

Robert Merton

Non - deviant adaptations to strain

Conformity –

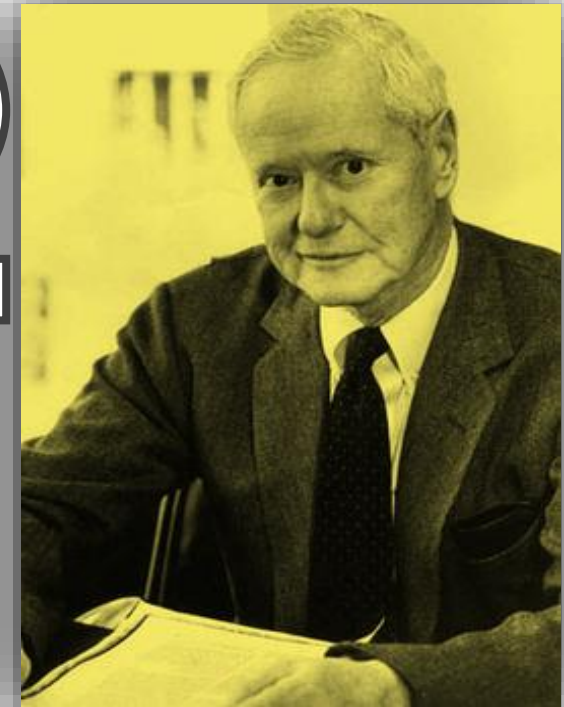
Accepting socially approved goals and legitimate means of achieving them

Ritualism –

Rejecting socially approved goals but conforming to legitimate means of achieving them

Strain is caused by society's unequal opportunity structure that promotes the American Dream but focuses less on how to achieve it... so people adapt

Part of Functionalist view of Crime and Deviance – focused on how individuals react to unequal structure of society



Deviant adaptations to strain

Innovation –

Accepts social goals but uses illegitimate means to achieve them – i.e. crime

Retreatism –

Rejects both the socially approved goals and legitimate means of achieving them

Rebellion –

adopts alternative goals and means to achieve those new goals

Evaluations of Merton

- Do all individuals believe in the American dream?
- Influenced subcultural theorists such as Cohen
- Focuses on individual causes of crime

Theories of Crime and Deviance