

# David M Gordon

According to Gordon, **capitalism** was the cause of most criminal behaviours as it amplified the **structural inequalities** in society between the upper and working class.

Crime performed an **ideological function** for capitalism by ignoring the structural factors behind criminality and making the individual responsible for their actions

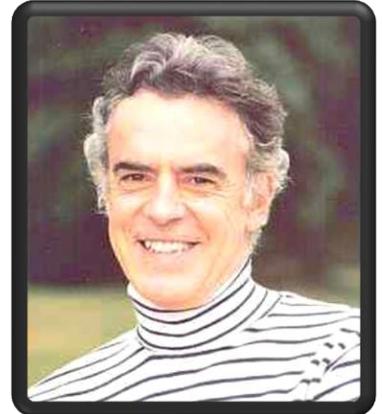
However, this ignores the **'dog eat dog'** nature of capitalism where **individualism and scarcity** in the lower classes has been caused by instilling **capitalist norms and values**

Rather than acknowledge the role of capitalism in crime, the ruling class dehumanise criminals for their actions and use the legal system to **neutralise opposition** to their ideology



**Marxist theories of crime and deviance – focused on ideological functions**

Gordon was primarily a Marxist economist who contributed to work by **Chambliss** and **Mankoff** looking at structural inequalities caused by capitalism



### Evaluations of Gordon:

- Assumes that those exploited by capitalism will turn to crime – social ties might prohibit this
- Ignores prosecutions of corporate and white collar criminals
- Assumes people absorb capitalist ideology

# Theories of Crime and Deviance