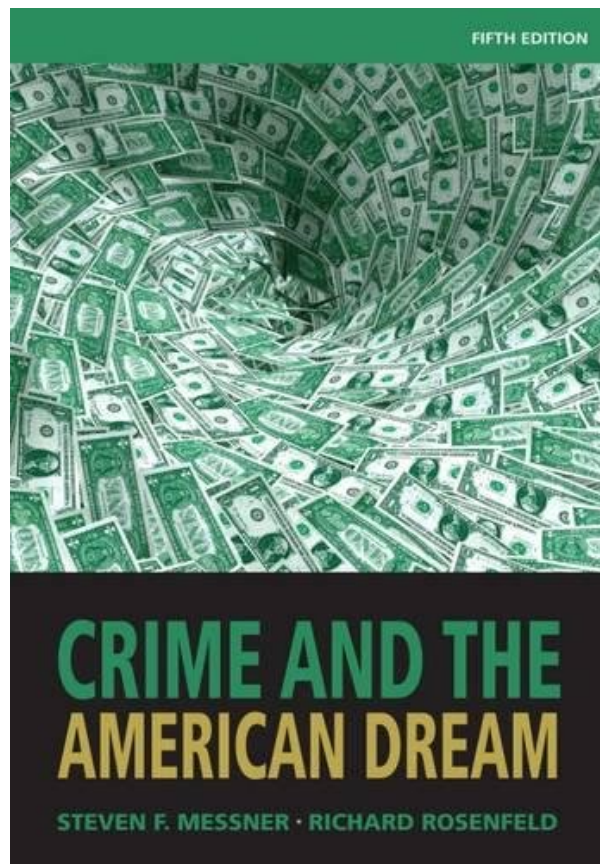
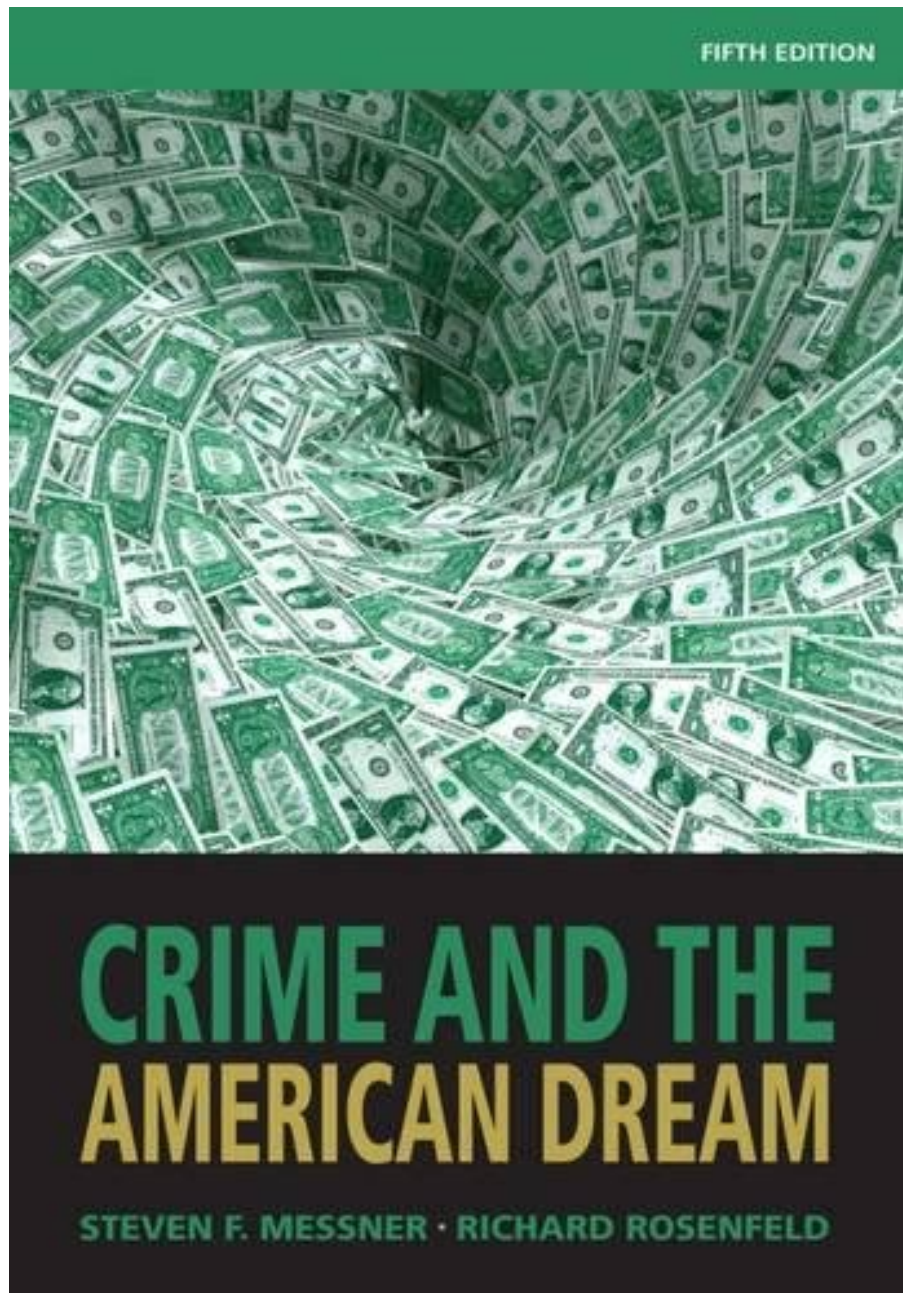


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Steven F. Messner is Distinguished Teaching Professor of Sociology at the University at Albany, State University of New York. He received his Ph.D. from Princeton University and has taught at Columbia University and Nankai University in the People's Republic of China. His research has focused primarily on the relationship between features of social organization and violent crime rates. His other books include **PERSPECTIVES ON CRIME AND DEVIANCE**, (with Allen E. Liska), **THEORETICAL INTEGRATION IN THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE AND CRIME**, (with Marvin D. Krohn and Allen E. Liska), and **CRIME AND SOCIAL CONTROL IN A CHANGING CHINA** (with Jianhong Liu and Lening Zhang). Dr. Messner has also authored numerous articles and book chapters on the topic of criminal violence and is a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology.

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By Sir Gawain

This text is not 176 pages. but actually 131 pages before another 31 to 32 pages cover the REFERENCES

and INDEX. Then when you are charged over \$100 for this very small book, I find that the price is not worthy of the information, as there are better written books out that covers White Collar Crime in our country.

Over the many years that I have been a teacher/instructor in our secondary schools and as an adjunct faculty at a community college, the publisher, Cengage Learning has increased their prices, and our department had to go to other sources of textbooks for our students, due to their high cost. Cengage's WebTutor is also very expensive, and a few years ago was \$22 - \$29 to purchase an access code and now (at least for psychology) the price has risen to \$160 for an access code. Next semester, we are going to a new publisher

As far as the text itself it covers basic thought, and theories, based on sociological theories found in such text as Thio's Deviant Behavior, and others. This text for the most part is used within the Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) courses; one which I am enrolled in at this time, and requires this text.

Is it worth the money? You decide...it's your money.

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Solid text

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I teach criminology and think this would be one of the best books that I could use for my class. It is much more interesting and concise than standard textbooks on the nature and cause of crime in the United States but, and this is a huge but...I can't bring myself to force students to pay almost a hundred dollars for what is more like an ancillary text. I could get through it in three weeks, maybe four if I stretched it and I still have 11 weeks of class to cover. What do I do? Make them buy one or more additional texts, pushing the cost of the class up even higher? I don't understand the justification for the cost since it is simply not substantial enough to get me through an entire course. I picked it up again this semester for consideration but have to opt out again.

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Intriguing hypothesis

By Prof. R. Paris

This is certainly a worth-reading book. Its application of Durkheim's and Merton's anomie theory to the crime dynamics of American society is tightly reasoned and very appealing. The thesis that unusually high crime rates in the US are the dark side of the success promoted by the American ethos seems to account for many of the observed facts. The book follows an excellent logical development and provides appealing explanations for the etiology of the main American nightmare. Unfortunately, it lacks a truly comparative perspective, since it practically ignores crime in the underdeveloped countries. Comparing with Western Europe is hardly enough. And the last ten pages, where the authors provide their recipe for combatting crime, are, to say the least disappointing. By proposing actions which are obviously non-viable, the authors transform their whole argument into an interesting, even fascinating, but useless academic exercise. One final point: The tendency of the authors to add "political correctness" to citations is unforgivable. What an author said anywhere between 150 and 80 years ago, should be cited as he/she wrote. Thus, in page 105, the introduction of a "her" in a citation of Marx is unnecessary and smacks of opportunism. The same can be said of the citation of James Truslow Adams in page 106, where the authors introduce a "and women". And before I forget, the table on page 103 places Australia and New Zealand low in homicide but also low on decommodification (monstrous word!), whereas Finland is higher in decommodification than the UK, but also higher in homicide. Don't these contradictions fatally weaken the argument of this chapter?

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