

Criminological views on freedom and security in post-modern society

Zoran Kanduč, LL.D., Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law, Poljanski nasip 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

The post-modern state of »social affairs« is characterised by an extensive and intensive (in fact totalitarian) expansion of pressures exerted on the ever more autonomous individual (although at the same time more and more socialised), who is expected to reshape his personality potentials - in particular work and consumer capacities - in accordance with structural and heteronomous standards. This must of course be done voluntarily, which is completely in the spirit of the predominant liberal ideology (or objective illusion). In other words, what is considered to be a socio-historical and individual or organisational institutional necessity ("destiny") should be freely accepted. Such decisions undoubtedly have important psychological repercussions in terms of more or less complex rationalizations .used by people to interpret or make sense of activities, which they would never be ready to »authorise« on the basis of their common sense. On the other hand, it seems that a feeling of being threatened (of unsecurity) has been growing in relation to ecological, health, economic, ontological, identity, existential and, last but not least, criminal risks and dangers.

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