

E I G H T H   E D I T I O N



★ AN INTRODUCTION TO ★  
**POLICING**

JOHN S. DEMPSEY  
LINDA S. FORST

*with contributions by*  
STEVE CARTER

# AN INTRODUCTION TO POLICING

**EIGHTH EDITION**



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EIGHTH EDITION

**John S. Dempsey**

*Captain, New York City Police Department (Retired)*  
*Professor Emeritus of Criminal Justice,*  
*Suffolk Community College*  
*Mentor in Criminal Justice and Public Administration,*  
*SUNY-Empire State College*

**Linda S. Forst**

*Captain, Boca Raton Police Department (Retired)*  
*Professor of Criminal Justice, Shoreline Community College*



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John S. Dempsey, Linda S. Forst

Product Director: Marta Lee-Perriard

Product Manager: Carolyn  
Henderson-Meier

Content Developer: Margaux Cameron

Media Developer: Jessica Alderman

Product Assistant: Stephen Lagos

Marketing Manager: Kara Kindstrom

Content Project Manager: Rita Jaramillo

Art Director: PMG, Brenda Carmichael

Manufacturing Planner: Judy Inouye

Production Service: Integra, Alverne Bell

Photo Researcher: Hemalatha Dhanapal

Text Researcher: Pinky Subi

Copy Editor: Nina Taylor

Text and Cover Designer: Lumina  
DatamaticsCompositor: Integra Software Services  
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## DEDICATION

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To my family: Marianne, John, Donna, Cathy, Diane, Danny, Nikki, Erin, and John, and in memory of Anne Marie (1970–2002); also, in memory of James J. Fyfe and Patrick J. Ryan. —J.S.D.

This book is dedicated to my late husband, Captain James E. Duke, Jr. (pictured below), and our beautiful daughters, Brynn and Juleigh, as well as my new son-in-law, Taylor. —L.S.F.



# HONORING THE MEMORY AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN S. DEMPSEY (JACK)

---

Jack Dempsey, senior author of *An Introduction to Policing*, *Introduction to Investigations*, *Introduction to Private Security*, and *POLICE* died on Sunday, August 3, 2014, in New York at the age of 68. Jack was a member of the New York Police Department from 1964 to 1988, rising through the ranks of police officer, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. He received his BA from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, his Masters in criminal justice from Long Island University, and his Masters in public administration from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Upon his retirement from law enforcement, Jack dedicated his time and efforts to teaching and mentoring students at Suffolk Community College and State University of New York, Empire College and across the country. He was awarded the prestigious “Who Made a Difference Award” from Suffolk Community College for his dedication to his students.

Jack’s commitment to professional law enforcement was visible in everything he did. It is impossible to know just how many students and police officers he influenced and educated as his books are widely read across the nation. Jack had a magnetic personality and a lot of charisma, making it easy for him to share his beliefs in ethical and professional law enforcement as well as his unending desire to serve his community and students in any way that he could.

He was also devoted to his family and was so happy to spend time relaxing with his wife, children, and grandchildren. He always had pictures to show, stories to tell and we all knew he was the “Grand Dude.” He was well known for his infectious laugh, sense of humor, and New York accent!

Law enforcement is more professional, police officers are safer, and society has benefited due to Jack’s efforts. For those of us lucky enough to know him personally, he impacted our lives tremendously and we will be forever grateful for his friendship, kindness, generosity, support, and mentoring. Jack’s legacy will live on for generations.

*Linda Forst*





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**JOHN S. DEMPSEY** was a member of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) from 1964 to 1988. He served in the ranks of police officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. His primary assignments were patrol and investigations. He received seven citations from the department for meritorious and excellent police duty. After retiring from the NYPD, Mr. Dempsey served until 2003 as Professor of Criminal Justice at Suffolk County Community College on Eastern Long Island where he won the college's prestigious "Who Made a Difference Award" for his teaching and work with students. In 2005, he was designated Professor Emeritus by the college. Mr. Dempsey also serves as a mentor at the State University of New York, Empire College, where he teaches criminal justice and public administration courses and mentors ranking members of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.

In addition to this book, Mr. Dempsey is the author of *Introduction to Investigations*, Second Edition (Thomson Wadsworth, 2003), *POLICE2* (Delmar/Cengage Learning, 2013), and *Introduction to Private Security*, Second Edition (Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, 2011).

Mr. Dempsey holds A.A. and B.A. degrees in behavioral science from the City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; a master's degree in criminal justice from Long Island University; and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University, the John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is a member of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), the International Association of Chiefs of Police, ASIS International, the Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences (NEACJS), and the Criminal Justice Educators Association of New York State. His latest academic distinctions were the Outstanding Contributor Award from the ACJS Community College Section in 2004 and the Fellows Award from the NEACJS in 2005.

Mr. Dempsey is married and has four children and four grandchildren.

**LINDA S. FORST** is a retired police captain from the Boca Raton (Florida) Police Services Department. She joined the

department in 1977 and served as a patrol officer, investigator, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. She spent most of her career in patrol but also worked in investigations, professional standards, training, hiring, and support services. She was the first female field training officer, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain in the department. She has extensive training in accident investigation, domestic violence, sexual violence, community policing, and police management, and she served on the board of directors of the local battered women's shelter for many years. Together with a state representative, she contributed to the development of Florida's stalking law and amended the sexual battery statute to better serve the community. She received numerous commendations during her career, including Boca Raton's Citizen of the Year in 1994, and brought home many gold medals from the state and International Police Olympics while representing Boca Raton.

Ms. Forst earned her B.A. in criminal justice, M.Ed. in community college education, and Ed.D. in adult education from Florida Atlantic University. Her dissertation was on acquaintance rape prevention programs. She is a graduate of University of Louisville's Sex Crime Investigation School and Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command. Ms. Forst is the author of numerous publications in magazines, journals, and newspapers, and presents regularly at conferences and to community groups. She is the author of *The Aging of America: A Handbook for Police Officers* (Charles C. Thomas, 2000) and *POLICE* (Delmar/Cengage, 2011). Ms. Forst is a member of Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Women Police, and the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives. She has instructed for Northwestern's School of Police Staff and Command as well as Palm Beach Community College and Florida Atlantic University. Currently she is a professor of criminal justice at Shoreline Community College in Seattle, Washington.

Ms. Forst is the mother of two daughters.

## About the Contributor

---

**STEVEN B. CARTER** is a retired police sergeant from the Modesto (California) Police Department. He joined the department in 1985 as a Police Reserve and served as a police officer, detective, patrol sergeant, training sergeant, administrative services sergeant, and acting watch commander. While a patrol officer, he hosted a weekly live television show (*CrimeLine*) on the local cable station and was the recipient of a “Telly Award” for a segment on domestic violence. As a detective, he was assigned to economic crimes and burglary, and was a member of the homicide crime scene team, acting as crime scene manager. He has presented before the California State Assembly Central Valley Legislative Law Summit on computer crimes and law enforcement response. As administrative sergeant he supervised background investigations, and as training sergeant he proposed and implemented a departmental five-year training plan and started the “Leadership in Police Organizations” program. He is

a graduate of the Los Angeles Police Department’s West Point Leadership Program and is a California POST Master Instructor. He retired in 2007.

Mr. Carter earned a B.A. from Simpson College and is a consultant and subject matter expert with Steven Carter & Associates in Modesto, California. He is a member of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and an associate member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He has served as a Peer Review Panel member for the Edward Byrne Grant Funding Program through the Department of Justice and is currently on the City of Modesto Planning Commission. He has authored several Cengage textbook supplements and is the author of *Instructor’s Resource Manual with Test Bank for Introduction to Private Security* by John S. Dempsey.

Mr. Carter is married and has three daughters and six grandchildren.

*An Introduction to Policing*, Eighth Edition, is an introductory text for college students who are interested in learning who the police are, what they do, and how they do it. The policing profession is a noble one, and we sincerely hope this text teaches those preparing to enter law enforcement how to continue in this great tradition.

This book provides a general overview of policing in our society so that students can understand why and how policing is performed. It is, above all, a text for students. It will show you the jobs available in policing, how you can go about getting them, what skills you will need, and what you will do when you get those jobs. In addition, we try to give you an idea, a sense, and a flavor of policing. We want you to get a clear look at policing, not only for your academic interest but, more importantly, to help you determine if policing is what you want to do with the rest of your life.

*An Introduction to Policing* explores the subject matter from the perspective of two individuals who have devoted their lives to active police work and education. We wrote this new edition, in part, out of a desire to combine the practical experience gained from a collective 44 years on the job in the field of policing with the equally valuable insights gained from our years of formal education and teaching.

## Changes to the Eighth Edition

In response to student and reviewer feedback, this edition provides the latest in academic and practitioner research as well as the latest applications, statistics, court cases, information on careers, and criminalistic and technological advances. As always, coauthor Linda Forst continues to lend additional geographic and gender perspective to the text.

The Eighth Edition continues to reflect the increasing emphasis on policing and homeland security, and we have added or strengthened topics such as community policing; self-defense and “stand your ground” laws; the new IACP Women’s Leadership Institute; social media campaigns; cybercrime; the law enforcement partnership with the Special Olympics; police response to the mentally ill; budget issues and police academy funding; female, homosexual, and minority officers in the profession; drug investigations in light of emerging medical and recreational marijuana legislation; recognizing and responding to elder abuse; and more. This edition has seven new Guest Lectures by experts in the field on topics such as the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings, the Wisconsin State Capitol protests, human trafficking, technology in child pornography investigations, and emerging new philosophies in the police academy. In addition to fully updated statistics, cases, and studies, the following updates have been made within chapters:

### Chapter 2

- NEW Guest Lecture: “A Sound Base and Broad Mind Lead to Endless Successes and Countless Opportunities”
- NEW discussion of cooperation between law enforcement agencies in security efforts
- NEW On the Job: “Working Together Toward a Common Goal”
- Updated information on Operation Fast and Furious

### Chapter 3

- NEW Table: Taylor’s Four Scientific Management Principles
- NEW section: Lateral Transfers
- NEW topic: Fraternal Order of Police
- Updated explanation of team leadership principles

**Chapter 4**

- NEW Guest Lecture: “From Warriors to Guardians”
- Updated information about eligibility and education requirements for police applicants
- NEW information about recruiting through school-based programs

**Chapter 5**

- NEW Guest Lecture: “Trafficking Investigations Can Involve Expanding Police Roles”
- NEW topic: broken windows theory
- NEW coverage of workforce approaches for small departments
- NEW and updated discussion of race-based police discretion
- NEW and expanded topics: stop-and-frisk, drug and alcohol impairment, and domestic violence
- Updated discussion of use-of-force standards

**Chapter 6**

- NEW section: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- NEW Table: Signs and Symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Expanded coverage of police suicide

**Chapter 7**

- NEW Guest Lecture: “No Prince Charming”
- Updated information on affirmative action Supreme Court rulings
- NEW and updated information on department statistics, recruiting efforts, leadership opportunities and examples, and other resources for minorities in policing

**Chapter 8**

- NEW information on sexual misconduct research and recommended policies from the IACP and racial profiling
- NEW topic: mediation meetings
- NEW topic: “uniform cams”
- Updated coverage of lawsuits against police departments

**Chapter 9**

- NEW section: Predictive Policing
- NEW section: Smart Policing

- NEW section: Smart911
- NEW section: Specialized Policing Responses to Individuals with Mental Illness
- NEW section: The Challenge of Distracted Drivers
- NEW topic: states’ legalization of recreational marijuana
- NEW topic: motorcycle swarms
- NEW topic: swatting
- NEW You Are There!: “RADAR at the King County Sheriff’s Office”

**Chapter 10**

- NEW Guest Lecture: “The Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting Investigation and Response”
- NEW section: Surveillance Cameras
- NEW section: Cybercrime Investigations
- NEW topic: social media use in investigations, specifically the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing
- NEW topic: National Institute of Justice grant program “Solving Cold Cases with DNA”
- NEW topic: prescription drug fraud
- NEW discussion of multiagency investigative task forces in human trafficking

**Chapter 11**

- NEW You Are There!: “Law Enforcement and Special Olympics”
- NEW and updated information on domestic violence, including smartphone and social media use
- NEW coverage of mass media campaigns, specifically the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing

**Chapter 12**

- NEW topic: Detroit Mini-Station Program
- Updated coverage of the Elgin, Illinois, police department community outreach programs
- Updated information on the IACP Community Policing Awards

**Chapter 13**

- NEW Guest Lecture: “A View from the Interior: Policing the Protests at the Wisconsin State Capitol”

- NEW You Are There!: “The Castle Doctrine in ‘Stand Your Ground’ Laws”
- NEW You Are There!: “*Texas v. Cobb* (2001)”
- NEW You Are There!: “*Missouri v. Seibert* (2004)”
- NEW topic: canine sniff case law in *Florida v. Harris* (2013)
- NEW topic: NYPD stop-and-frisk encounters
- NEW topic: search consent in *Fernandez v. California* (2014)
- NEW topic: Americans with Disability Act in *Seremeth v. Frederick County et al.* (2012)
- NEW topic: medical procedures in *Missouri v. McNeely* (2013)

### Chapter 14

- NEW Guest Lecture: “The Evolution of Technology and Child Pornography Investigations”
- NEW section: Cell Phone Monitoring
- NEW section: Drones
- NEW section: Identity Theft
- NEW coverage of cybercrime, including new key terms *phishing*, *Trojan horse*, and *spyware*
- Updated discussion of DNA collection

### Chapter 15

- NEW topic and key term: terrorist watchlist
- Updated coverage of sovereign citizens
- Updated information on the National Security Council staff
- Updated coverage of the DHS
- Updated coverage of Secure Communities
- Updated information on agency training in homeland security, specifically small and mid-sized local agencies

## Pedagogical Features

Within each chapter, we have included the following pedagogical elements:

- NEW *Learning Objectives* serve as chapter road maps to orient students to the primary knowledge goals of each chapter.
- *Chapter Introductions* preview the material to be covered in the chapter.

- *Chapter Summaries* reinforce the major topics discussed in the chapter and help students check their learning.
- *Review Exercises* are projects that require students to apply their knowledge to hypothetical situations much like those they might encounter in actual police work. These exercises can be assigned as final written or oral exercises or serve as the basis for lively class debates.
- *Web Exercises* ask students to research police topics on the Internet.
- *Definitions of Key Terms* appear on the same page on which each key term is first used, and in the full glossary at the end of the book.

## Boxed Features

To further heighten the book’s relevancy for students, we have included the following boxed features in all chapters:

- *You Are There!* These boxes take students back to the past to review the fact pattern in a particular court case or to learn the details about a significant event or series of events in history. They are intended to give the students a sense of actually being at the scene of a police event.
- *On the Job* These features recount personal experiences from our own police careers. They are intended to provide a reality-based perspective on policing, including the human side of policing.
- *Guest Lectures* These essays from well-respected veterans of law enforcement and higher education offer practitioner-based insights into crucial law enforcement issues and challenges.

## Ancillaries

A number of supplements are provided by Cengage Learning to help instructors use *An Introduction to Policing* in their courses and to aid students in preparing for exams. Supplements are available to qualified adopters. Please consult your local sales representative for details.

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We both would like to offer a special tribute to all the heroes of September 11, 2001, who rushed in so that others could get out. You are truly symbols of the great public servants who work in emergency services in our nation.

*Jack Dempsey  
Linda Forst*

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# Police History and Organization



Mikael Karlsson/Alamy

## CHAPTER 1

Police History

## CHAPTER 2

Organizing Public Security in the United States

## CHAPTER 3

Organizing the Police Department

# Police History

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Explain the primary means of ensuring personal safety prior to the establishment of formal, organized police departments.
- Discuss the influence of the English police experience on American policing.
- Characterize the regional differences in American policing prior to the 20th century.
- Describe how the turbulent times of the 1960s and 1970s influenced American policing.
- Identify at least four events or people instrumental in the development of 20th-century American policing, and describe their influence.



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## OUTLINE

### Early Police

#### English Policing: Our Heritage

Early History  
 Seventeenth-Century Policing: Thief-Takers  
 Henry Fielding and the Bow Street Runners  
 Peel's Police: The Metropolitan Police for London

#### American Policing: The Colonial Experience

The North: The Watch  
 The South: Slave Patrols and Codes

#### American Policing: Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

The Urban Experience  
 The Southern Experience  
 The Frontier Experience

#### American Policing: Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries

Policing from 1900 to 1960  
 Policing in the 1960s and 1970s  
 Policing in the 1980s and 1990s  
 Policing in the 2000s

## INTRODUCTION

The word *police* comes from the Latin word *politia*, which means “civil administration.” *Politia* goes back to the Greek word *polis*, “city.” Etymologically, therefore, the police can be seen as those involved in the administration of a city. *Politia* became the French word *police*. The English adopted it and at first continued to use it to mean “civil administration.”<sup>1</sup> The specific application of *police* to the administration of public order emerged in France in the early 18th century. The English word took on this meaning as well with the formation of the Marine Police, a force established in 1798 to protect merchandise in the port of London.

The reference to the police as a “civil authority” is very important. The police represent the civil power of government, as opposed to the military power of government. We use the military in times of war. The members of the military, by necessity, are trained to kill and destroy, which is appropriate in war. But do we want to use military forces to govern or patrol our cities and towns? We, the authors of this textbook, do not think so. Imagine that you and some of your classmates are having a party. The party gets a bit

loud, and your neighbors call 911. Instead of a police car, an armored personnel carrier and tanks arrive at the party, and twenty soldiers come out pointing M16 assault rifles at you. This may seem like a silly example, but think about it: Surely we need a civil police, not the military, in our neighborhoods.

This chapter will discuss early forms of policing and what some believe was the direct predecessor of the American police—the English police. Policing in the United States began with the colonies, including the watch and ward in the North and the slave patrols in the South, which some scholars believe could have been the first actual modern American police patrol organizations. A summary of the 18th- and 19th-century experience will focus on the urban, southern, and frontier experiences. The chapter will then turn to modern times—20th- and 21st-century policing—and discuss the American police from 1900 to 1960, the turbulent decades of the 1960s and 1970s, and more recent changes in the 1980s and 1990s. It will end with a discussion of policing since the onset of the new millennium, emphasizing the dramatic, unprecedented changes in police organization and operations brought about by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

## Early Police

Policing—maintaining order and dealing with lawbreakers—was always a private matter in early societies.<sup>2</sup> Citizens were responsible for protecting themselves and maintaining an orderly community. Uniformed, organized police departments as we think of them today were rare. Actually, as we will see in this chapter, modern-style police departments didn’t appear until the 14th century in France and the 19th century in England.

The first people we would consider law enforcement professionals were unpaid magistrates (judges), who were appointed by the citizens of Athens starting around the sixth century BCE. The magistrates adjudicated cases, but private citizens arrested offenders and punished them. The Romans began electing magistrates around the third century BCE and also created the first specialized investigative unit, called *questors*, or “trackers of murder,” around the fifth century BCE. In most societies, people in

towns would group together and form a watch, particularly at night, at the town borders or gates to ensure that outsiders did not attack the town.

Around the first century BCE, the Roman emperor Augustus picked special, highly qualified members of the military to form the **Praetorian Guard**, which could be considered the first police officers. Their job was to protect the palace and the emperor. Augustus also established both the Praefectus Urbi (Urban Cohort), which used executive and judicial power to protect the city, and the Vigiles of Rome. The **Vigiles** began as firefighters and were eventually also given law enforcement responsibilities, patrolling Rome’s streets day and night. The Vigiles could be considered the first civil police force designed

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**Praetorian Guard** Select group of highly qualified members of the military established by the Roman emperor Augustus to protect him and his palace.

**Vigiles** Early Roman firefighters who also patrolled Rome’s streets to protect citizens.

to protect citizens. They were quite brutal, and our words *vigilance* and *vigilante* come from them.<sup>3</sup>

Also in Rome in the first century CE, public officials called lictors were appointed to serve as bodyguards for the magistrates. The lictors would bring criminals before the magistrates upon their orders and carry out the magistrates' determined punishments, including the death penalty. The lictors' symbol of authority was the fasces, a bundle of rods tied by a red thong around an ax, which represented their absolute authority over life and limb.

During the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, kings on the European continent began to assume responsibility for the administration of the law. They began to appoint officials for that purpose to replace the watch and other private forms of defense. In the 13th century in Paris, Louis IX appointed a provost, who was assigned to enforce the law and supervise the night watch. The provost was assisted by investigating commissioners and sergeants. In 1356, France created a mounted military patrol, the *Maréchausée*, to maintain peace on the highways. The *Maréchausée* evolved into the *Gendarmerie Nationale*, which today polices the areas outside France's major cities.

By the 18th century, both Paris and Munich had armed, professional police that were credited with keeping the cities safe and orderly.

## English Policing: Our Heritage

The American system of law and criminal justice was borrowed from the English police experience, which is colorful and closely related to the development of English society.<sup>4</sup>

**mutual pledge** A form of community self-protection developed by King Alfred the Great in the latter part of the ninth century in England.

**constable** An official assigned to keep the peace in the mutual pledge system in England.

**shire-reeve** Early English official placed in charge of shires (counties) as part of the system of mutual pledge; evolved into the modern concept of the sheriff.

**hue and cry** A method developed in early England for citizens to summon assistance from fellow members of the community.

**watch and ward** A rudimentary form of policing, designed to protect against crime, disturbances, and fire. All men were required to serve on it.

## Early History

Sir Robert Peel is generally credited with establishing the first English police department, the London Metropolitan Police, in 1829. However, the first references to an English criminal justice or law enforcement system appeared some 1,000 years earlier, in the latter part of the ninth century, when England's king, Alfred the Great, was preparing his kingdom for an impending Danish invasion. Part of King Alfred's strategy against the Danes was maintaining stability in his own country and providing a method for people in villages to protect one another. To achieve this stability, King Alfred established a system of **mutual pledge** (a form of societal control where citizens grouped together to protect each other), which organized the responsibility for the security of the country into several levels. At the lowest level were *tithings*, 10 families who grouped together to protect one another and to assume responsibility for the acts of the group's members. At the next level, 10 tithings (100 families) were grouped together into a *hundred*. The hundred was under the charge of a **constable**, who might be considered the first form of English police officer and was responsible for dealing with more serious breaches of the law. Groups of hundreds within a specific geographic area were combined to form *shires* (the equivalent of today's county). The shires were put under the control of the king and were governed by a **shire-reeve**, or sheriff. For the most part, though, people were supposed to police their own communities through the mutual pledge system. If trouble occurred, a citizen was expected to raise the **hue and cry** (yell for help), and other citizens were expected to come to assistance.

Over the centuries, as formal governments were established, a primitive formal criminal justice system evolved in England. In 1285 CE, the Statute of Winchester established a rudimentary criminal justice system in which most of the responsibility for law enforcement remained with the people themselves. The statute formally established (1) the watch and ward, (2) the hue and cry, (3) the parish constable, and (4) the requirement that all males keep weapons in their homes for use in maintaining the public peace.

The **watch and ward** required all men in a given town to serve on the night watch. The watch, therefore, can be seen as the most rudimentary form

of metropolitan policing. The watch was designed to protect against crime, disturbances, and fire. Watchmen had three major duties:

- Patrolling the streets from dusk until dawn to ensure that all local people were indoors and quiet and that no strangers were roaming about
- Performing duties such as lighting street lamps, clearing garbage from streets, and putting out fires
- Enforcing the criminal law

If it became necessary for a watchman to pronounce the hue and cry, all citizens would then be required to leave their homes and assist the watch; not to do so was a crime under the Statute of Winchester. The statute also established the office of parish constable, who was responsible for organizing and supervising the watch. The parish constable was, in effect, the primary urban law enforcement agent in England.

In the early 14th century, with the rise of powerful centralized governments and the decline of regional ones, we see the beginnings of a more formal system of criminal justice, with a separation of powers and a hierarchical system of authority.

## Seventeenth-Century Policing: Thief-Takers

In 17th-century England, law enforcement was still seen as the duty of all the people in a community, even though more and more officials were being charged with enforcing the law and keeping the peace. We can now see the beginnings of a tremendously fragmented and inept criminal justice system. The next criminal justice positions to be created were magistrates and beadles. Magistrates assisted the justices of the peace by presiding in courts, ordering arrests, calling witnesses, and examining prisoners. Beadles were assistants to the constables and walked the streets removing vagrants. The impact of the magistrates, constables, and beadles was minimal, and the people in those positions were mostly corrupt.

The 17th-century English policing system also used a form of individual, private police. Called **thief-takers**, these private citizens had no official status and were paid by the king for every

criminal they arrested—similar to the bounty hunter of the American West. The major role of the thief-takers was to combat highway robbery committed by highwaymen, whose heroes were the likes of such legendary outlaws as Robin Hood and Little John. By the 17th century, highwaymen had made traveling through the English countryside so dangerous that no coach or traveler was safe. In 1693, an act of Parliament established a monetary reward for the capture of any road agent, or armed robber. A thief-taker was paid upon the conviction of the highwayman and also received the highwayman's horse, arms, money, and property.

The thief-taker system was later extended to cover offenses other than highway robbery, and soon a sliding scale of rewards was established. Arresting a burglar or footpad (street robber), for example, was worth the same as catching a highwayman, but catching a sheep stealer or a deserter from the army brought a much smaller reward. In some areas, homeowners joined together and offered supplementary rewards for the apprehension of a highwayman or footpad in their area. In addition, whenever there was a serious crime wave, Parliament awarded special rewards for thief-takers to arrest particular felons.

Often criminals would agree to become thief-takers and catch other criminals to receive a pardon from the king for their own crimes. Thus, many thief-takers were themselves criminals. Thief-taking was not always rewarding, because the thief-taker was not paid if the highwayman was not convicted. The job also could be dangerous because the thief-taker had to fear the revenge of the highwayman and his relatives and associates. Many thief-takers would seduce young people into committing crimes and then have other thief-takers arrest the youths during the offenses. The two thief-takers would then split the fee. Others framed innocent parties by planting stolen goods on their persons or in their homes. Although some real criminals were apprehended by thief-takers, the system generally created more crime than it suppressed.

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**thief-takers** Private English citizens with no official status who were paid by the king for every criminal they arrested. They were similar to the bounty hunter of the American West.

YOU ARE THERE

### England's Early Experience with a Civil Police Department

- 1763 Fielding creates civilian horse patrol in London.
- 1770 Foot patrol is established in London.
- 1798 River or marine police to patrol the Thames is established by Patrick Colquhoun. (Some consider this to be England's first civil police department.)
- 1804 Horse patrol is established in London (England's first uniformed patrol).
- 1829 Peel's police force, the Metropolitan Police, is established in London (England's first large-scale, organized, uniformed, paid, civil police department).

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## Henry Fielding and the Bow Street Runners

Henry Fielding, the 18th-century novelist best known for writing *Tom Jones*, may also be credited with laying the foundation for the first modern police force. In 1748, during the heyday of English highwaymen, Fielding was appointed magistrate in Westminster, a city near central London. He moved into a house on Bow Street, which also became his office. In an attempt to decrease the high number of burglaries, street and highway robberies, and other thefts, Fielding and his half-brother, Sir John Fielding, established relationships with local pawnbrokers. The Fieldings provided lists and descriptions of recently stolen property and asked the pawnbrokers to notify them should such property be brought into pawnshops. They then placed the following ad in the London and Westminster newspapers: "All persons who shall for the future suffer by robber, burglars, etc., are desired immediately to bring or send the best description they can of such robbers, etc., with the time and place and circumstances of the fact, to Henry Fielding Esq., at his house in Bow Street."<sup>5</sup>

The Fieldings' actions brought about what we can call the first official crime reports. They were able to gain the cooperation of the high constable of Holborn and several other public-spirited constables. Together they created a small investigative unit, which they

called the Bow Street Runners. The runners were private citizens who were not paid by public funds but who were permitted to accept thief-taker rewards.

Eventually, the government rewarded the Fieldings' efforts, and their Bow Street Runners were publicly financed. In 1763, John Fielding was given public funds to establish a civilian horse patrol of eight men to combat robbers and footpads on the London streets. The patrol proved successful but was disbanded after only nine months because of a lack of government support.

Londoners debated whether to have a professional police department. Although certainly enough crime, vice, theft, and disorder occurred to justify forming a civil police force, most people did not want a formal, professional police department for two major reasons. Many felt that a police force would threaten their tradition of freedom. Additionally, the English had considerable faith in the merits of private enterprise, and they disliked spending public money.

Despite the widespread public fear of establishing a civil police force, a small, permanent foot patrol financed by public funds was established in London in 1770. In 1789, a London magistrate, Patrick Colquhoun, lobbied for the creation of a large, organized police force for greater London, but his ideas were rejected after much government and public debate. In 1798, Colquhoun was able to establish the small, publicly funded Marine Police, patterned after the Fieldings' Bow Street Runners, to patrol the Thames. Some consider Colquhoun's force the first civil police department in England.

In 1804, a new horse patrol was established for central London. It included two inspectors and 52 men who wore uniforms of red vests and blue jackets and trousers, making them England's first uniformed civil police department. As the problems of London in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries increased (due to the Industrial Revolution, massive migration to London, poverty, public disorder, vice, and crime), the people and Parliament finally agreed that London needed a large, organized, civil police department.

## Peel's Police: The Metropolitan Police for London

In 1828, Sir Robert Peel, England's home secretary, basing his ideas on those of Colquhoun, drafted the first police bill, the Act for Improving the Police in



and near the Metropolis (the Metropolitan Police Act). Parliament passed the act in 1829. It established the first large-scale, uniformed, organized, paid, civil police force in London. More than one thousand men were hired. Although a civil rather than a military force, it was structured along military lines, with officers wearing distinctive uniforms. The first London Metropolitan Police wore three-quarter-length royal blue coats, white trousers, and top hats. They were armed with truncheons, the equivalent of today's police baton. The police were commanded by two magistrates, later called commissioners.

London's first police commissioners were Colonel Charles Rowan, a career military officer, and Richard Mayne, a lawyer. Peel, Rowan, and Mayne believed that mutual respect between the police and citizens would be crucial to the success of the new force. As a result, the early "bobbies" (called that in honor of their founder) were chosen for their ability to reflect and inspire the highest personal ideals among young men in early 19th-century England. The control of the new police was delegated to the home secretary, a member of the democratically elected government. Thus, the police as we know them today were, from their very beginning, ultimately responsible to the public.

Peel has become known as the founder of modern policing; however, it must be noted that he was never a member of a police department. His link to policing comes from his influence in getting the police bill passed. The early London police were guided by **Peel's Nine Principles**, as described by the New Westminster Police Service:

1. The basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder.
2. The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval of police actions.
3. Police must secure the willing cooperation of the public in voluntary observance of the law to be able to secure and maintain the respect of the public.
4. The degree of cooperation of the public that can be secured diminishes proportionately to the necessity of the use of physical force.
5. Police seek and preserve public favour not by catering to public opinion but by constantly demonstrating absolute impartial service to the law.
6. Police use physical force to the extent necessary to secure observance of the law or to restore order only when the exercise of persuasion, advice, and warning is found to be insufficient.
7. Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police, the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.
8. Police should always direct their action strictly towards their functions and never appear to usurp the powers of the judiciary.
9. The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it.<sup>6</sup>

Peel's principles were concerned with the preventive role of the police and positive relationships and cooperation between the police and the community it served. Consider the similarity between Peel's principles and the concepts of *community policing* that have influenced policing during the past few decades. See Chapter 12 for a complete discussion of community policing.

As a result of the formation of the new police force, the patchwork of private law enforcement systems in use at the time was abolished. Many believe that the English model of policing eventually became the model for the United States.

The Metropolitan Police was organized around the **beat system**, in which officers were assigned to relatively small permanent posts and were expected to become familiar with them and the people residing there, thereby making the officer a part of neighborhood life. This system differed from the patrols of the Paris police, which consisted of periodic roving surveillance of areas. Paris police patrols were never assigned to the same area on successive nights, thus not encouraging a close familiarity between the police and the public.

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**Peel's Nine Principles** Basic guidelines created by Sir Robert Peel for the London Metropolitan Police in 1829.

**beat system** System of policing created by Sir Robert Peel for the London Metropolitan Police in 1829 in which officers were assigned to relatively small permanent posts.

The main job of the new police was suppressing mob disorder, winning support from the public, and developing a disciplined force. The development of a professional and disciplined force was difficult, as Thomas Reppetto tells us:

On September 29, 1829, the force held a muster of its first 1,000 recruits. It was a rainy day, and some of the men broke out very un-military umbrellas, while others, carrying on the quite military habit of hard drinking, showed up intoxicated. The umbrella problem was eliminated by an order issued that day, but drinking was not so easily handled. In the first eight years, 5,000 members of the force had to be dismissed and 6,000 resigned. After four years only 15 percent of the 3,400 original recruits were left.<sup>7</sup>

Rowan, a former army colonel and a veteran of the Battle of Waterloo, was responsible for the efforts to instill military discipline on the new police department.

Unfortunately, the new police were not immediately well received. Some elements of the population saw the police as an occupying army, and open battles occurred between the police and citizens. The tide of sentiment turned in favor of the police, however, when an officer was viciously killed in the Cold Bath Fields riot of 1833. At the murder trial, the jury returned a not guilty verdict, inspiring a groundswell of public support for the much-maligned police. Eventually, Peel's system became so popular that all English cities adopted his idea of a civil police department.

In an interesting recent article in the *British Journal of Criminology*, Lucia Zedner explores the similarities between law enforcement in England before the creation of the London Metropolitan Police and policing today in our post-9/11 world. As evidence of similarities, she points to the generalized insecurity and mounting demands for protection common both then and now. She also writes that today's trend toward community participation in protective efforts reflects patterns of enlisting individuals and community organizations in voluntary activities of self-protection in the pre-Peel era, before Peel's government-sponsored police concept. Zedner points out that today we use private security companies to police neighborhoods, businesses, and commercial areas, a practice similar to that in the 18th century. She concludes, "Although

the state can no longer claim a monopoly over policing [today], it must retain responsibility for protecting the public interest in policing measures and the maintenance of civil rights in the context of security measures being used."<sup>8</sup>



### Sir Robert Peel: The Founder of Modern Policing

Sir Robert Peel is one of the most important persons in 19th-century British history. He dominated Parliament throughout the period of 1830 to 1850. He became a Member of Parliament (MP) in 1809 at the age of 21, after his father bought him a seat, and he became undersecretary of war and the colonies in 1810.

In 1812, Peel was appointed as Chief Secretary for Ireland. In that post, he attempted to end corruption in Irish government by trying to stop the practice of selling public offices and the dismissal of civil servants for their political views. Eventually, he became seen as one of the leading opponents to Catholic Emancipation. In 1814, he established a military-type "peace preservation" force in Ireland that eventually evolved into the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC). In 1818, he resigned his post in Dublin and returned to London.

Peel was Home Secretary from 1822 to 1827. Distressed over the problems of law and order in London, he persuaded the House of Commons to pass the Metropolitan Police Act in 1829. The first Metropolitan Police patrols went onto the streets on September 29, 1829.

Peel was prime minister twice, from 1834 to 1835 and from 1841 to 1846. He died in 1850 as the result of injuries he sustained in a fall from his horse while riding up Constitution Hill in London. Many have called him among the most important statesmen in the history of England. Because of Peel's connection with the creation of both the modern Irish and English police, the Irish police were known as "peelers" and the English police as "bobbies," thus magnifying Peel's role in the development of modern policing.

Source: Thomas A. Reppetto, *The Blue Parade* (New York: Free Press, 1978), pp. 16–22.

# American Policing: The Colonial Experience

## The North: The Watch

The American colonists did not have an easy life.<sup>9</sup> They were constantly at risk from foreign enemies, Native Americans, and their fellow colonists. Their only protection was self-defense and, sometimes, the military or militia. By the 17th century, the northern colonies started to institute a civil law enforcement system that closely replicated the English model. The county sheriff was the most important law enforcement official; in addition, he collected taxes, supervised elections, and had much to do with the legal process. Sheriffs were not paid a salary but, much like the English thief-taker, were paid fees for each arrest they made. Sheriffs did not patrol but stayed in their offices.

In cities, the town marshal was the chief law enforcement official, aided by constables (called *schouts* in the Dutch settlements) and night watchmen. Night watch was sometimes performed by the military. The city of Boston created the first colonial night watch in 1631 and created the position of constable three years later. In 1658, eight paid watchmen replaced a patrol of citizen volunteers in the Dutch city of Nieuw Amsterdam. The British inherited this police system in 1664 when they took over the city and renamed it New York. By the mid-1700s, the New York night watch was described as “a parcel of idle, drinking, vigilant snorers, who never quell’d any nocturnal tumult in their lives; but would perhaps, be as ready to joining in a burglary as any thief in Christendom.”<sup>10</sup>

## The South: Slave Patrols and Codes

Protection against crime and criminals in the southern American colonies was mainly the responsibility of the individual citizen, as it had been in early England.<sup>11</sup> There was little law and order as we understand it now. When immediate action was needed, people generally took matters into their own hands, which led to an American tradition of vigilantism and lynching.

Many police historians and scholars indicate that the **slave patrols** of the American South were the precursor to the modern American system of policing. These patrols were a formal system of social control, particularly in rural areas, to maintain the institution of slavery by enforcing restrictive

laws against slaves. Slave patrols were prominent in many of the early colonies as a means of apprehending runaway slaves and protecting the white population from slave insurrections or crimes committed by slaves. Policing experts actually conclude that the patrol function and concept were first accepted as a police practice by slave patrols in the South.<sup>12</sup>

Police historian Sam Walker wrote, “In some respects, the slave patrols were the first modern forces in this country.”<sup>13</sup> M. P. Roth, in his *Crime and Punishment: A History of the Criminal Justice System*, writes that “the evolution of the southern slave patrols in the early 1700s marked the first real advances in American policing.”<sup>14</sup> As early as the 1660s, Maryland and Virginia developed slave codes, which defined the black slave and his or her family as pieces of property who were indentured to their masters for life and forbidden to engage in many activities that whites engaged in. Slave masters were given the legal authority to control their property—slaves—through physical discipline and punishment.<sup>15</sup>

The slave codes were enforced by developing southern police departments to directly support slavery and the existing economic system of the South. These codes were adopted by colonial and, later, state legislatures. Slave patrols became the police mechanism to support the southern economic system of slavery. Slave codes were designed to ensure the economic survival of southern society—the use of slave labor to produce goods. Slaves were valuable property, and the codes were meant to prevent them from running away or engaging in insurrection. Simply put, these early slave codes were intended to preserve the social order in which whites dominated and subjugated blacks.

The southern slave codes mandated that slaves had no rights as citizens because they were considered property. Even the U.S. Supreme Court, in its infamous **Dred Scott decision**, *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857), held that Dred Scott, a black slave, could not sue in court for his freedom because he was not a citizen, but a piece of property.<sup>16</sup>

Researcher Sally E. Hadden, in her book *Slave Patrols: Law and Violence in Virginia and the*

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**slave patrols** Police-type organizations created in the American South during colonial times to control slaves and support the southern economic system of slavery.

**Dred Scott decision** Infamous U.S. Supreme Court decision of 1857 ruling that slaves had no rights as citizens because they were considered to be property.