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Private security and public policing

Jones, Trevor and Newburn, Tim (1998) *Private security and public policing*. Clarendon studies in criminology. Oxford. ISBN 0198265697

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Abstract

In this first major empirical study of its kind, the authors examine the growth of 'private' policing and its implications for the public police service. Beginning with a critique of the sociology of policing, the authors provide a detailed analysis of the concepts of public and private, and examine the boundaries between different forms of security. Using data from the first ever survey of the private security sector in Britain, the authors provide estimates of the size of the industry and firms in the industry; the range of services and products offered; and the attitudes of those at senior levels in the organizations. Competing theoretical explanations for the growth of private policing are then considered. The book also examines policing at the local level. Using a case study of the London Borough of Wandsworth, the authors describe the individuals and organizations involved in policing on the ground. They describe and analyse the activities of 'policing' bodies, including the public police force, investigatory and regulatory agencies attached to national government, and private security organizations. Using this analysis, the authors offer a thorough reconceptualization of what is meant by 'policing' in the late modern era, and consider the implications of this for the public police service and for policing generally. Readership: This book will be invaluable to students and researchers in criminology, sociology, and public administration.

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