

Crime in America

Observations on Its Nature, Causes, Prevention and Control

On "law and order": "The demagogic phrase 'law and order' may mean many things, but to most people today it signifies force, order as an end in itself, repressiveness . . . It divides black from white, young from old, rich from poor, educated from ignorant. It speaks of the horror of the criminal act while overlooking the greater tragedy: the innate capability of our people to commit crime. It somehow calls for force to prevent the act of crime while ignoring the heart prepared to commit it."

On violence: "Of all violence, police violence is the most dangerous. Who will protect the public when the police violate the law?"

On rehabilitation of criminals: "No activity of a people so exposes their humanity, their character, their capacity for charity in its most generous dimension, as the treatment they accord persons convicted of crime."

On police: "Anyone who thinks bullets are cheaper than adequate numbers of \$15,000-a-year college-trained policemen values life cheaply and misunderstands human nature."

On organized crime: "Organized crime is a very small part of America's crime. What does it have to do with the juvenile offender . . . with street crime — murder, rape, assault, mugging, robbery? . . ."

White-collar crime, protest, riot, school disturbances, the general violence of our environment are barely touched by organized crime . . . The greatest harm we could suffer from organized crime would be to permit it to distract us from the major problems we face if we are to control crime in America."

On the FBI: "The FBI has so covered personal credit that it will sacrifice even effective crime control before it will share the glory of its exploits. This has been a petty and costly characteristic caused by the excessive domination of a single person, J. Edgar Hoover, and his self-centered concern for his reputation and that of the FBI."

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“The most revolutionary public voice in America today is that of Ramsey Clark. His rhetoric is by no means violent, and in political terms there are plenty who speak more wildly, of overthrowing government and standing people up against the wall. But no one in American life today calls as frequently or as eloquently for a genuine revolution in human conduct—in the way men manage their affairs, deal with one another, and regard themselves.” —from the Introduction by Tom Wicker

Ramsey Clark

IN THIS, his first book, the former Attorney General of the United States confronts head-on perhaps the most intensely emotional and fear-charged issue of our domestic life—*crime in America*. As Attorney General, Mr. Clark was widely praised by law-enforcement officials and civil libertarians alike for intensifying the federal government's war on crime while insistently safeguarding the rights of the accused. In this vitally important work, Mr. Clark spells out the facts of the problem, diagnoses the roots of anti-social behavior in American society, and proposes the specific measures the nation must take if we are to banish the causes of crime American style.