

### Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović and Slobodanka Konstatinović-Vilić: Kriminologija

Belgrade, Prometej, 2018, 503 pages

(Criminology)

The first edition of the *Criminology* textbook written by Slobodanka Konstatinović Vilić and Vesna Nikolić Ristanović, published in 2003, was preceded by a book entitled *The Foundations of Criminology*, which was published in 1992. Unlike *The Foundations of Criminology*, in which the authors clearly systematised basic knowledge in the field of criminology, *Criminology* contains a complex and detailed synthesis of knowledge about crime, which resulted from extensive research into the older and more recent world criminological literature and the authors' own research into certain types of crime. Thus, the *Criminology* textbook synthesised the latest knowledge about the concept and subject matter of criminology. In addition, the authors provided a complex analysis of phenomenological and etiological characteristics of crime, paying special attention to methodology and victimology, as well as to new types of crime and the specificities of crime in terms of its perpetrators and victims (Konstatinović-Vilić & Nikolić-Ristanović, 2003: 13). This textbook is primarily intended for students of law faculties and other related faculties in the field of social sciences and humanities, however, it may also prove useful to practitioners who encounter criminological issues, problems and challenges in their practical work (Konstatinović-Vilić & Nikolić-Ristanović, Kostić, 2009: 15–16).

Due to the rapid development of criminology as a science, there was a need to update the two criminology textbooks from 1992 and 2003 by introducing new scientific knowledge and the results of accomplished criminological research. Thus, a new edition of the *Criminology* textbook was published in 2009. In comparison with the previous two textbooks, the new 2009 edition contains changes in the chapter dedicated to the phenomenological characteristics of crime, as well as in other parts of the textbook. Criminological typology includes the consideration of several new types of crime, such as hate crimes, violence in sports, the criminal offences of persecution and mobbing, political crime, terrorism, trafficking in human beings, and crimes committed by women. In addition, the etiological part is supplemented by new theoretical explanations of crime (neutralisation theory; peace-making criminology and restorative justice; globalisation theories) and the analysis of the impact of globalisation and transition on crime. Furthermore, the authors updated statistical and research data, where possible and meaningful, and provided a new index of terms and concepts. The devel-

opment of summaries, questions and discussion topics, topics for seminar papers, key words and useful internet addresses at the end of individual units, represents a particularly important novelty, which should facilitate students' learning and encourage further criminological research (Mirić, 2018: 83).

A tendency to provide contemporary criminological knowledge to the students of the Faculty of Law in Niš, Serbia, was further reflected in the publication of a new edition of the *Criminology* textbook in 2012, which was written by Slobodanka Konstatinović-Vilić, Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović and Miomira Kostić. When compared to the previous publication, this textbook includes updates in the phenomenological part, particularly regarding the scope, dynamics, structure and new types of crime in Serbia and globally. In view of significant changes in the criminal law and criminal procedural legislation of the Republic of Serbia, which were introduced after the publication of the previous (2009) textbook, it was also necessary to update statistical data, include new research results and make a new index of terms and concepts (Konstatinović-Vilić, Nikolić-Ristanović, & Kostić, 2012: 15). These changes have facilitated the acquisition of scientific and academic knowledge provided in the textbook. Due to the abundance of practical examples, all textbooks prove highly beneficial to students of undergraduate, master's and doctoral studies, as well as to holders of judicial functions, employees of home affairs authorities, and all others who need to study criminology and apply criminological knowledge in practice (Mirić, 2018: 83).

The latest edition of the *Criminology* textbook was written by Vesna Nikolić Ristanović and Slobodanka Konstatinović Vilić in 2018. It is different from the previous edition, particularly because it was updated in order to encompass media-related legislation, international law and research findings, as well as other information on crime. As before, certain amendments were also made, specifically in terms of phenomenological aspects, in order to expand on the scope, dynamics, structure and new phenomena of crime in Serbia and across the world. Significant adjustments and amendments to the criminal legislation and other measures adopted to combat crime in Serbia were also introduced. Moreover, statistical and research data were updated, where possible and meaningful. In addition, due to the changes related to the author, minor

amendments were made to the structure of the book, while some parts (on hate crime, sports violence, mobbing and violence against the elderly) were omitted and several topics, such as terrorism, persecution and the interactionist theory, have been dealt with in a different way (Nikolić-Ristanović & Konstantinović-Vilić, 2018: 13). As a result, it may be observed that the latest textbook can prove very valuable to students, academic staff and criminological practitioners.

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## References

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