

# Popular Justice: A History of American Criminal Justice

*by*

Samuel Walker



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## Synopsis

This popular one-volume analysis of the evolution of American criminal justice places contemporary issues of crime and justice in historical perspective. Walker identifies the major periods in the development of the American system of criminal justice, from the small institutions of the colonial period to the creation of the police, the prison, and the juvenile court in the nineteenth century and the search for professionalism in the twentieth century. He argues that the democratic tradition is responsible for the worst as well as the best in the history of criminal justice in the United States. Offering a challenging perspective on current controversies in the administration of criminal justice in light of historical origins, the author explores the evolving conflict between the advocates of crime control and the advocates of due process. Now in its second edition, *Popular Justice* has been completely revised to include the most recent scholarship on crime and justice. Walker has updated his analysis of the history of American criminal justice and explores the tension between popular passions and the rule of law. He examines changing patterns in criminal activity, the institutional development of the system of criminal justice, and the major issues concerning the administration of justice. Timely and comprehensive, this text will be useful for courses in criminal justice, legal history, and criminology.

## Sort review

Praise for the previous edition "An admirable, well-conceived work. An excellent and timely study--clearly formulated, succinct, critical, historically informed. A much-needed contribution."--Ruben G. Rumbaut, University of California, San Diego "A concise and lucid survey of the evolution of American criminal justice institutions and criminological thought. It should be required reading for students of criminal justice."--Richard J. Terrill, Georgia State University "A pioneering effort....This is a valuable introduction to a subject that is rapidly increasing in sophistication and importance."--David R. Johnson, *American Historical Review* About the Author Samuel E. Walker is at University of Nebraska, Omaha.

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## Look inside the book

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Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic  
Criminological Theory: Past to Present:  
Essential Readings Crime and Public Policy

## What people say about this book

AnotherConsumer, "Just the facts. Well-researched and written. No leftist agenda. Just educational, factual, and historical. Thanks!"

P. A. Panozzo, "Enlightening History. I purchased this book for a university History course. It is somewhat dated (1998) but it is a good overview of the history of the U.S. criminal justice system. The author has well researched the history and presents his views like any other historian. I found the book to be very enlightening as I knew very little of the history of the evolution of criminal justice, the various attempts at reform, and the ongoing problems it continues to face. I think the book was a very good introduction to the course I was taking (History of violent crime in America). I particularly found interesting the chapters pertaining to the Colonial era of criminal justice. Other books of interest:

Penitentiaries, Reformatories, and Chain Gangs: Social Theory and the History of Punishment in Nineteenth Century America

and.

The FBI & American Democracy: A Brief Critical History

These books were all required reading for the course."

Rheanna Ebook Library Reader, "Five Stars. I donated the book to kids."

Monica De Leon, "book. i needed this book for my class at college it was great thanks i loved it the book was great thanks"

Alysa, "Five Stars. Looks New."

The book by Samuel Walker has a rating of 5 out of 4.5. 26 people have provided feedback.

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Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced typesetting: Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Sticky notes: On Kindle Scribe

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