

## **Crime, Culture, and Law Enforcement**

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Society spends ever-increasing amounts of money on prisons, and locks up a greater portion of its citizens than ever before, yet the criminal justice system is perceived as ineffective. There is an increasing trend towards violent self-help by those who do not have faith in criminal justice remedies, there is an apparent upswing in violent crime, and the criminal justice system seems barely able to cope with this situation.

In an effort to understand why our system of criminal law is encountering such challenges, it is necessary to examine how the relationship between the criminal law and the society it serves has changed.