

Myths about crime in the USA

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The author discusses myths related to crime and their impact on the perception of crime, response and readiness for preventive activity of people, the function of these myths, myth-makers (media, governmental and non-governmental organizations), myth-making processes, perpetrators, justice and enforcement criminal sanctions. Also described are some features of crime myths (representing victims as completely innocent, perpetrators as evil, heroic cops), techniques for creating crime myths that are closely related to propaganda techniques (creating stereotypes about criminals, presenting opinions as facts, positivist affirmation of opinions, use of terminology containing value judgments, selective presentation of facts, information management, unsubstantiated references to authorities, presentation of facts outside the circumstances, and selective interviewing).

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