

Post-modernization, crime and control mechanisms  
(in society and over it)

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"Post-modernization" is a concept (for many controversial and perhaps too hastily conceived), which involves many things, including effacing the typical modern boundary between various disciplinary institutions (and central social identities which progressively more hybrid - are their "control effect"), between work and leisure time and ultimately also between criminal and non-criminal methods of gaining material resources. What is particularly interesting in this context is the vanishing of the distinction between criminal and non-criminal accumulation of capital and the blurring of the boundary between organized crime of the "mafia type" and "crime" of economic and political "corporations" (which increasingly resort to such tactics as extortion, corruption, obtaining immunity from state control mechanisms, severe punishment of disobedience and relying upon private "military-police" forces). Some foreign criminologists talk about statistical, structural and socio-psychological (or cultural) "normalization" of activities, which could in principle (and often even *de iure*) be criminalized. It seems that, not without reason (the "normality" of criminal conduct and its protagonists is also evident from media "coverage" of this subject, which long ago abandoned the once strictly fixed boundaries of "crime reporting" and overflowed in an uncontrolled way into all other columns; criminals of world reputation even publish their contributions in the opinion column of the principal Slovenian daily newspaper!).

So, what is happening with a contemporary society? In fact, nothing which is shockingly new. Post-modernization provokes social changes, which are more quantitative than qualitative, resulting finally in the escalation of "anomy" (Durkheim), which is a constant and structurally necessary companion of capitalist expansion. The most important thing from the viewpoint of criminology (and for many also rather a paradox) is the fact that in current circumstances the key "criminogenic" factor is a surplus (and not a deficit) of material and other resources (or "social power"). However, this is a recognition already reached by old good Durkheim (not to mention in this context the classics of Marxism).

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