters by Lynn Chancer, John Wozniak, and Polly Radosh transcend the theoretical and metatheoretical to connect with empirically attuned themes that should move any serious criminologist. Unfortunately, all but one of these applications offer materials much too underdeveloped and esoteric to be fruitful for a better understanding of the value and limitations of Fromm's thought for criminological sociology. Chancer's effort to connect Fromm's perspective of sado-masochism with violent crime is too thin to offer any valuable insights and remains too superficial in narrating elements of how

Fromm's ideas might be "potentially applicable" in the area of criminology (p. 41). Wozniak's attempt to apply Fromm's concept of alienation to criminal behavior, likewise, provides some fragments of an application, offering strings of quotations from the primary and secondary relevant literature instead of a serious and sustained criminological treatment. Proving that a deeper and more useful criminological analysis of Fromm's work is possible, Radosh offers a helpful discussion of gender differences in crime and criminal justice from the viewpoint of Fromm's perspective of social character and gendered socialization. The chapter is refreshingly enlightening in estimating how Fromm's ideas may work in criminology, especially inasmuch as the analysis is both empirically grounded as well as theoretically astute.

The two remaining applied chapters are more theoretical or metatheoretical in orientation, but they likewise offer little to further a Frommian criminology. Richard Quinney's effort to link theoretically Fromm's thought with peacemaking criminology falls short of expectations of one of the most respected figures in the history of critical criminology in the United States. In a mere nine pages, Quinney sprinkles a utopian vision and nihilist epistemology that only cursorily refers to Fromm, alongside of Gandhi and others purportedly interested in developing responses to crime "generated by love" (p. 28). If this chapter, written by one of the key architects of peacemaking criminology, is any indication of the strength of the theoretical foundations of that perspective, its adherents are poorly served. The final applied chapter in this book, Kevin Anderson's paper on the place of Fromm's work in the history of German criminology and the Frankfurt School, is mostly a summary of Fromm's papers on crime, interspersed with excursions into the works of criminologists of Fromm's time or assumed ilk. These various themes are presented in a disconnected manner and fail to provide anything of substance beyond an exercise in the history of social thought.

Fortunately, this book also contains two (of the three) papers written by Fromm in which he explicitly deals with criminological themes. Offering the most interesting contribution of this volume, the papers provide a firsthand look into Fromm's thinking on crime and criminal justice. Though these papers are rel-

actively brief and not particularly original for their time, their appearance in English for the first time is a contribution to contemporary sociology, if only and minimally to inform us how an author as well known as Fromm dealt with social issues as relevant to society, and occasionally still, as underestimated in sociology, as crime and criminal justice. However, what Fromm's ideas can mean for the practice of contemporary criminological sociology cannot be gathered from this volume.

Cutting The Edge: Current Perspectives in Radical/Critical Criminology and Criminal Justice, edited by **Jeffrey Ian Ross**. Westport, CT: Praeger, 1998. 226 pp. \$62.95 cloth. ISBN: 0-275-95708-X.

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In the foreword, the editor promises a book about cutting-edge, critical criminology, studies that “demonstrate vividly the difference between critical criminology and other schools.” The editor promises writings that “bristle with indignation and anger” (p. viii). The book “is aimed at readers who most likely are familiar with conservative, liberal, and radical/critical thought, research, and praxis” (p. xi). It should be of interest to undergraduate and graduate students, and to “more advanced students of criminology/criminal justice” (p. xii).

The first substantive chapter (Chapter 2), by O'Connor, asserts that radical/critical criminological theory can be developed by reviewing the relevant writings of Marx, Weber, and Simmel. Unfortunately, the author makes no attempt at improving radical/critical criminology theory.

Bohm, in Chapter 3, argues that the discussion of crime and crime control in market economies must be situated “within the broader framework of ‘socioeconomic formations,’” that the concepts of class and class struggle must be reemphasized, and that “a more clearly articulated ontological basis for the motivation of crime and social control in market economies” must be provided. Bohm examines “crime and crime control problems in the newly emerging market economies of the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and

China” (p. 18). In his analysis, Bohm correctly observes that racism, sexism, poverty, and homelessness are crimes overlooked by conventional criminologists and the public.

Also overlooked is the connection between class struggle, crime, and its control. In Chapter 4, Barak calls for an integrated critical criminology and for adopting strategies that would render critical criminology more palatable for critics and government officials. Arrigo, in Chapter 5, contends that crime and crime control are the product of behavior, structural conditions, and “*crime talk*” a ‘collective discursive production’ in which people sustain the prevailing ideology” (p. 40). Ferrell, in Chapter 6, envisions a “critical criminology energized by post modern currents—what we might call a critical/postmodern criminology” characterized “by what it repudiates and opposes” (p. 63) with the result: “a ruthless criticism of everything existing” (p. 72). Friedrichs, in Chapter 7, explores the points of intersection between critical criminology and the study of white collar crime. He observes a “war between the white collar criminologists,” fought on one side by “critical white collar criminologists” and on the other side by “mainstream criminologists” (pp. 80–81). Friedrichs identifies new, promising directions in critical white collar criminology including peacemaking criminology, postmodernist criminology, feminist criminology, and leftist realism, all contributing to a new emphasis on “crimes of the powerful” (p. 89).

In Chapter 8, Ross focuses on “radical and critical criminology’s treatment of municipal policing” (p. 95). He reviews a sampling of radical/critical studies of policing and attempts to categorize and synthesize the information. Studies reviewed touch on the following topics: coercive capacity of the police, police working conditions, police violence, and police history. His summary of weaknesses in radical/critical studies of policing is particularly interesting.

In Chapter 9, Welch offers an alternative, critical view of social control and corrections. From this perspective, the corrections industry functions to exploit masses of grossly underpaid slave-like laborers, and “to offset the problems endemic to capitalist production—problems that generate a large mass of unemployed persons who have to be controlled by the state” (p. 112). He critiques the