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Book Review of Routledge Handbook of International Criminology

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Routledge Handbook of International Criminology. 2011. Edited by Cindy J. Smith, Sheldon X. Zhang and Rosemary Barberet, New York, NY: Routledge, 585 pages. ISBN 978-0415779098.

Routledge's Handbook of International Criminology is an interdisciplinary text that provides a contextual analysis of international, transnational and national crime over the course of forty eight chapters. The book is divided into three main segments: (I) Methods and Theories, (II) Special Topics and (III) Criminology and Criminal Justice in Context. Chapters are authored by researchers, scholars and practitioners from around the world. Like its writers, the text is diverse in that it covers research methods and theory while attempting to expand perspectives in understanding crimes across borders, jurisdictions and cultures. Traditional topics such as terrorism and immigration are addressed yet, the collective features cutting-edge work on cyber crime, trafficking (in various forms), as well as organized crime and identity theft. In addition, the book also features country assessments that span far beyond the West, including Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Estonia, Ghana, India, South Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Turkey and more. While this text can be helpful in a variety of courses, it is best for students interested in transnational studies, international relations and the globalization of criminology.

The first section of the textbook spans ten chapters that provide an overview of international crime, research challenges, post-colonial criminology, and an introduction to both qualitative and quantitative analysis across borders. Other chapters in Part I address cultural sensitivity and transferability of Western theory, data knowledge bases, as well as, contextualization and partnerships relevant to research. The second section begins with an introduction to special topics in the field of international criminology that includes literature on the United Nations, The International Criminal Court, identity crime, safety in cyberspace, trafficking in humans, antiquities, and 'conflict diamonds'. More common topics like immigration and terrorism are sparingly included, limited to one chapter on each area. Additionally, Part II of the book includes work on global organized crime, the Hong Kong triads, drug trafficking in the Golden Triangle, the production of ecstasy in the Netherlands, and drug violence in Colombia. The third and final segment of the book

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encompasses case studies from twenty countries that represent a classification of nations along a broad socio-political axis. The editors note that countries are defined as rich, middle and developing based on criminological research and academic advances thereby, covering most regions of the world. Part III begins with an introduction to country assessments followed by the state of criminology in Australia, Brazil and Canada. Other chapters address the transitioning criminal justice system in Cambodia, approaches to crime in Chile, and trends in tumultuous societies like Colombia, Ghana, and Sierra Leone. The text also acknowledges criminology in developing nations like Mexico, Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone while providing insights about South Korea, Italy, the Netherlands, China, Russia, India and Great Britain.

Overall, the format is easily accessible and can serve as a reference guide for Criminal Justice, Sociology, and International Relations majors. One particular strength is the text's usefulness in writing a country assessment; a typical undergraduate paper. Furthermore, the information provided can be utilized in comparative courses for better understanding of global and international approaches. Additional resources about government bureaus and research centers are also available. Prompt questions at the end of each chapter can aid with senior and master's theses while encouraging future research into understudied subfields of international criminology. The country assessments are also insightful for regional study where limited data hinders students' course of study. At the graduate level, the text is a valuable contribution as a resource guide that provides a brief introduction into under-researched topics within the field. The text begins to fill gaps surrounding technological advancements by examining the background of emerging crime trends related to cyber crime, discussing an extensive literature and providing future research questions and references for students to expand the framework as they progress.

While the book shifts away from Anglocentric views, there are still fourteen Americans amongst its fifty four authors. In addition, it would be refreshing to see more partnerships between transnational criminologists to achieve a multilateral response to crime. Author's insights into barriers that were encountered for country assessment studies or the inclusion of such notes in future editions would be beneficial especially to students who may not understand the process of gathering data in the field. More chapters on cyber crime, terrorism and immigration would also be an asset to the Handbook as these issues continue to become more relevant.

While Chapters 15 (identity crime) and 19 (antiques trafficking) in special topics stands out, addressing further marginalized international criminal activities such as flora and fauna could have been included to create a balanced reference manual. In addition to this critique, Chapters 16 (cyber crime), 17 (immigration) and 26 (terrorism) remains limited as these are broad areas of study with major emerging interest. Although the chapters on identity crime and immigration keep the topic relevant to students today it limits responsive reaction with a minimalistic presentation of these areas in the book.

The text falls short by entirely excluding the Caribbean; a key transit route for transnational crime that also embodies various post-colonial governments and emancipated populations that would serve for an interesting criminological case study. Overall, the book's lack of Caribbean scholars is surprising and the acknowledgment of Latin America is too brief to adequately consider larger issues across the islands. Another shortcoming is the invisibility of gendered crimes throughout the book. The *Routledge Handbook of International Criminology* (2011) reads like any other criminology text with a brief

acknowledgement of gender in Chapter 18 (Trafficking in Persons) and then the concept reassumes invisibility throughout the rest of the book.

Overall, the Handbook is insightful and serves its purpose as an introductory point of reference for international, transnational and national crime scholars. While it is generally a broad piece, the additional resources and various scholarly references provided at the end of each chapter further enriches the content. The text's versatile nature makes it relevant to various disciplines and forthcoming editions can only add to the developing field of international criminology.