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## Criminology :-

The word Criminology originated in 1890.

General meaning :-

The scientific study of crime as a social phenomenon, of criminals and of penal institutions.

Word Derived :-

The word criminology is derived from Latin word "Crimen" which means "accusation" and "logia" which means "study".

Def :-

Criminology may be defined as ;  
"The scientific study of the causation, correction and prevention of crime."

"Criminology is a branch of criminal science which deals with crime causation, analysis and prevention of crime." (Prof. Kenny)

## Father of Criminology

In 1885, Italian Law Prof. Raffaele Garofalo coined the term "Criminology" in Italian word (Criminologia).  
1<sup>st</sup> used of Criminology :-

The French anthropologists Paul Topinard used it for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in French (Criminologie) around the same time (1885).

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## Criminality:

Def.:

Criminality refers to the state or quality of being criminal, or an act or practice, that is considered a crime.

Ex: Robbery, murder, and fraud are all examples of criminality. Driving under the influence of drugs

Alcohol is also considered criminality.

As Gottfredson and Hirschi (1990) noted, "Criminality is the style of strategic behavior characterized by self-centeredness, indifference to the suffering and needs of others and low self-control."

It is a complex and multifaceted concept influenced by various factors, including social, economic, psychological, and environmental elements.

Here are some key points to consider when discussing criminality:

## Legal Perspectives:

Criminality is defined by laws established within a particular jurisdiction. Actions considered criminal can vary across different cultures, societies and legal systems.

Criminal acts are typically categorized into different offenses such as violent crimes, property crimes, white collar crimes and drug offenses.

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## 2. Social Factors:

- Social conditions, including poverty, lack of education and limited access to opportunities, can contribute to criminal behaviors.
- Peer pressure, family background and community dynamics also play a role in shaping an individual's likelihood of engaging in criminal activities.

## 3. Psychological Factor:

- Individual psychological factors such as personality disorders, impulsivity, and history of trauma or abuse can contribute to criminal behavior.
- Mental health issues may play a role in criminality and addressing these issues can be crucial in understanding and preventing criminal acts.

## 4. Economic Factor:

- Economic disparities and high level of unemployment can lead some individuals to resort to criminal activities as a mean of survival or improvement of their circumstances.
- The illicit economy including organized crime and illegal trade, can thrive in economically disadvantaged areas.

## 5. Environmental Influences:

The physical environment, including neighborhood characteristics and the availability of resources, can impact criminality rates.

High-crime areas may be characterized by a lack of social services, deteriorating infrastructure and limited law enforcement presence.

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6. Prevention and Rehabilitation is  
Strategies for preventing criminality include addressing  
root causes such as

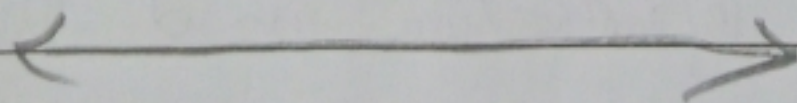
- I Poverty
  - II Improving Education
  - III Providing mental Health support.
- Rehabilitation programs aim to reintegrate offenders  
into society by addressing underlying issues and  
Providing opportunities for personal and professional  
development.

7. Criminal Justice System is

The criminal justice system is responsible for enforcing  
laws, prosecuting offenders and administering punishment.  
Debates exist about the effectiveness and fairness of  
the criminal justice system, with discussing/discussion on issues  
such as;

- I Over Policing
- II Racial disparities
- III Impact of incarceration on rehabilitation.

Understanding criminality requires a comprehensive  
examination of the interconnected factors that  
contribute to unlawful behavior, with the goal  
of developing effective strategies for prevention,  
intervention and rehabilitation.



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## Criminal Behavior :

Def : Criminal behavior refers to actions that violate established laws and regulations within a society, often resulting in legal consequences for the individuals engaging in such conduct.

It encompasses a wide range of activities from minor offenses to serious crimes and is influenced by a complex interplay of individual, social, economic and environmental factors.

## Key Components of Criminal Behavior :

### 1. Actus Reus :

Criminal behavior typically involves a physical act known as actus reus.

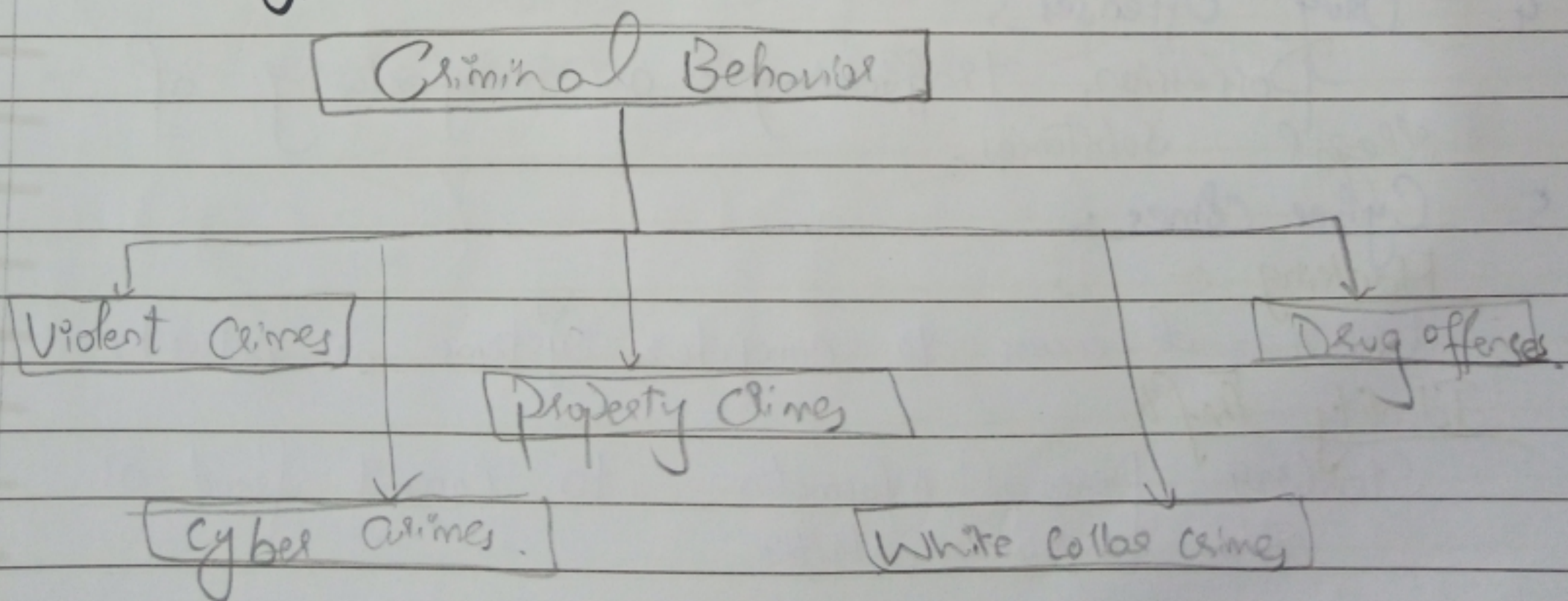
Actus reus refers to the actual commission of a criminal act, that controls the criminal behavior.

### 2. Mens Rea

Criminal behavior typically involve a mental health/state of intent known as mens rea.

Mens rea refers to the guilty state of mind or criminal intent accompanying the act.

## Types of Criminal Behavior :



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## 1. Violent Crimes :-

Assault :-

Inflicting intentional harm on another person.

Homicide :-

Unlawful killing of another person, which may be categorized as murder or manslaughter.

## 2. Property Crime :-

Theft :-

Unlawful taking of someone else's property with the intent to permanently deprive them of it.

Burglary :-

Breaking into a building with the intent to commit a crime usually theft.

## 3. White Collar Crimes :-

Fraud :-

Deceptive practice to gain something of value, often involving misrepresentation or false statement.

Embezzlement :-

Misappropriation or theft of funds entrusted to an individual.

## 4. Drug Offenses :-

Possession, trafficking or manufacturing of illegal substances.

## 5. Cyber Crimes :-

Hacking :-

Unauthorized access to computer systems or networks.

Identity Theft :-

Stealing personal information to commit fraud or other criminal activities.

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Define Crime?

Crime: An act or omission declared codified as crime under the Law.

"A human conduct which violates the criminal law of the state -

## Definition of Crime

"An action or omission which constitutes an offence and punishable by law"

"Crime is an offence which goes beyond the personal into public sphere, breaking prohibitory rules or laws, to which legitimate punishment or sanctions are attached in which requires the invention of public authority."

## "Sociologists Define"

A Crime is violation of the public rights and duties due to the whole community, considered as a community. (Sir. William Blackstone)

## Understanding of Crime

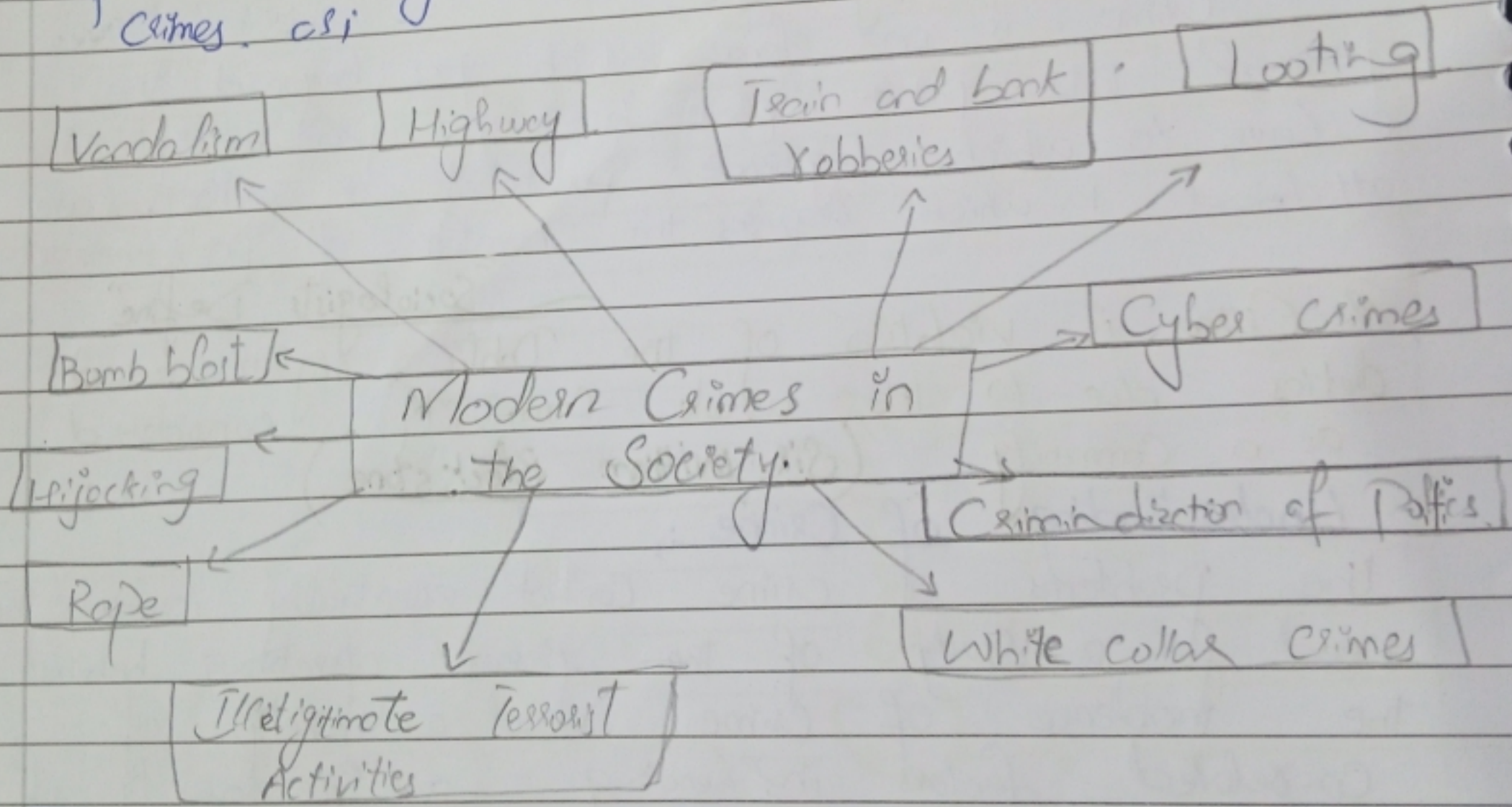
The problems of crime control essentially involves the need for a study of the forces operating behind the incidence of crime and a variety of co-related factors influencing a personality of the offenders. This has eventually led to development of modern criminology during the preceding of 2 (two) centuries. The purpose of study of this branch of knowledge is to analyze different aspects of crime and devise active measures for treatment of criminals to bring about their re-socialization and rehabilitation in the community.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". Martin Luther

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The study of crime and criminal must proceed on a scientific basis by carefully analyzing various aspect associated and must necessarily suggest measures proposed to suppress criminality.

It must be added that with new crimes emerging in the modern complexities of life we seem increasingly concerned about the problem of crime. Today destructive act of the following crimes are:

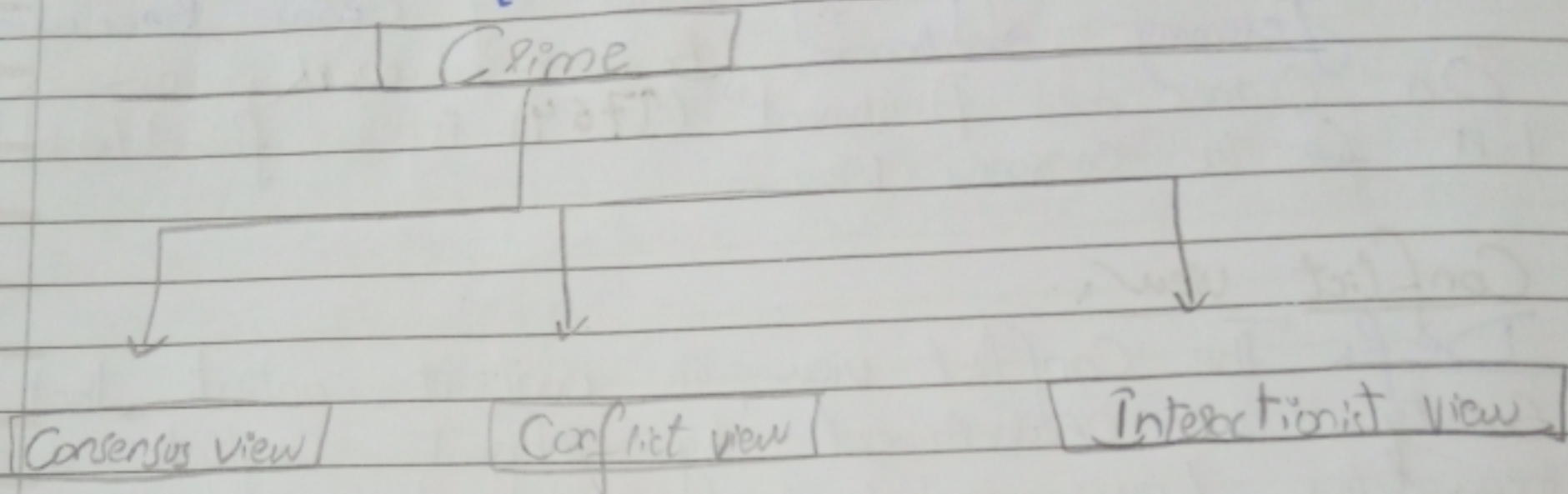


These crimes are constantly increasing which have posed a positive danger to human life, liberty and property. Modern criminologists seem to be concerned with the problems of crime to protect the society from such anti-social activities of criminals.



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## Basic Concept used in Crime :



The theory posits that (3) three main factors that influence an individual likelihood of committing crime.

- (i) Their level of self control.
- (ii) Their opportunities for crime.
- (iii) Their beliefs about the legality of criminal activity.

These are three (3) common concepts of crime used by criminologists.

### 1. Consensus view :

Def: The consensus view defines that society as a whole agrees on what constitutes acceptable behavior and law are created to reflect this consensus.

#### Key Features :

- Assumes a fundamental agreement on what behaviors are criminal.
  - Implies that laws are created to protect the collective morality of society.
  - The criminal justice system is seen as a neutral entity that upholds the shared values of the community.
- Consensus Definition :

Def: There is a shared set of values and norms within a society, and criminal law are designed to protect these shared values.

## 1 Dated: Consensus view

The perspective is often associated with the classical school of criminology represented by Cesare Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham. Beccaria's work, "On Crimes and Punishment" (1764) is a foundational text for the consensus view.

## 2. Conflict view:

Def: The Conflict view, in contrast, contends that society is characterized by inherent conflicts and inequalities. Laws, including criminal laws, are seen as a tool used by the powerful to maintain control and protect their interests. Crime is viewed as a reflection of social disparities and power struggles.

### Key features:

- Emphasizes the role of power dynamics, social class and inequality in shaping laws and defining criminal behavior.
- Criminal justice institutions are seen as serving the interests of ruling class.
- Crime is often linked to socio-economic factors and systematic injustice.

Karl Marx's ideas on class struggle and the role of law in maintaining the capitalist system are foundational to the conflict view. The works of critical criminologists, such as Richard Quinney, further developed the perspectives of conflict.

"In the theater of crime, societal laws often echo the script of power struggle, where justice is the elusive lead role."

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### 3. Interactionist View :

Def: The interactionist view focuses on the process of labeling and how individuals and society categorize certain behaviors as criminal. It suggests that the definition of crime is a social construct influenced by the interaction between individuals and societal reactions to behavior.

#### Key Features:

- Emphasizes the importance of social reactions, labeling and the creation of deviant identities.
- Highlights that what is considered criminal is subject to change over time and across different cultures.
- Examines how individuals labeled as criminal may internalize and fulfill these roles.

#### References:

Howard Becker's work, "Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance" (1963) is influential in the interactionist view. Labeling theorists including Edwin Lemert and Howard Becker, have contributed to the development of this perspective.

#### Concluding Thoughts:

These three (3) views offer distinct lenses through which criminologists analyze and interpret the complex phenomenon of crime. While the consensus view assumed a shared understanding of criminality, conflict view delves into societal power dynamics, and the interactionist view explores the socially constructed nature of criminal labels.

Together, these perspectives contribute to a comprehensive understanding of crime within a societal context.

