

THEORIES OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR

SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES

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PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORIES

SOCIAL STRUCTURE THEORIES

- ❖ SOCIAL DISORGANISATION THEORY
- ❖ STRAIN THEORIES
 - Emile Durkheim
 - Robert Merton
- ❖ CULTURAL DEVIANCE THEORY

SOCIAL PROCESS THEORIES

- ❖ LEARNING THEORIES: DIFFERENTIAL ASSOCIATION

PSYCHOANALYTIC THEORIES

- ❖ Sigmund Freud

PERSONALITY THEORIES

SOCIAL STRUCTURE THEORY

Crime is caused by the way societies are structurally organised.

SOCIAL DISORGANISATION THEORY : Shaw and McKay

- Crime related to neighbourhood ecological characteristics.
- Crime rates are high in unstable, mixed use and changing neighbourhoods where social bonds are not strong. These localities struggle to provide basic services e.g., education, health, proper housing etc.
- The common sources of control i.e. family, school, community etc. are weak and disorganised.

STRAIN THEORY

ANOMIE: In Greek means normlessness

EMILE DURKHEIM

An anomic society is one where rules of behaviour i.e. norms have broken down during periods of rapid economic change.

An anomic society is not able to control human aspirations and demands.

It is most likely to happen when societies are moving from mechanical to organic solidarity.

Anomie is a result of insatiable desires of human beings

ROBERT MERTON

Anomie happens when desires or needs though limited are not satisfied in socially acceptable ways.

The link between desires and means has led to this theory being called **Strain theory** and it is also known as '**means –end theory**'

Modes of Adaptation: Conformity, Innovation, Ritualism, Retreatism and Rebellion.

CULTURAL DEVIANCE THEORY

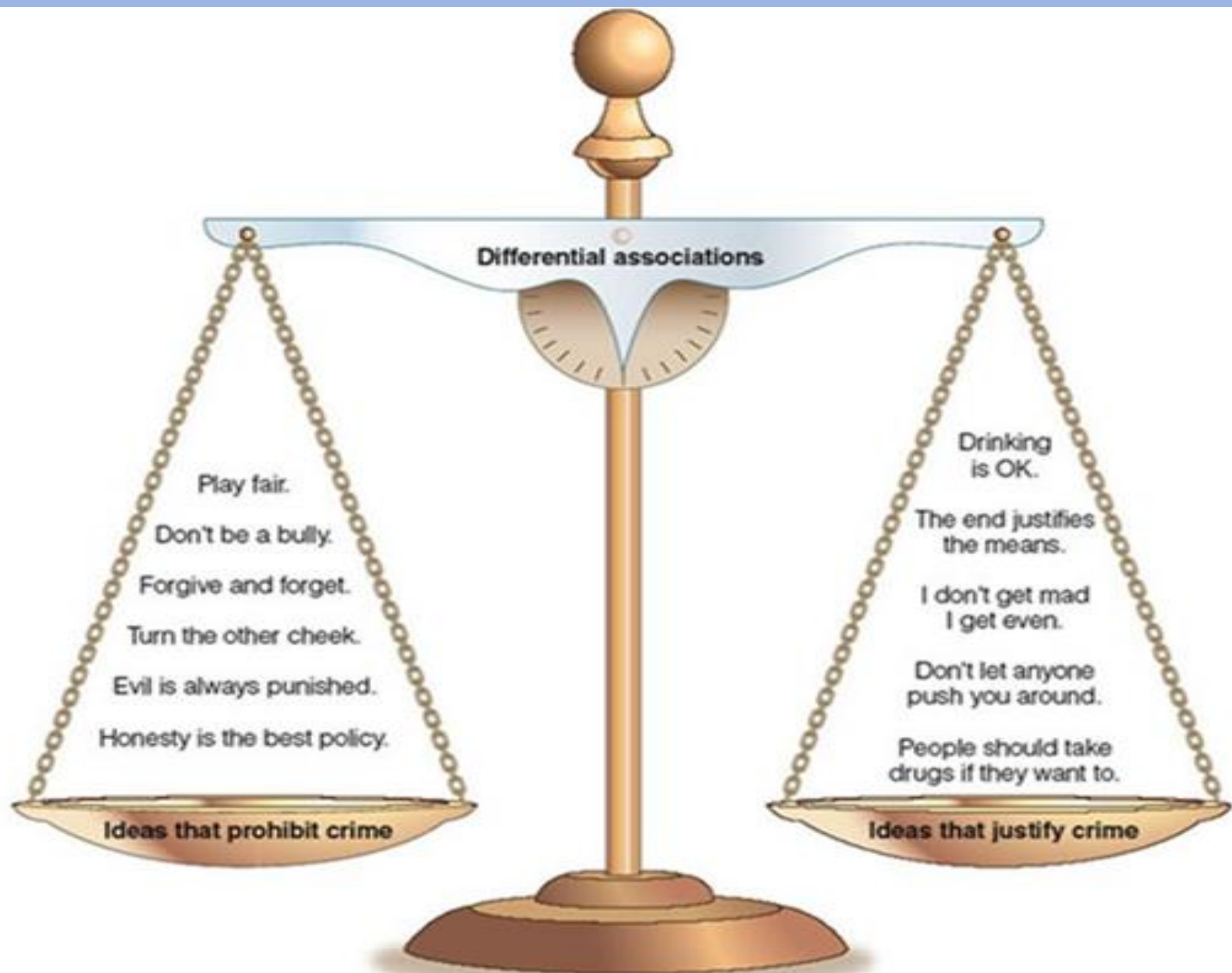
- It combines the effects of social disorganisation and strain to explain how people living in deteriorated neighbourhoods react to social isolation and deprivation.
- Members of lower class create their own subculture.
- **Thorsten Sellin:** Culture conflict and crime (Linked cultural adaptation to criminality). According to him criminal law expresses the rules of the dominant culture. The ethnic and racial minorities are excluded from the mainstream and they develop their own set of conduct norms which may clash with the statutory law resulting in culture conflict.

DIFFERENTIAL ASSOCIATION THEORY (Social Process: learning Theory)

Edwin H. Sutherland 1883-1950 (Principles of Criminology)

The nine principles of differential association theory which specify the process by which a particular person comes to engage in criminal behaviour are as follows:

1. Criminal behaviour is learned
2. Criminal behaviour is learned as a result of interactions with others.
3. Learning criminal behaviour occurs within intimate personal groups
4. Learning criminal behaviour involves learning techniques of committing crime as well as specific directions of motives, drives, rationalisations and attitudes.
5. The specific directions of motives and drives is learnt from perceptions of various aspects of the legal code as favourable or unfavourable.



6. A person becomes criminal when he or she perceives more favourable than unfavourable consequences to violating the law. This is the principle of differential association.
7. Differential associations may vary in **frequency, duration, priority and intensity**.
8. The process of learning criminal behaviour by association with criminal and anti- criminal patterns involves all the mechanisms that are involved in any other learning process.
9. Criminal behaviour is not excused by general needs and values as the non criminal behaviour also expresses the same needs and values

SIGMUND FREUD 1856-1939

- ❖ **Psychodynamic or Psychoanalytic** perspective focuses on early childhood experience and its effect on the personality.
- ❖ Psychodynamic perspective was developed by Viennese psychiatrist Sigmund Freud.
- ❖ He believed that we all carry within us the residue of the most significant emotional attachments of our childhood and these guide our future interpersonal relationships.
- ❖ He developed **talking cure (psychoanalytic therapy)** to treat people suffering from emotional problems.
- ❖ This therapy is based on the premise that human thought and behaviour are controlled by unconscious portion of our mind and are so beyond ordinary conscious control. The therapist helps people reveal unconscious needs, motivations, wishes etc. so as to gain conscious control of their lives.

FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY HUMAN MIND

Conscious mind	People are aware of it	Sensations and thoughts like hunger, pain etc.
Preconscious mind	Out of awareness	Can be brought to consciousness through memories and experiences
Unconscious mind	Biological desires and urges	By repression feelings of sex and hostility are kept below the surface of consciousness

FREUD'S MODEL OF THE PERSONALITY STRUCTURE

Personality Structure	Guiding principle	Description
Id	Pleasure Principle	Unconscious biological drives, requires instant gratification
Ego	Reality Principle	Helps the personality refine the demands of the Id, helps person adapt to conventions
Superego	The Conscience & ego ideal	The moral aspect of personality

PERSONALITY THEORIES

Personality means reasonably stable patterns of behaviour including thoughts and emotions.

- **Sheldon Glueck:** Identified many personality traits which characterise delinquent youth. Impulsiveness, Sadism, Hostility etc.
- **Hans Eysenk:** two personality traits- extraversion-introversion and stability-instability.
- Sociopaths, Psychopaths.