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| Durkheim | Crime allows social change to occur and allows boundaries to be maintained. Crime becomes dysfunctional when there is too much or too little crime.  |
| Merton | Strain theory. Individuals in society share the same goals but not the same means to achieve these. When an individual is unable to achieve socially accepted goals through legitimate means it causes a strain which leads to deviant behaviour. Adaptation to strain is through conforming, innovating, ritual, retreating, rebelling. |
| A.K. Cohen | Argues that crime acts as a warning that society is not working right (eg truancy may tell us the education system is not working) crime also acts as a safety valve eg prostitution allows men to release sexual frustration without damaging the nuclear family.  |
| 1. K. Cohen
 | Also looks at working class boys and how they may experience status frustration when operating in a middle-class school environment so create their own status hierarchy destroying property, cheeking teachers etc.  |
| Cloward and Ohlin | Different subcultures depending on different access to ‘illegitimate opportunity structures’. Criminal, conflict, retreatist. |
| Marx | See power being held by the Bourgeoisie and laws are a reflection of Bourgeois ideology. The legal system (lawyers, judges and the courts) and the police all serve the interests of the Bourgeoisie. These institutions are used to control the masses, prevent revolution and keep people in a state of false consciousness. |
| William Chambliss | Blames crime on private property being at the heart of the capitalist system. Example of taxes being manipulated by the English in tea plantations and says economic crime ‘’represents rational responses to the competitiveness and inequality of life in capitalist societies”.  |
|  Laureen Snider | Argue that Capitalist states are will not pass laws that regulate activities of businesses. White Collar Crime and Corporate Crime to the economy far outweighs the cost of street crime by ‘typical’ criminals. |
| Taylor Walton & Young | Wrote ‘New Criminology’ critical criminology arguing that Marxist views of crime are too deterministic. Look at choices of criminals in crime. Wanted a fully social theory of crime looking at different viewpoints including how criminals are labelled, how society is organised and the choices criminals make.  |
| Becker | Looks at how an act becomes labelled as deviant.  |
| Cicourel | Dark figure of crime. Our statistics are not accurate but should be used as a ‘resource’ rather than facts. They tell us about officers’ decisions to arrest are influenced by their stereotypes about offenders, these are known as ‘typifications’.  |
| Lemert | Primary and secondary deviance. Primary is of little significance, secondary is a response to society’s labels meaning the individual feels the weight of their labels and commits more deviant behaviour.  |
| S. Cohen | ‘Folk devils and moral panics’ looks at Mods and Rockers and the deviance amplification spiral. |
| Braithwaite | Argues that effects of negative labelling depends on how the label is applied. There may be reintegrative shaming and disintegrative shaming depending on whether the person has the chance to rejoin society or not. |
| Wilson & Herrnstein | Right Realists who think that criminals are biologically predisposed to commit crime. The right socialisation can train them away from it. In lone-parent families this socialisation is incomplete so they are more likely to have criminal children.  |
| Murray | Right realists, considers crime to be a choice if the rewards of crime are greater than the risks. Believes that if risk of going to prison is high people are less likely to commit crime.  |
| Wilson & Kelling | Right realists. Broken windows theory. If areas are not cleaned up then individuals think they can get away with committing crime.  |
| Felson | Most crime is opportunistic so if there are less opportunities there are likely to be less crimes.  |
| Lea & Young | Left Realists – argue that relative deprivation causes crime. A fair and just society will reduce crime.  |