



Top 5 influences

State has a monopoly on violence

States are able to exact crimes against their own people as they have a monopoly of control mechanisms, particularly violence. Military, police, legal system can all be utilised against dissidents of a state or government. Control over media, education and other social institutions means that more subtle forces can be used to control the population. Able to hide crimes and escape punishment. **(Michaelowski and Kramer)** Media only focuses on crimes of other governments

State makes the law, state is the law

States can pass laws to control any aspect of the population as they have control over legislation. In extreme cases such as Holocaust, laws were passed to allow extermination of Jewish Race. This has led **Schwendinger and Schwendinger** to call for state crime to be redefined based upon the UN Convention of Human Rights – violations of which must be acted upon. **Chambliss** argues that states make laws in the interests of the ruling classes and this could lead to crimes against the masses.

Economic Crimes

McLaughlin sees economic crimes as one of 4 types of crime states commit against their own people. **Kramer** suggests that the state is often complicit in corporate crimes as they fail to regulate businesses or collude in order to meet objectives of business. The War in Iraq helped set up many Western businesses in lucrative oil and infrastructure markets to make profits. Further to this austerity policies in the UK have been viewed as creating disadvantage to disabled groups and children in poverty by UN committees

Culture of Denial

States conceal and legitimate their human rights crimes. While dictatorships generally deny their behaviours, democracies should find a way of legitimising what they have done. **(Cohen)** **Sykes and Matza** argue that states use techniques of neutralisation to get away with state crime, such as denial of injury, the victim, responsibility, by condemning those that condemn them or by appealing to higher loyalties (God, Freedom) – which helps to justify and rationalise their behaviours

Crimes of Obedience

Kelman & Hamilton have focused on 'crimes of obedience'. Some see this in relation to Nazis following orders during the Final Solution, or in cases like the My Lai massacre during the Vietnam war where 400 civilians were killed by US soldiers. They suggest that people obey for three reasons: authority, routine and dehumanisation. **Bauman** argues that the Holocaust and other genocides were capable of mass killing because of these features of modernity. The scientific approach to exterminating life was only possible due to obedience and technology

on State Crime and Human Rights Violations