

Criminogenic Capitalism

Based upon the ideas of **Willem Bonger** – Marxists argue that the nature of capitalism causes crime – i.e. it is **criminogenic**



Capitalism promotes false needs yet it does not provide opportunities to meet those needs and as such people turn to crime

Chambliss argued that the greed and individualism promoted by capitalism leads people to use whatever means necessary based upon their social class



David Gordon suggested that in a 'dog eat dog' society such as late modern capitalism, crime is a rational response in order to survive

Mankoff found that crime is higher in nations with weaker welfare arrangements for meeting the basic needs of people

Snider, amongst others, suggests that crime is present throughout social strata – only corporate crime and white collar crime are given lower priority – despite being more devastating than petty crimes

Evaluations of Criminogenic explanations

- **Merton** (Functionalist) suggested societies unequal structure led to crime – agreeing that inequality was a cause of crime
- Statistics show property crime is higher than other forms of crime
- Doesn't explain why people do not commit crime against wealthy but rather against each other

Theories of Crime and Deviance