

CRIMINOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF VIOLENT CRIME AND MEASURES FOR ITS PREVENTION

Mamanarov Xaitmurat

Lecturer, Department of "Fundamentals of State and Law", Faculty of Law, Termez State University

sardorhaitmurodov2506@gmail.com

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматриваются криминологические характеристики насильственных преступлений с акцентом на их структурные особенности, причинно-следственные механизмы, типологию и социально-психологические детерминанты. Насильственные преступления, включающие убийства, нападения, грабежи с применением насилия, сексуальное насилие, пытки и другие формы принудительного причинения вреда, остаются центральной проблемой современной криминологии из-за их непосредственной угрозы человеческой жизни, безопасности и общественному порядку. В исследовании анализируется сложное взаимодействие биологических, психологических, социальных, культурных и экономических факторов, способствующих агрессивному поведению. Используя качественный аналитический подход, статья объединяет классические криминологические теории с современными эмпирическими данными. В исследовании подчеркивается роль импульсивности, травм, злоупотребления психоактивными веществами, норм маскулинности, неравенства и стрессовых факторов окружающей среды в возникновении агрессии. Превентивные стратегии оцениваются с помощью законодательных реформ, работы полиции в обществе, подходов общественного здравоохранения, программ раннего вмешательства и передового международного опыта. Результаты исследования подчеркивают, что профилактика насильственных преступлений требует междисциплинарного подхода, учитывающего индивидуальное поведение, социальное неравенство, институциональный потенциал и культурные особенности отношения к насилию.

Ключевые слова: насильственные преступления, криминология, агрессия, убийства, нападения, профилактика, социальный контроль, факторы риска, снижение уровня насилия.

Abstract

This article examines the criminological characteristics of violent crime, focusing on its structural features, causal mechanisms, typology, and socio-psychological determinants. Violent crime, which includes homicide, assault, robbery with violence,

sexual violence, torture, and other forms of coercive harm, remains a central concern of modern criminology due to its direct threat to human life, safety, and public order. The study analyses the complex interaction of biological, psychological, social, cultural, and economic factors that contribute to violent behaviour. Using a qualitative analytical approach, the article integrates classical criminological theories with contemporary empirical findings. The research highlights the role of impulsivity, trauma, substance abuse, masculinity norms, inequality, and environmental stressors in generating aggression. Preventive strategies are evaluated through legislative reforms, community policing, public health approaches, early intervention programs, and international best practices. The findings underscore that preventing violent crime requires a multidisciplinary approach targeting individual behaviour, social inequalities, institutional capacity, and cultural attitudes toward violence.

Keywords: violent crime, criminology, aggression, homicide, assault, prevention, social control, risk factors, violence reduction

INTRODUCTION

Violent crime represents one of the most dangerous forms of criminal behaviour, posing a direct threat to the physical integrity and psychological well-being of individuals and society. Unlike property crime or economic crime, violent crime involves the intentional use of physical force or coercion to harm another person. This intentional infliction of harm makes violent crime a distinct criminological phenomenon with deep historical, psychological, and social roots. Homicide, assault, armed robbery, rape, and domestic violence are among the most prevalent forms, each carrying unique legal and criminological significance.

The study of violent crime has historically occupied a central place in criminological research. Classical criminologists emphasized rational choice and moral responsibility; however, over time, attention shifted toward examining deeper psychological and social determinants. Modern criminology views violence as a multidimensional construct shaped by personal history, environmental context, and societal culture. Because violence often emerges from interactions between individuals and their social settings, understanding its causes requires an interdisciplinary perspective.

The global rise of urbanization, inequality, social fragmentation, and exposure to trauma has intensified the relevance of studying violent crime. Although many countries have adopted robust legal frameworks, the persistence of violent crime suggests that punitive measures alone are insufficient. Furthermore, violent crime is not evenly distributed across demographic groups or geographic regions; young males,

disadvantaged communities, and individuals exposed to early childhood trauma remain disproportionately represented among both offenders and victims.

Criminological inquiry reveals that violent behaviour often arises not from a single cause but from the accumulation of risk factors, including biological predispositions, childhood abuse, substance use, peer influence, cultural acceptance of aggression, and systemic inequalities. Thus, the prevention of violent crime requires addressing the ecological systems in which individuals develop.

This article aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the criminological characteristics of violent crime and propose evidence-based measures for its prevention. Through theoretical evaluation and comparative analysis, the study seeks to deepen the understanding of violence as both an individual behavioural response and a structural societal problem.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

The academic literature on violent crime spans numerous disciplines, including criminology, psychology, sociology, public health, and law. Classical criminological theories—those of Cesare Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham—focused on rationality and deterrence, arguing that violence could be reduced through strict legal sanctions. However, later developments challenged the sufficiency of this approach.

Biological theories, rooted in the works of Cesare Lombroso, attempted to associate violence with inherited traits and physiological abnormalities. Although modern science has discredited strict biological determinism, contemporary research in behavioural genetics and neuroscience shows that certain temperamental features—such as impulsivity, low emotional regulation, and high reactivity—may increase vulnerability to violent behaviour when combined with negative environmental conditions.

Psychological literature emphasizes the role of early trauma. Theories by Freud, Bowlby, and later attachment researchers argue that childhood maltreatment, neglect, and insecure attachment increase aggression, emotional dysregulation, and antisocial behaviour. Cognitive-behavioural models focus on distorted thinking patterns, hostile attribution bias, and low frustration tolerance.

Sociological theories contribute substantially. Robert Merton's strain theory suggests that social inequality and frustration foster aggression. Social disorganization theory links violence to weakened community structures, poor social cohesion, and lack of informal social control. Subcultural theorists argue that certain groups develop norms that legitimize violence as a means of achieving respect or dominance—particularly among marginalized youth.

Routine activity theory provides an environmental perspective: violent crime occurs when a motivated offender encounters a suitable target without capable guardianship. This approach has influenced situational crime prevention strategies.

Recent research highlights the intersection between substance abuse and violent behaviour. Alcohol and drugs reduce inhibition, increase impulsivity, and intensify aggression. Studies also show that domestic violence, gang-related violence, and sexual violence often stem from cultural attitudes supporting male dominance, inequality, and rigid gender norms.

In sum, academic literature agrees that violent crime is a multifactorial phenomenon requiring integrated criminological, psychological, and sociological interpretation.

This research employs a qualitative, analytical, and comparative methodology. Rather than generating new empirical data, the study synthesizes established theories, criminological analyses, official reports, and findings from interdisciplinary research. This approach is appropriate for examining a complex phenomenon such as violent crime, which cannot be explained through a single theoretical lens.

The methodological framework includes:

1. **Theoretical Systematization.** Consolidating major criminological theories describing violent behaviour and identifying common explanatory mechanisms across disciplines.

2. **Causal Mapping.** Analysing individual, relational, community-level, and structural factors contributing to violent crime, including biological predispositions, psychological trauma, family dysfunction, economic inequality, and cultural norms.

3. **Comparative Analysis.** Evaluating prevention models from different countries, including public health-based approaches, community policing, restorative justice, and early intervention programs.

4. **Interpretive Integration.** Synthesizing findings into a holistic criminological model that accounts for the dynamic interaction between individuals and their social environment.

Data sources include peer-reviewed criminological literature, WHO and UNODC reports, national legal frameworks, and contemporary theoretical works. The absence of primary quantitative data is a limitation; however, the depth of existing research allows for valid criminological interpretation.

RESULTS

The study identifies several core criminological characteristics of violent crime:

1. Intentional Harm as a Defining Feature. Violent crime involves deliberate or reckless physical harm, distinguishing it from other offence types. The offender's intent, emotional state, and situational context significantly shape the nature of violence.

2. Demographic Patterns. Young males constitute the largest proportion of violent offenders, largely due to biological reactivity, cultural expectations of masculinity, and peer influence. At the same time, women and children disproportionately suffer as victims, especially in domestic settings.

3. Psychological and Behavioural Profiles. Violent offenders often show emotional instability, impulsivity, hostile attribution patterns, and histories of trauma. While not all violent offenders exhibit clinical disorders, psychological vulnerabilities increase risk.

4. Social and Environmental Determinants. Violent crime is more prevalent in marginalized communities characterized by poverty, social exclusion, unemployment, weak institutions, and poor urban infrastructure. Social disorganization undermines informal control and normalizes aggression.

5. Cultural Norms Supporting Violence. In some societies, violence is embedded in cultural practices, honour codes, or gender norms. Such environments legitimize aggression and make prevention more complicated.

6. Situational and Opportunity Factors. Routine activities—late-night exposure, alcohol consumption, risky environments—contribute significantly to violent encounters.

7. Latency and Underreporting. Certain violent crimes, particularly domestic violence and sexual assault, remain highly latent due to stigma, fear, and mistrust of authorities.

The findings show that violent crime is not random but emerges from identifiable criminogenic patterns.

DISCUSSION

The discussion situates violent crime within broader criminological debates and highlights implications for prevention. A key insight is that violence cannot be effectively addressed through punitive policies alone. Although deterrence plays a role, violence often arises from irrational emotional reactions, social frustration, and deep-rooted psychological trauma. Therefore, prevention must incorporate public health, education, and community development strategies.

The discussion also emphasizes the need to challenge cultural norms that reinforce violence. Gender-based violence prevention programs, campaigns against honour-based violence, and curricula promoting emotional intelligence can reshape social behaviour.

Furthermore, institutions must strengthen multi-agency collaboration. Police, schools, healthcare systems, and social services need coordinated mechanisms to identify

risk early and intervene before violence escalates. Community policing models have demonstrated success in reducing violent crime by building trust, improving surveillance, and fostering community cohesion.

Effective prevention also requires socioeconomic investment. Reducing inequality, creating employment opportunities, improving neighbourhood infrastructure, and supporting at-risk youth significantly lower violence prevalence.

Ultimately, the discussion highlights that violent crime is both a criminological and societal issue, requiring holistic, long-term strategies grounded in evidence-based practices.

CONCLUSION

The research concludes that violent crime is a multifaceted phenomenon resulting from the interaction of psychological, social, cultural, and economic factors. Its criminological profile is marked by intentional harm, demographic concentration, emotional instability, social inequality, and cultural reinforcement of aggression. Because violent crime affects the most fundamental human rights—life, bodily integrity, and safety—its prevention must be prioritized across national and international policy frameworks.

Effective prevention requires integrated strategies, including legal reforms, early childhood intervention, mental health support, public education, community policing, and efforts to reduce inequality. Addressing the underlying social environment is essential for long-term violence reduction.

Understanding violent crime through this broader criminological lens provides a foundation for sustainable, humane, and evidence-based prevention policies.

REFERENCES

1. Sutherland, E. H. *Principles of Criminology*. — Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1939. — 650 p.
2. Ferri, E. *Criminal Sociology*. — London: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1917. — 395 p.
3. Garland, D. *The Culture of Control: Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society*. — Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002. — 320 p.
4. Cornish, D. B., Clarke, R. V. *The Reasoning Criminal: Rational Choice Perspectives on Offending*. — New York: Springer-Verlag, 1986. — 270 p.
5. von Lampe, K. *Organized Crime: Analyzing Illegal Activities, Criminal Structures, and Extra-Legal Governance*. — Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, 2016. — 512 p.
6. Passas, N. *Globalization, Criminogenic Asymmetries and Economic Crime* // *European Journal of Law Reform*. — 2000. — Vol. 1(4). — P. 399–423.

7. UNODC. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. — New York: United Nations, 2000. — 42 p.
8. INTERPOL. Annual Report on Transnational Crime Trends 2023. — Lyon: INTERPOL Secretariat, 2023. — 148 p.
9. Clarke, R. V. Situational Crime Prevention: Successful Case Studies. — Albany: Harrow and Heston, 1997. — 416 p.
10. Albrecht, H.-J. Organized Crime and Criminal Networks // European Journal of Crime, Criminal Law and Criminal Justice. — 2005. — Vol. 13, No. 2. — P. 135–153.
11. Newburn, T. Criminology. — 3rd ed. — London: Routledge, 2017. — 1176 p.
12. UNODC. Global Report on Organized Crime 2022. — Vienna: United Nations, 2022. — 212 p.