

Causes of Crime in the 16th and 17th centuries

The main cause of crime in the 16th century was poverty due to:

- Rising inflation.
- Dissolution of the monasteries.
- Bad harvests.
- Changes in farming methods.
- Rack-renting.
- Rural depopulation.
- Costly foreign wars.
- Changes in the cloth industry.
- Rising population.

Many of the major crimes during the 16th century were linked to the religious change brought upon by the change in the monarch.

Monarch	Religion
Henry VIII	Catholic
Edward VI	Protestant
Mary I	Catholic
Elizabeth I	Protestant

- **Henry VIII** replaced himself as the head of the church but allowed church services to remain in Latin. Priests were NOT allowed to marry.
- **Edward VI** allowed church services to be done in English with new English prayer books. Priests were allowed to marry.
- **Mary I** forced services to be in Latin again and banned the new prayer book Edward brought in. Priests and their wives had to divorce.
- **Elizabeth I** allowed church services to be in English AND Welsh. Priests were allowed to marry again.

Causes of crime in the 18th and 19th centuries

Industrial and Agricultural Revolution led to new types of crime, factors that led to new and increased crimes:

- Population increase - population rose from 16 million in 1800 to 42 million in 1900, mostly in urban centres.
- Growth of industrial towns – industrial revolution resulted in sharp growth in the population of certain towns such as Manchester and Merthyr Tydfil.
- Political unrest – working class people held protests demanding political economic and social changes, such as the Luddite protest, chartists and swing riots.
- Poor living conditions – people living very closely packed together in poor-quality housing with no clean water or sewage led to an increase in theft and crimes related to drunkenness.
- Economic problems – bad harvests, high food prices and the effect of war led to crime.

Causes of Crime



Why has there been a growth of terrorism in the 21st Century

- Belief in violent action
- Media attention
- Strong beliefs / growth in fundamentalism
- New technology
- A form of direct action
- Terrorist groups willing to work together
- Putting pressure on governments to give in to demands

Causes of crime in the 20th century

Why have crime figures risen sharply in the 20th century?

- **Actual increases in crime** – violent crime remained the same, increase in crime by juvenile boys
- Increase in **reporting** of crime – media reports more crime and individuals are reporting more crimes
- Increased **recording** of crime – gap between actual crimes and recorded crimes has decreased, partly due to more reporting of crimes and due to new technology.

Why was there an increase in crime?

- Financial worries
- Gang culture
- Technology
- Poverty
- Communication
- Racial tensions (hate crimes)
- Less traditional values
- Television glamorises crime
- Poor housing in inners cities

New crimes:

- Motoring offences
- Computer crime
- Football hooliganism
- Drug-related crime
- Gun and knife crime

Natures of Crime (1)

Nature of Crimes in the 16th and 17th centuries

Vagrancy

- Harman identified 23 different sorts of vagabonds, such as counterfeit cranks (sucked soap to foam at the mouth and pretended to have fits) and Abraham man (pretended to be mad).
- These false beggars added to the view that vagabonds caused crimes.
- People felt more and more threatened by the growing numbers of beggars.
- The view was that vagrants were criminals, spread diseases, too lazy to look for jobs.

Heresy - People who went against the official religion were often tortured or executed.

In Wales, three Protestants were put to death during Mary's reign for refusing to convert to Catholic faith

1. Robert Ferrar, Bishop of St David's who was burned at Camarthen 1555
2. Rawlins White, a fisherman who was burned at Cardiff in 1555
3. William Nichol, a labourer who was burned at Haverford West in 1558

During Elizabeth's reign, it was the Catholics and the puritans who were accused of heresy.

1. Wales Richard Gwyn, a Catholic schoolteacher was executed at Wrexham for spreading Catholic views in 1584.
2. A Catholic priest was executed in 1593 for spreading Catholic literature.
3. John Penry was executed in 1593 for spreading puritan ideas.

Nature of Crimes in the 18th and 19th centuries

Reasons for the increase in smuggling.

- Excise duty on goods
- Custom duty – 70% higher on tea by 1750
- Black market
- High demand as cheaper
- Insufficient policing
- Plenty of investors
- Provided chance to earn extra money
- People didn't think it was a crime

Organisation:

- Venturer (investor)
- Spotsman (brings ship to the right place)
- Lander (organised taking cargo to land)
- Tubmen and batsmen (move the cargo)

1718 – Hovering Act – illegal for boats to wait within 6 miles of coast

1736 – Act of Indemnity – death penalty for injuring officers

Stopped due to reduction in taxes on goods

Reasons for increase in highway robbery:

- Unpoliced roads
- More roads – more travel
- Ex-soldiers became highway robbers
- People carried money and jewellery
- Availability of firearms
- Very little banks to keep money
- Coaching inns safe places for robbers

Reasons for decline:

- Introduction of banknotes that were easy to trace.
- Better policing – the horse patrol set up by Fielding.
- Open spaces in London were built on.
- Manned tollgates made it harder
- JP's refused to licence taverns used by robbers.

Industrial and agrarian disorder during 18th and 19th centuries

Industrial:

Luddites – introduction of new weaving machines, called stocking frames, led to workers smashing the machines in 1812 and 1813. Harsh punishments led to an end to the protests.

Chartists in Wales, 1839 – wanted right to vote for all men over 21

Llanidloes - April 1839, Chartists attacked a hotel, troops arrived to restore order and 32 chartists were arrested and sentenced to imprisonment or transportation.

Newport Rising - was the most serious outbreak of chartist violence, Zephaniah Williams and William Jones planned to lead a march of 20,000 men from Blackwood to Newport. Only 5000 went on the march. They gathered outside Westgate Hotel in Newport, which housed 30 soldiers. Shots were fired and 8 chartists were killed. The leaders were rounded up and found guilty of treason. They were sentenced to death, but this was later changed to transportation.

Scotch Cattle – 1830s

Welsh Speaking colliers blacked their faces wearing animal skins protested against the truck system, high rents and wage reductions

Agrarian

Swing riots – 1830-32

Gangs of protestors attacked the property of the rich farmers. These were farm labourers who were angry about being in poverty and farmers using machinery. Between 1830 and 32 there were 316 cases of arson.

Rebecca Riots in Wales, 1839-40

Welsh farmers were angry at the high rent and the building of toll-gates which meant you had to pay to travel on a road. The toll-gate keeper could charge what they wanted. They were also angry at having to pay money to the church and the changes in the poor laws. They dressed up as women as disguise. Toll charges were standardised after the protest.

Natures of Crime (2)



A cartoon that appeared in Punch magazine in 1843 showing Rebecca rioters attacking a list of their worries on the tollgate.



Under the rules of the Red Flag Act of 1865 a person had to walk in front of a motor car warning pedestrians of an approaching vehicle.

Nature of Crimes in the 20th and 21st century

Transport crime

- Cars appeared in 1894
- Red flag act – limited speed 4mph
- 1903 first fatality
- 1908 road signs introduced
- 1933 and 34 – 7,000 fatal accidents – ministry of transport introduced speed limits and tests
- 1935 – compulsory driving test
- 1967 – tests for drink driving
- 1977 – 70 mph speed limit
- 2003 illegal to use mobile phones

Most common motoring offences:

- Alcohol related
- Dangerous driving
- Parking offences
- Failing to stop after accidents
- Not wearing a seatbelt
- No insurance
- No MOT
- No driving licence

Types of motoring crimes

- Theft
- Theft from vehicles
- Joyriding
- Alcohol and drug related offences
- Speeding offences

Computer crime

- Computer Viruses
- Phishing scams
- Hacking
- Spam
- Sexual crimes
- Intimidation/threats
- Fraud and identity theft
- Cyberterrorism
- Illegal downloading
- Harassment

Terrorism in UK

The troubles in Northern Ireland, 1969-98

- 1974 – IRA planted bombs in pubs in Birmingham
- 1979 – Lord Mountbatten killed by IRA
- 1984 – attempt to blow up conservative conference
- 1996 – IRA bomb in Manchester 212 people injured

Mudiad Amddiffyn Cymru (MAC 1963-69)

- in 1967 it blew up a pipe carrying water from Lake Vyrnwy to Liverpool
- in 1968 they exploded bombs outside the tax office in Cardiff
- in 1969 The leader, John Jenkins, was arrested and sentenced to 10 years in prison, this destroyed the MAC organisation.

Meibon Glyndwr (Sons of Glyndwr) 1979-1994

- This Welsh Nationalist movement opposed the decline of the Welsh language and culture. They set fire to houses that were owned by English in Wales, about 220 properties were damaged by arson over a 15-year period.

Global terrorism

- Lockerbie bombing 1988 – killed 243 passengers, 16 crew members and 11 people on the ground by Libyan terrorists
- Islamist attacks
 - 11 September 2001
 - 7 July 2005 killed 52 people and injured 700
 - March 2017 Khalid Masood injured 40 people and killed 5

Law and order in 18th century

18th century – Fielding described watchmen as ‘poor old decrepit people’, therefore individuals started experimenting with more organised systems of crime prevention and detection.

Thief-takers – private individuals who captured criminals and claimed reward money. They were often corrupt demanding protection money from the criminals they were supposed to catch.

Charles Hitchen – He was supposed to police the city of London for prostitutes and vagrants, however he quickly abused his position and demanded bribes from brothels and pickpockets to prevent arrests. Was arrested in 1727 for sexual crimes and died shortly after serving a 6 month prison sentence

Jonathan Wild – Became one of Hitchen’s assistants, but ended up running one of his own crime empire. He dealt in stolen goods and blackmailed criminals. He was arrested in 1725 and hanged.

Experiments with private police forces

Several JP’s started to experiment with private police forces, the most successful were John and Henry Fielding, they set up the ‘Bow Street Runners’.

Opposition to formal police

- People should self-police – not government business
- Invasion of privacy
- Could be used to stamp out opposition
- Cost too much taxpayers money
- Bloody Code should deter people enough

Law and order in 16th and 17th centuries

Civic responsibility – JP’s parish constables and town watchmen.

Parish constable could raise hue and cry – all men had to help. But could not go into a different parish.

Expanding towns made the voluntary jobs more difficult and ineffective.

Enforcing Law and Order

Law and order in 19th century

Development of organised police – changing attitude due to following:

1. Fear of revolution – French revolution of 1789 scared many landowners in Britain, this increased due to other events:
 - Luddite protests (1812-13)
 - Peterloo (1819) protest to demand vote for men
 - Swing Riots (1830-31)
 - Merthyr Rising 1831
 - Chartists 1838-50s
 - Newport Rising 1839
 - Rebecca Riots 1839-43
2. Increased crime and increased fear of crime
3. System of JP’s and constables not working anymore
4. growth of towns and population
5. government was involved in reforming other areas of society too.

An organised police force was set up in 1829

Law and order in 20th and 21st centuries

Principal duties of police have remained the same, but the organisation has changed

Areas of continuity, police still have powers to:

Arrest, search, detain, fine and report

Areas of change:

Organisation – in 1900 there were 243 separate forces, today there are 43.

Larger forces are more cost effective, but some argue they have lost touch with local communities.

Pay and recruitment – 1919 first women recruited, now 29% of police.

Regular pay increases and better pensions resulted in high retention rate.

National Police College set up in 1949 to train police.

Transport and communication – in 1900 police carried out all duties on foot. after WWII most duties were carried out in cars or on motorbikes. Recently helicopters have been used.

Community policing – neighbourhood watch schemes, community liaison officers and community support officers are all new initiatives designed to ask communities to help with policing.

Specialisation – computer technology has sped up communication and advances in forensic science have revolutionised detective work.

Although some see police as too powerful, most people have confidence in police.

Methods of Combating Crime in 16th and 17th centuries

JP became the chief agent of royal power at local level. Their role was split into 4 areas:

- **Maintaining law and order** – he had to act as a magistrate in cases such as minor theft.
- **Administering local government** – regulate ale houses, look after roads and bridges.
- **Carrying out orders of the Privy Council** – ensure acts that are passed by government are obeyed.
- **Supervising work of parish constables and town watchmen**

Acts of Union of 1536 and 1543 resulted in Wales formally coming under political control of England. This led to the introduction of JP's in Wales. Many Welsh gentry now gained the social status that came with this role, such as Sir Edward Stradling a Welsh MP during the reign of Elizabeth I. He lived at St Donat's Castle in the Vale of Glamorgan and held the post of JP through most of his life.

Parish constables – these were appointed by the JP for 1 year, they were usually tradesmen or farmers living in the area. It was an unpaid post, and often unpopular as they had to do it on top of their own job. Every able bodied man in the village had to serve, but often wealthier men paid for others to take their turn. They had to ensure taxes were paid punctually, make arrests and keep an eye on apprentices.

Town watchmen – They were expected to walk the streets at night calling out the hours and keep an eye out for anything suspicious.

How effective were parish constables and town watchmen?

Not effective:

- Parish constable was unpaid, so unpopular.
- Duties of constable had to be performed on top of the normal job, therefore the job of constable was often not done very well.
- Town watchmen not paid enough, so they were often too old or too lazy to do a good job.

Effective:

- Parish constable did help maintain law and order
- Presence of watchmen at night did give reassurance

Methods of Combating Crime **(1)**

Legacy of the Bow Street Runners

The work of the Fielding brothers was continued after their deaths;

- In 1792 the Middlesex Justices Act divided London into 7 police districts with 6 full time constables in each.
- In 1798 the Thames River Police was set up to prevent thefts from ships and the docks.
- By 1800 there were 68 Bow Street Runners.
- In 1805 a Horse Patrol of 54 officers with swords, pistols and truncheons was set up to patrol the highways in and out of London.
- By 1829 London had 450 constables and 4000 watchmen.
- The Fielding brothers had introduced the ideas of 'preventative policing'. The Bow Street Runners and Thames River Police were a deterrent by just being there.

Methods of combating crime in the 18th century

Henry Fielding and the Bow Street Runners

Henry Fielding was a magistrate in London, he identified 4 causes of crime:

- too many people moved to London expecting an easy life
- corruption in government
- people choosing crime over hard work
- constables were useless

He kept a record of all reported crimes and started a magazine to pass on information about crimes and criminals. He also established a paid police force called the 'Bow Street Runners'.

His brother John took over after Henry's death. Nicknamed 'Blind Beak'. He made several suggestions, some of which were taken up and very successful such as:

- granting him £600 to establish a horse patrol in 1763, by 1764 they had almost put an end to highway robbery on main roads. Funding stopped and the highway robbers returned.
- government gave him £400 to set up 'hue and cry' news sheet. Every 6 months he issued a list of offenders and asked JP's and constables to search for offenders, this became the Police Gazette and later a national crime network.

The Bow Street scheme was expanded after John Fielding's death

Methods of combating crime in the 19th century

Sir Robert Peel sets up Metropolitan Police in 1829

Metropolitan Police Act 1829

- In 1822 Sir Robert Peel put pressure on the Prime Minister to introduce the Metropolitan Police Act of 1829.
- Sir Robert Peel was in overall charge of the police but it was run by Charles Rowan and Richard Mayne.
- Its headquarters was at Scotland Yard in London. London was split into 17 divisions, each with 154 constables and 1 superintendent.
- Within a year over 3300 men had joined. The new policemen had to be less than 35, at least 5 feet 7 inches, healthy and able to read and write.
- Constables got paid one guinea a week.
- They worked 7 days a week and patrolled a set area (which meant walking over 20 miles a day).
- They were made to look different than army so wore a blue uniform.
- Constables had a wooden truncheon and a rattle to get attention.

Metropolitan Police Act 1839

- This was a further act that doubled the area covered by the police.
- Between 1850 and 1900 the Metropolitan Police force increased significantly;
 - 1862; 7800 men.
 - 1882; 11700 men.
 - 1888; 14200 men.
 - 1900; 16000 men.

Methods of Combating Crime (2)



Establishment of town and county police forces in Wales

During 1840s five of thirteen counties Cardiganshire, Carmarthenshire, Denbighshire, Glamorganshire and Montgomeryshire set up constabularies. After 1865 constabularies were set up in the remaining shires.

In 21st century police forces reduced from 177 to 49 across England and Wales. In Wales this has resulted in 4 major police forces: Gwent Constabulary, South Wales Constabulary, Gwynedd Constabulary and Dyfed-Powys Constabulary.

The spreading of the Met Police into other areas;

Municipal Corporations Act, 1835

- Allowed 'rotten boroughs' to set up a police force if they wanted to. Only 93 out of 171 had by 1837.

Rural Police Act, 1839

- Also known as the County Police Act. Allowed JPs to set up police forces in their counties. Wasn't compulsory and less than half did.

County and Borough Police Act, 1856

- ***Made it compulsory for a police force to be in every county. There were inspectors of Constabulary which checked if they were good enough.***
- **Detective Branch, 1842**
- **Criminal Records Office 1869** - Contained the records of criminals from all over the country.
- **CID (Criminal Investigation Department) 1878** - Replaced the detective branch. They were paid slightly more than uniformed officers.
- **Special Irish Branch 1883** - Created due to the threat of Irish terrorism. In 1888 became simply 'Special Branch'.
- **Photography and fingerprinting** - Photographing of prisoners started in 1850s and meant that images could now be sent around the country. Fingerprinting started in 1901. Within the first 12 months they identified 4 times as many criminals as had done the year before.

Methods of combating crime in the 20th century

Transport developments

- Bicycles in 1909 and the car was used by police from 1919 - could get to the scenes of crimes much quicker.
- By 1970 the patrol car had become an essential tool in policing
- Since 1970s helicopters used for surveillance of criminal, to track stolen vehicles and in the search for missing persons.

Telegraph and radio

- By 1880 most London police stations were linked by telegraph.
- Police phone boxes appeared in the 1920s.
- In 1934 some police cars were fitted with two-way radios
- In 1937 the 999 emergency number was introduced.
- In 1963 all police officers carry a two way radio for instant communication.

Camera and video technology

- In 1901 the first police photographer was employed.
- Many police cars have cameras fitted including automatic number plate recognition systems.
- CCTV has helped solve many crimes.
- Camera technology is also built into police helicopters and uses night vision.

Computer technology

- Computers have greatly improved police record keeping.
- The system holds information on fingerprints, DNA, missing persons, car details etc. and can monitor websites and emails which plays a major role in anti-terrorist activities.

Methods of Combating Crime (3)

Women

- In 1919 the first women police officers appeared. They weren't allowed to carry handcuffs or make arrests until 1923.
- Until 1939 they were given only limited duties, such as patrol work, escort duty (looking after children and female prisoners) and hospital duty.
- Since WW2 the number of female officers have increased. However it wasn't until 1970 that they were fully integrated into the police service.
- They now have similar duties to male officers but they are much fewer in number.

Specialisation of police services

- CID (Criminal Investigation Department) – has plain clothes officers and investigates major crimes like murder, serious assaults, fraud and sexual offences.
- Counter terrorism branch
- Immigration

Scientific developments include;

- Fingerprinting
- Forensic scientists, Scenes of Crimes Officers (SOCOs) and Crime Scene Investigators (CSIs)
- Genetic fingerprinting aka DNA profiling which matches individuals by blood, skin, saliva or hair found at a crime scene.

Community policing

Since criticism of the police handling of serious civil disturbances, such as the Brixton Riots in London in 1981, attempts have been made to improve relations between the police and the communities they serve;

- Community Relations Branch (1968): attempted to build closer ties with immigrant communities but it had limited success.
- Neighbourhood Watch Schemes (1982): Over 10 million members of it across the country. The police pass on information about local crime trends to the co-ordinators who also act as the link to inform the police of incidents when they happen.
- PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) 2002: Civilian members of the police who are not as trained, have a modified uniform and carry less equipment. Main role is to be a presence in the community and gather criminal intelligence.
- Crime Prevention Schemes: Police give advice on issues such as personal safety and home security.
- Victim Support Schemes: Helps victims of crime through advice, counselling and reassurance.

16th and 17th centuries

Punishments were harsh, often to humiliate and to deter.

Corporal punishment – whipping or flogging

Humiliating punishment – stocks and pillory

To deter – **Bloody Code** – between 1688 and 1815 225 crimes were punishable by **death**.

Bloody code was developed because:

- People believed it would deter
- Social change made it harder to police
- Fear in rise in crime
- Increases in new crimes (ie smuggling, and highway robbery)
- Increase in media reporting crime
- Influence of landowners (they did not want poachers on their land)

Use of banishment in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

Public executions were no longer effective – they drew large crowds and the events themselves became a perfect opportunity for pickpockets

Alternative punishment was found – banishments through transportation. It was seen as sufficiently harsh to deter people, but not as harsh as death. It also took the criminals out of society, thus protecting them.

1717 Transportation Act

Why do we punish?

- **To discipline** – people should be punished.
- **To deter** – suitably unpleasant punishment to stop others from doing it.
- **To reform** – change the character of the criminal.
- **To protect** – protect society from the criminals by locking them up or executing them.

Attitudes to Punishment

Abolition of Criminal or 'Bloody' Code

Reasons for ending the 'Bloody Code' – in 1861 only 5 crimes punishable by death

- Juries not willing to convict
- Public executions not working
- Ideas about punishment were changing
- Alternative punishments such as transportation

Why did prison reform happen?

- Influence of prison reformers
- Change in government attitude
- Debates on how to treat prisoners
- Change in public attitude
- Ending of transportation

Gladstone Committee – 1895

- Long periods of isolation don't reform prisoners
- Juveniles should not be subjected to harsh treatment
- Provide youth with worthwhile skills

Prisons Act 1898

- Reduction in time spent in isolation
- Prisoners allowed time to communicate
- Unproductive hard labour abolished
- First young prison opened in Borstal in 1902

20th Century - Abolition of death sentence

Arguments for:

- A dead murderer cannot kill again
- Hanging is the ultimate deterrent
- Keeping a murderer in prison is expensive
- Hanging satisfies the victim's family
- It protects police and prison staff

Arguments against

- The wrong person may be hanged
- Most murders are spur of the moment so hanging isn't really a deterrent
- Hanging is barbaric
- Even the worst person could be reformed
- Other countries have abolished capital punishment and the crime rate hasn't increased

Rehabilitation and Restitution:

- Parole
- Community Orders
- Probation centres

All focussed on rehabilitation (to reform prisoners) and restitution (to give back to society or victims)

Methods of punishment in Tudor times

whipping/flogging

- Used for crimes such as begging, drunkards, those who misbehaved in church, petty theft, vagabonds etc.

stocks and pillory

- The main purpose was to humiliate offenders in public to deter others.
- Used to punish minor crimes, gamblers, beggars and political offenders.

WALES

- **Ceffyl pren** (or wooden horse) was a type of community self-policing through means of public humiliation. A person suspected of a crime such as assault would be carried on a pole or a ladder to ridicule them. The practise continued until the early nineteenth century and proved effective until the establishment of a police force.
- **Rowland Lee** was Lord President of the council of Wales following the Acts of Union in 1536 and 1542. Lee considered Wales to be lawless and governed Wales very strictly. He ordered the hanging of 5,000 criminals in just nine years, but helped restore law and order in Wales.

The use of public executions

- By the end of the 17th century 50 different crimes carried the death penalty.
- Was done in public to deter others.
- Law and order was based on fear and there weren't other ways to detain people.

Methods of punishment in the 18th and 19th centuries

The development of transportation

- 1717 Transportation Act was passed.
- The sentence was for 7 years, 14 years or life.
- Between 1718 and 1776 more than 30,000 British prisoners were transported to America. People would make lots of money by transporting convicts to America as they would sell them when they got there.
- Transport to America stopped in 1776 when America declared its independence from Britain. This caused a crisis in the British prison system as prisons couldn't cope with the resulting overcrowding. Overcrowding ended when Australia was chosen as an alternative colony for shipping the convicts to.

Why were convicts transported to Australia?

- Reduce crime in Britain by removing the criminals.
- execution was seen as too extreme for some crimes.
- Prison was too costly.
- Hard work would reform the criminals.
- Australia was newly discovered and the terror of the journey was a punishment in itself.

The hulks (chosen after transportation to America stopped)

- Between 1776 and 1778 more than a quarter of prisoners died on the hulks due to the horrible conditions.
- There was also lack of supervision so there was lots of disorder, fighting and rioting.
- **Because of this the government were concerned and a public enquiry ordered conditions to be improved considerably.**
- On board the day started at 5.30am with breakfast at 6am. Food was the same as in normal prisons.

Methods of Punishment (1)

The punishment in Australia

The convicts were made to do whatever work their master chose to give them;

- Farm workers often found themselves at a remote and isolated farm.
- Domestic works were usually well treated.
- Skilled workers were put to good use.
- Good behaviour could lead to rewards;
 - Ticket of Leave, conditional pardon or ticket to mfreedom
- In 1838 it was decided that it wasn't enough of a deterrent and that it was very expensive. Australia were also very annoyed at being used as a human dumping ground.
- The last convict ship left Britain in 1867.
- Between 1787 and 1867 about 162,000 convicts were sent to Australia. The total cost had been more than £8 million.
- ***Between 1787 and 1868 over 2,200 criminals from Wales were transported to Australia***

Methods of punishment in the 19th century – prison reform

John Howard

- **He was shocked by the conditions he saw in prisons.** He believed prisons should reform criminals and believed that prisoners should be kept in solitary confinement so they couldn't learn more from other criminals. He died after catching jail fever.
- **WALES** - He wrote '*The State of Prisons in England and Wales*' in 1777, in which he also described several Welsh prisons including Caernarvon, Swansea and Wrexham. Conditions were very poor with Caernarvon County Jail being described as particularly derelict.

Sir G. O. Paul

- **Concerned about the conditions in prisons.** The Gloucestershire Prison Act of 1685 allowed him to build a new prison which had to be secure with high walls, exercise yards, sanitary, separation of offenders awaiting trial, minor offenders and serious criminals.

Elizabeth Fry

- **She wanted conditions to be improved for women.** She was convinced that women in prison needed education, discipline, useful work and religion. She travelled the country to get as much publicity as possible. **Thanks to her, conditions were greatly improved in Newgate Prison.**

Problems with public execution

- Tyburn (village outside of London) was a popular place with a gallows where several people could be hanged at the same time. It was meant to act as a very obvious deterrent. Executions were a main feature of public entertainment.
- A major problem with hanging was the possibility of a miscarriage of justice. Dic Penderyn was hanged and then later someone else confessed to the crime.
- One of the last executions in public took place in Nov 1864. **By the 1860s the authorities thought the problems with public executions were too great, as they were often events at which there was a lot of petty crime, and the system had to change.**

The end of public execution

- **In 1866 the Royal Commission on Capital Punishment recommended that executions should no longer happen in public. In 1868 this was made official.**
- From 1868 to 1965 when capital punishment was abolished, executions were carried out in prison.

Methods of Punishment (2)

Changing attitudes to punishment

Corporal Punishment

- Use of pillory was abolished in 1837 and stocks no longer used after 1872. In 1948 whipping was no longer used. **Public attitude turned against using pain to punish.** Corporal punishment was made illegal in state schools in 1986.

Separate and silent systems

- In the separate system prisoners were kept in individual cells where they worked, prayed and received religious teaching. This system was very expensive and had a high death rate with prisoners committing suicide or going insane. They were never allowed to see other prisoners. Prison reformers thought this would help prisoners to get work when released because they had done useful work in prison.
- In the silent system prisoners were allowed to spend time with one another but had to do so in silence so that they wouldn't influence each other. This system relied on fear and hatred so conditions were as horrible as possible. They thought if they made the experience horrible people would never want to return to prison.
- **1865 Prisons Act concentrated on harsh punishments- summed up by 'Hard labour (work), hard fare (food) and hard board (accommodation)'. The aim was to enforce strict punishment, not to reform.**
- **The 1877 Prisons Act 'nationalised' prisons under government control and everything was the same across all prisons.**

Methods of punishment in the 20th century

abolition of capital punishment

Ruth Ellis - Born in Rhyl, North Wales, she was the last woman to be hanged in the UK. Convicted of killing her lover and hanged. It was believed to be a crime of passion and not pre-meditated.

Timothy Evans born in Merthyr Tydfil. Hanged for murdering his baby daughter in 1950. He had confessed to killing his wife accidentally and did confess to killing his daughter. Evans claimed he was threatened by the police and did change his statement several times. 3 years after he was hanged a serial killer was caught and confessed to the crime.

These cases all strengthened the argument for abolishing capital punishment. In 1957 the Homicide Act abolished hanging for all murders except;

- Murder of a police officer
- Murder by shooting or explosion
- Murder while resisting arrest
- Murder while carrying out theft
- Murder of more than one person

In 1965 the Murder Act was introduced for a trial period of 4 years. In 1969 it became official as the Abolition of the Death Penalty Act. The last hangings to happen were in 1964.

Changes to imprisonment

the use of borstals

- Designed for juveniles – was meant to be educational rather than punishing. It had strict rules.
- The focus was on routine, discipline and authority.
- **Research in the 1970s showed that the longer the inmates remained in a borstal the more likely they would be to reoffend when they were released.**
- **Borstals were abolished in 1982.**

young offenders institutes

- Borstals were replaced with young offenders institutes in 1988.
- They house inmates who are 18-21 and are very similar to prisons but with a higher staff to inmate ratio.
- Their purpose is to reform through education (25 hours a week).
- Offenders under 21 will be sent to a YOI

Methods of Punishment (3)



WALES

Parc Prison in Bridgend is now a Young Offenders Institution, the only one in Wales and was opened in 1987. It has its own education department offering a range of courses, the aim is to prepare young offenders for life after prison.

There is one open prison in Wales, just outside USK at Prescoed. It is a category D open prison for men, with the aim to integrate prisoners back into the community ready for their final release.

suspended sentences

- Used as an alternative to prison since 1967. The offender doesn't go to prison unless they commit another crime

probation and parole

- Probation service began in 1907 – offender has to follow a strict set of rules
- In 1967 the Parole Board was created. Prisoners can be released earlier.
- 'conditional release' – if conditions of the licence are broken they will be recalled to prison.

community service

- Community Service Orders in 1972. Offenders have to do unpaid work for the community.
- More cost effective than probation. Very successful for older offenders but not really a deterrent on younger offenders.
- Aim is to punish offenders without serving a prison sentence.

Living conditions in urban Merthyr Tydfil

The development of the iron industry

- Merthyr grew around 4 great ironworks, in 1750 it was a small village with 40 families, by 1851 it had a population of nearly 50,000. It grew around 4 main ironworks
- Dowlais Ironworks, set up by Thomas Lewis from Llanishen in 1748
- Plymouth ironworks, set up by Anthony Baker from London
- Cyfartha ironworks, also set up by Bacon
- Penydarren ironworks, set up by two brothers from Staffordshire in 1784

By 1840, Merthyr had essential ingredients to make it a boomtown:

- Enterprising industrialists willing to invest in the ironwork
- Raw materials – coal, ironstone, water
- Good transport links – the Glamorgan canal and Taff Vale railway
- Rapidly expanding population

Decline of iron industry

- The development of the steel industry led to the decline of the iron industry. The supply of ironstone was running out and was not the right quality for the manufacture of steel.
- By the 1860s Merthyr's great days of making steel were over.



Growth of population in Merthyr Tydfil

Year	Population
1750	400
1801	7,705
1831	22,000
1851	46,378
1861	51,949

- This growth was due to demand from ironworks, coalmines and ironstone quarries.
- Majority of new population was Welsh.
- There were no planning regulations so the town quickly became overcrowded, filthy and unhealthy.
- Majority of workers lived in houses built by the ironmasters – skilled workers had the best houses, with two or three bedrooms and a toilet in the outside yard.
- Unskilled workers lived in homes that had a shared communal yard with a toilet.
- Poorest housing were 'cellar-dwellings', a single room could house a whole family and possibly even a lodger.

'China': The growth of crime in Industrial Merthyr Tydfil in the nineteenth century (1)

Poverty caused by the truck system

Wages depended on the iron price. If price fell, wages were reduced, on some occasions by as much as 30-60%. As workers were only paid once a month, they often went into debt at the end of the month. Some ironworks paid out part of the wages in tokens called 'truck'; these could only be spent in special shops, owned by the ironwork companies. Prices in these shops were higher than in normal shops. The truck shop would encourage workers to go into debt by buying goods on account. Debt collectors would be sent round to collect debts by confiscating worker's goods. This led to the Merthyr Rising in 1831 – it was then made illegal by Parliament

Issues of public health

Most houses lacked sanitation or access to clean water

It was one of the unhealthiest towns in Wales

Average life expectancy of an ironworker was 22 years compared to the ironmaster's family, which was 50.

Highest death rate amongst children, three quarters of all deaths in the town were of children under the age of five.

Outbreaks of disease were common, including tuberculosis, smallpox, typhoid and scarlet fever. The most significant killer was cholera; an outbreak in 1849 resulted in 1,467 deaths and was due to a contaminated water supply.

Water supply was contaminated by the ironworks, there was no rubbish collection and people emptied the contents of chamber pots in the streets

Supply of fresh water was extremely poor, the river Taff running through the town and become an open sewer. Only in 1861, public taps were introduced.

Below: Cholera graves on the hills above Merthyr



'China'

'China' was an area of Merthyr also known as 'Little Hell'. Entrance into the area was under an arch, and messengers at all-time guarded it.

The area was full of drunkards, thieves, rogues, above all prostitutes, and their minders. Police were often too scared of going into China; the Emperor and Empress of China ruled it.

Most crime was linked to prostitution, mainly theft from their clients. 60 prostitutes worked in the area in 1839-40 including 'Big Jane' (Jane Thomas) and The Buffalo (Margaret Evans)

Minders protected the prostitutes and police very rarely arrested them. There were also many pickpockets operating in the area.

Attempts to police China

During the 1840's the police tried to clean up the area, the emperor and empress were arrested and found guilty of various crimes, but other criminals soon replaced them.

There was some self-policing and the "ceffyl pren" was used to humiliate such as Anne Harman, who was unfaithful to her husband.

When the Glamorgan Constabulary was established in 1841 it made a significant difference and most criminal left to Cardiff.



'China': The growth of crime in Industrial Merthyr Tydfil in the nineteenth century (2)

Increased opportunity for crime in Merthyr Tydfil

Crimes caused by poverty

Mainly concerned theft; especially during periods of depression, wage cuts, poor harvests or high food prices.

Crimes connected to the ironworks

Theft of company property, especially stealing coal was common; between 1838 and 1854, 100 people were charged with this.

Other crimes included destruction of company property, ill-discipline while at work and illegal strike activity

Crimes associated with leisure time

Mostly linked to drunkenness and disorderly behaviour. These made up a fifth of all recorded crime. Although it was mainly men, some women were also notorious drunks such as Julia Carroll 'the heroine of a thousand brawls'.

Drunkenness and violence was a particular problem amongst the Irish.

Crimes of a sexual nature

The most common crime was 'stealing from a person' by the town's prostitutes. They would encourage the men to drink when they came into the brothels and then steal from them once they were drunk.

Impact of the growth of population on changes in policing in Merthyr Tydfil

The usual system of JP's, parish constable and town watchmen, failed to deal with the increase in crime due to the huge increase in population. The military was deployed several times for popular disturbances.

1800 – A disturbance caused by high food prices and a lack of food due to a poor harvest. Workers attacked truck shop. The protest was stopped by the arrival of 20 soldiers sent from Gloucester.

1816 – Strike across South Wales after a reduction in wages of 40%, riots broke out in Merthyr. Troops had to be rushed in from Cardiff.

Merthyr Rising and its impact

84 ironworkers were laid off, leading to a march through Merthyr in 1831. Soldiers sent from Brecon. The crowd attacked an Inn with the magistrates, special constables and soldiers inside.

7000 people gathered outside the inn. Soldiers opened fire, wounding over 70 and killing at least 2 dozen. 28 were arrested, 4 were transported, and the rest imprisoned. Dic Penderyn was sentenced to death for wounding a soldier.

This finally convinced the local people there was a need for a police force.

Experiments in policing and establishment of Glamorgan County Constabulary (1841)

3 retired policemen were sent to Merthyr from London, but they were considered too expensive and sent back.

The Newport Rising in 1839, made the middle class of Merthyr willing to pay for a police force and the Glamorgan County Constabulary was formed in 1841. An experienced ex-Met Police Officer was put in charge with inspectors and constables below him. It was only a force of 13 men, with limited impact at first due to difficulties in recruiting and retaining suitable men as the pay in the ironworks was better.

By the 1850s they were patrolling the whole town, although it always needed at least two men to patrol 'China'

By the end of the 19th C crime rates had significantly dropped partly due to the decline in the ironworks, the establishment of new leisure activities for the town people such as the Young Men's Improvement Society and partly due to the establishment of the police force.