

Preface

In 2000 a group of European academics decided to form a European Society of Criminology. From the start, the new Society encouraged the creation of working groups on specialized topics. One of the first such working groups was focused on “juvenile justice,” launched by Josine Junger-Tas. Josine also was the lead author of the first edition of this book. Tragically, she passed away on January 22, 2011. She was quite a prolific scholar and passionate advocate for the rights of children everywhere. The idea for this book emerged from the juvenile justice working group in the European Society of Criminology. The working group addressed a number of recent developments in juvenile justice in our own countries, developments that were leading toward an ever more punitive, but not necessarily more effective, system in juvenile justice.

The working group grew in membership over time, and Europeans were joined by a number of American and Canadian experts. This added a truly international dimension to our undertaking. The working group raised a number of key questions in its deliberations. In particular, members were interested in how the juvenile justice evolved and emerged in different states during the last 25 years. The similarities and differences across states became a key point of discussion. This discussion was fuelled in part by the emergence of new states in Eastern Europe, as well as the growing impact of globalization. For many of the older western democracies of Europe, the Welfare system that had existed for most of the twentieth century was evolving, often toward a model that placed more responsibility on individual juveniles and included increased punitiveness. The first volume, published in 2006, addressed these issues, largely in the context of European traditions. That volume was organized into four parts: The Anglo-Saxon Orientation, Western Continental Europe, Eastern Europe, and Two “Special” Systems. In all 19 different countries were represented in that volume. All of the countries whose juvenile justice systems were represented in the first volume were European or North American. The current volume (the second edition) takes a more global look at juvenile justice.

The current volume includes 25 chapters, 6 more than the first edition. In addition to covering juvenile justice systems in North America and Europe, systems from Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East are included. In this sense, the book is truly international and goes well beyond the countries covered in the first edition. While hardly all-inclusive, this approach is far more global and comprehensive. A book cannot be considered to be truly international if it ignores multiple continents (Africa, Asia, and South America) or the juvenile justice systems of the two most populous countries in the world (China and India). It is a credit to Dr. Junger-Tas that the book has found its way to a second edition and now truly merits the designation as an “International” Handbook.

Perhaps future editions will expand the number of countries. One virtue of this more comprehensive set of nations is that the book provides a foundation for truly comparative work. We hope that it is instrumental in sparking comparisons of the key issue of juvenile justice.

The inclusion of a diverse set of countries allows for consideration of the role of several key issues in juvenile justice. Given the breadth of countries covered in the second edition, we thought it important to include a set of common issues to be covered. Each chapter is organized around ten key issues in the study and understanding of juvenile justice. These include:

1. The legal status of juveniles
2. Age of majority
3. The country's stance toward the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
4. Trends in juvenile crime over the period 2004–2014
5. Causes of juvenile crime
6. Policing and juveniles
7. Courts and juveniles
8. Custodial rules for juveniles (detention, prison, mixing juveniles with adults)
9. Alternative sanctions for juveniles: home confinement, restorative justice, restitution, etc.
10. Differences in treatment of boys and girls

This common frame makes comparisons across countries more straightforward.

Readers will notice the addition of Dr. Nerea Marteache as a co-editor. Her contributions have been of high quality and were essential to the timeliness and quality of the edited volume. As was the case with the first edition, we were very fortunate in finding a great number of outstanding experts in the field prepared to write a chapter on trends in juvenile justice in their own country. We are grateful to each of them for their contributions to this work. They were patient with our requests to address a common set of issues as well as our cajoling them for their chapters and revisions. Assembling a group of international scholars to produce a volume in a language that is not their native tongue poses many challenges.

Special mention should also be addressed to those of our English-speaking colleagues who helped us with language issues. Dr. John Shjarback and Natasha Khade provided excellent assistance in this regard. John recently earned a Ph.D. in criminology and criminal justice at Arizona State University and Natasha is a first year doctoral student. They provided considerable help in proofreading and editing chapters. Considering the large number of authors for whom English is not their first language, this was by no means a light task and we owe them many thanks!

Finally, we hope that this book, which has collected information on juvenile justice systems in so many nations, will find its way to an international public of academics, policy makers, and practitioners and may open the eyes of many to different solutions for similar problems.

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