

STATE AS SECURITY DEALER

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Abstract

This essay explores the position of the state as a security and police services dealer. Its focus is to: (i) improve the understanding and clarify scope of government (or other sovereign authority) in policing; (ii) determine from a historical perspective the factors that influenced the state participation in public life as dealer of security; (iii) inspect with care the events that spurred criminologists on to speak about a 'watershed'(Shearing, 1996a,b) in policing; (iv) define policing as governmental technology (Rose and Miller, 1992); (v) assess the responsibility and impact of the state as security dealer in the private market.

In doing so, the paper in the first part outlines the figure of the state in general and discusses its historic pillars such as the common good of social stability, legitimacy, and authority. Furthermore, it shows the strict correlation between the activity of security and the police services dealer since the appearance of the modern democratic state. The second part, based on the historical background delineated, addresses the events that beset the watershed in policing theories. It also criticises the current view of pluralised, fragmented policing practices (Loader, 2000) that at least theoretically have diminished the role of the state as dealer of security. The third part, instead, deals with the role of the state as means of last resort and its effectiveness in influencing people's lives as well as the private market. Overall, the paper reveals a sound misconception of policing and exposes the importance the state and its administrative apparatus still have in 'rowing' and 'steering' people's lives (ibid)¹.

Keywords: Policing, State policing, State policing Function, Security dealer

¹ For a more extensive literature see also Crawford (1997), Walker (1999) and Osborne and Gaebler (1992)