Introduction to Policing

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The Pillar of Democracy

M.R. (Maki) Haberfeld

Charles Lieberman

Amber Horning

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This book is dedicated to my amazing daughters, Nellie and Mia, who are always the greatest joy of my life.

— M.R. Haberfeld

This book is dedicated to my children, Gabriel and Sophia, who are my sun and moon, and to my family, friends, and colleagues, all of whom have facilitated my growth.

—Charles Andrew Lieberman

This book is dedicated to my spouse and inspiration, Sara, and to my perfectly brilliant son, Dante Oscar Ruf.

—Amber Horning

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Preface

A number of well-written Introduction to Policing and/or Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement texts have been published in the past couple of decades; however, they are based, primarily, on an overview of specific topics rather than themes. Each of these very popular texts concentrates on the topical overview of the functions of the police in the society and fails to convey to the student the underlying reasons and explanations of why policing is conducted the way it is and why police officers police the society in the manner they do and, finally, why law enforcement is perceived and criticized by the public the way it is.

The idea of writing *Introduction to Policing* around various policing themes is based on John Crank's book, *Understanding Police Culture*. While Crank discusses police subculture from the perspective of various themes like danger, unpredictability, uncertainty, suspicion, etc. (some of which we actually borrow to underline our paradigms), his focus is more on the processes that cause officers to feel the way they do rather than framing their behavior within the explanation of police functions in a democratic society and here one can find the main difference between his approach and the one we propose to use. The main focus in this Introduction book is on police functions conducted in a manner that is consistent with its initial, historical designation and perfected throughout the centuries by the reinforcement of this original designation that created the modalities of police functions we experience today.

It is absolutely imperative that the student of policing in the twenty-first century understands the underlying heritage of the police function and its omnipresence in today's policing. Without an in-depth analysis of the themes that mobilize police organizations and its personnel, a student of these topics receives a totally skewed perspective on this most critical profession and continues his/her life journey judging the book only by its cover.

The democratic principles of government can be defined from many perspectives and it is beyond the scope of this text to address all the varieties of the democratic structures. However, despite the existence of several varieties of democracy, some of which provide more freedoms for their citizens than others, the basic principle of the "majority rule," which is elected under elections that are procedurally and substantively

fair, is the rule of thumb around which certain themes of this text will be addressed. Regardless of the garden varieties and modalities of governments that depict themselves as democratic, certain principles must be adhered to and observed in order to prevent the abuse of the minority rights and human rights in general. In order to avoid the tyranny of the majority or the abuse of power of the ruling governments, the equality and equity before the law must be preserved by an effective and professional criminal justice system in general and more specifically by a professional and effective police force. Civil rights, civil liberties, and due process embed many of the operational realities of policing. Whether one addresses notions such as use of force, search and seizure, discretion, sub-culture, or intelligence gathering, it is always done from the perspective of the need to preserve precisely these themes which are part of the human rights and civil rights concepts that constitute the basic forms of any type of a democratic and civil society.

It is important to reemphasize that this book will be truly an introductory text to the idea of policing, despite the innovative angle that we introduce to enable the students to grasp policing from a rather different perspective. At the end of the semester, students who studied from our text will have the same basic and factual information about the way policing was and is performed in the society paired with a distinct advantage of understanding the conceptual picture behind the operational and tactical deployment. This advantage will set them apart and ahead of those who studied from other currently available texts on policing. As we weave the themes of democratic principles into the chapters, through addressing the basic blocks of fair and professional policing, the understanding of democracy from the prism of certain police actions or inactions becomes comprehensible from a very pragmatic perspective.

The teaching strategy of the book is to present a logical sequence of topics that are designed to incrementally build upon concepts introduced in previous chapters. One cannot understand today's policing without understanding its history and its operational functions and the concept of Use of Force as it relates to its daily performance. Policing is about Use of Force, policing is also about Discretion and finally policing is about Policing Different DNAs—a concept that we coin here to represent the infinity of differences we represent as human beings, not from the stereotypical multicultural or multi-racial perspective, but rather literally from the scientific perspective of each human being representing a different DNA structure and as such presenting a unique set of variables that lead to a myriad of behavioral actions and reactions. However, policing is also about management and leadership and about deviance and accountability. Each of these themes built upon the sequence there are presented in and one cannot fully understand the inability of police organizations to deliver and implement the ideas of Community-Oriented Policing without understanding the grim picture of the themes inherent in contemporary recruitment, selection and training. In a similar manner one cannot fully comprehend police deviance without getting an insight into the stress management (or lack of stress management training) and its impact on daily performance, especially in the era of the "overnight supervisor" theme.

The truly distinguishing feature of this book is its conceptual approach to the introductory text on policing, focusing on a profound understanding of the themes that mobilize police functions rather than the emphasis on what it is that the police actually

do. Its distinguished features are the causes and paradigms of policing rather than the structure and functions.

It is our hope that students of policing will adopt this novel approach and will further the development of this most noble of professions.

Maria (Maki) Haberfeld
Charles Lieberman
Amber Horning

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Maria (Maki) Haberfeld
Charles Lieberman
Amber Horning