

MEDIEVAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Time Period:

➡ Medieval England



Crime & Punishments:

➡ God was the ultimate judge

➡ Men were put into groups called tithings - ensured no one in group committed crimes

➡ If you witness a crime you raised a hue & cry - whoever heard you shouting for help had to chase the criminal

Impact on Punishment:

➡ Trials were public - involving community

➡ Raising the hue & cry demonstrated expectation that community would catch criminals

NORMAN CONQUEST

Time Period:

➡ 1066 - William the Conqueror became King of England



Crime & Punishments

➡ Made punishments harsher to keep subjects in line - execution was frequent

➡ William declared large areas of lands to be royal forests where poaching (hunting on private land) became illegal

Impact on Crime & Punishment:

➡ Law enforcement was more centralised in Norman England compared to Anglo-Saxon England



VAGABONDAGE

Time Period:

➔ 1500s

Crime & Punishments:

➔ Being homeless & unemployed was known as vagabondage, which was a crime

➔ 1547 Vagrancy Act forced vagabonds into slavery or service



Impact on Crime & Punishment:

➔ With wars and population growth many people lost their homes and jobs, so there were a large number of vagabonds

WITCHCRAFT

Time Period:

➔ Tudor & Stuart Periods

Crime & Punishments:

➔ Witchcraft was punishable by death, and poor women were often accused

➔ Bad harvests brought about poverty, which people blamed on witches



Impact on Crime & Punishment:

➔ In 1645 Matthew Hopkins led a large-scale witch hunt and 300 people were investigated

➔ James I wrote Daemonologie in 1597 encouraging people to hunt witches



BLOODY CODE

Time Period:

➡ Late 17th Century

Crime & Punishments:

➡ There were 50 capital crimes - this was supposed to deter crime

➡ Some crimes were as minor as rabbit poaching



Impact on Crime & Punishment:

➡ Many crimes were committed out of desperation

➡ The Waltham Black Act in 1723 increased this to 200 capital crimes

FRY & HOWARD

Time Period:

➡ 18th & 19th Century

Crime & Punishments:

➡ Argues that prisoners should live in decent conditions in order to reflect on their wrongdoings

➡ Fry was influential in bringing about 1823 Gaols Act

Impact on Crime & Punishment:

➡ Gaols Act required that prisoners were not kept in chains, Gaolers would be paid to prevent corruption and female prisoners would be watched by female wardens



HENRY FIELDING

Time Period:

➡ 18th Century

Crime & Punishments:

➡ Established the Bow Street Runners in 1748

➡ This was a team of volunteers who investigated crime and hunted criminals down

Impact on Crime & Punishment:

➡ They were so successful the government paid them for their work

➡ Most law enforcers at the time were corrupt and inefficient



MODERN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Time Period:

➡ 20th & 21st Century

Crime & Punishments:

➡ Women were recruited into police in 1920s and police had to have training

➡ Homicide Act of 1957 restricted death penalty, and was abolished in 1998

➡ Borstals opened in 1902 for young offenders, but were abolished in 1982 due to harsh treatment

Impact on Crime & Punishment:

➡ Much fairer punishments and trials compared to earlier centuries

