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## BOOKS RECEIVED

**Criminology: Explaining Crime and Its Context.** By Stephen E. Brown, Finn-Aage Esbensen, and Gilbert Geis. Cincinnati: Anderson Publishing, 1991. Hard Cover.

*Criminology* is divided into three parts. The first, comprised of five chapters, contains an overview of criminal law and the criminal justice system. The authors examine criminal law by exploring its content and its philosophical underpinnings. The criminal justice system is analyzed by considering both the formal and informal responses to crime.

The second part of the book, comprised of seven chapters, examines a diverse range of theories of crime. The theories are presented in a historical framework with each theory discussed in the context of the time period when it was first formulated. This approach is particularly interesting because it gives the reader a better understanding of how the different theories of crime explain, and are explained by, the particular social and political circumstances of the time.

The third part of the book examines types of crimes. The five chapters in this part of the book divide crime into five categories: female, violent, economic, victimless, and political. The chapter on female crime is especially important because it addresses the gender variable which has not been incorporated into many other works on criminology.

*Criminology* is a truly fascinating book and its treatment of theories of crime is particularly excellent. This book should be enjoyed by criminal law practitioners as well as those interested in understanding criminal behavior.

**Equality Transformed: A Quarter Century of Affirmative Action.** By Herman Belz. New Brunswick: Social Philosophy & Policy Center. 1991. Pp. ix + 320. Paperback. \$17.95.

The basic meaning of the anti-discrimination principles of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 remains legally contested and politically controversial over twenty-five years after its enactment. Statutory language that was intended to confer equal opportunity in employment has for many years been interpreted as authorizing government officials and private employers to adopt preferential practices benefitting designated racial and ethnic groups.

*Equality Transformed* seeks to illuminate the debate over race-conscious affirmative action by studying the redefinition of equality that has resulted over the last twenty-five years. While the concept of equality was once associated with equality of opportunity, the new concept of equality contemplates equality of result. This redefinition of equality involved a fundamental shift in our understanding of the nature of rights. Instead of the individual being the primary social unit on the basis of which rights are defined, the group has become the primary unit from which the rights of the individual are derived. This mentality has predictably led to further balkanization of groups in society based solely on racial and ethnic criteria.

The author traces the historical development of affirmative action policy and provides in-depth discussion of the important Supreme Court cases in the area. He also examines the activities of various enforcement entities including the EEOC and the Justice Department, noting the inconsistent approaches toward affirmative action which reflect the polarization over the issues.

The most important contribution this book makes to the affirmative action debate involves defining the significance of the debate in a wider context. The author demonstrates that the debate over affirmative action really involves a debate between equality of opportunity and equality of result. He explains that there is no compromise between these concepts. Acceptance of the principle of equality of result is simply a rejection of the principle of equality of opportunity. Similarly, the affirmative action concept of group rights is irreconcilable with the concept of individual rights. Ultimately, the author argues that the resolution of the principles involved in the

affirmative action question will determine whether the United States remains a free society based on individual rights or regresses into a society dominated by massive statist intervention.

*Equality Transformed* is an excellent book which is must reading for those seeking to understand the significance of the affirmative action debate.

**Drug Prohibition and the Conscience of Nations.** Edited by Arnold S. Trebach and Kevin B. Zeese. Washington, D.C.: Drug Policy Foundation. 1990. Pp. 250. Paperback. \$9.95.

*Drug Prohibition and the Conscience of Nations* is a collection of current writings on the many issues encompassed by the drug policy debate. Beginning with the words of the nation's two top anti-drug officials, President Bush and former "Drug Czar" William Bennett, the book details the arguments of the proponents of drug prohibition.

The domestic failures of the current drug war are discussed, as well as the successes of more innovative and rational drug policies practiced overseas. The book provides compelling arguments for moving away from draconian and counter-productive policies toward more rational, humane, and cost-effective policies.

One chapter explores the differences between U.S. and British treatment of addicts. While Britain has implemented "harm reduction" programs such as needle exchange, the United States forces its citizens to endure tragic deaths from AIDS because anti-drug principles are thought to be compromised by some AIDS prevention strategies.

Another chapter focuses on Holland's health-oriented drug policy and its decriminalization of the possession of small quantities of drugs.

The remainder of the book discusses the domestic and international militarization called for by politicians to combat the drug problem. Other key issues discussed include the erosion of civil liberties, crack babies, police corruption, and how to end the war on drugs.

The book's comprehensive and thoughtful treatment of the drug issue is essential to anyone seeking to fully understand the present state of the drug debate.

