¶4.1



Sociology 101B: Deviance, Crime, and Social Control





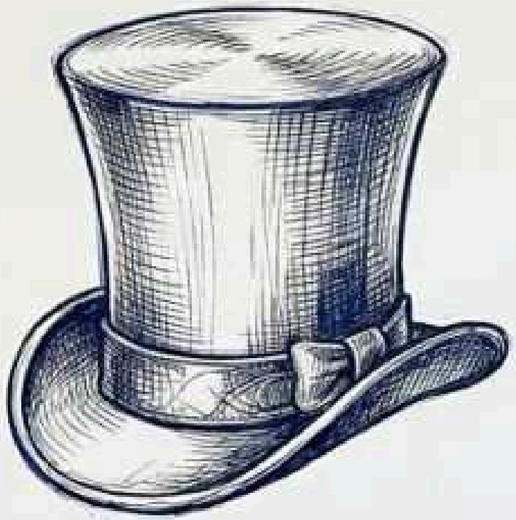
At a Glance

- The relativity of deviance
- Theoretical frameworks (Durkheim, Merton, Sutherland, Hirschi, Becker)
- White-collar crime & measurement
- Punishment and social control systems

¶4.2

Deviance is a technical term, not an insult. Every society has rules, and in every society **some people break them.**

DEVIANCE
(Norm Violation)



CRIME
(Law Violation)



¶4.3

Deviance = f(Actor, Location, Time, Observer)

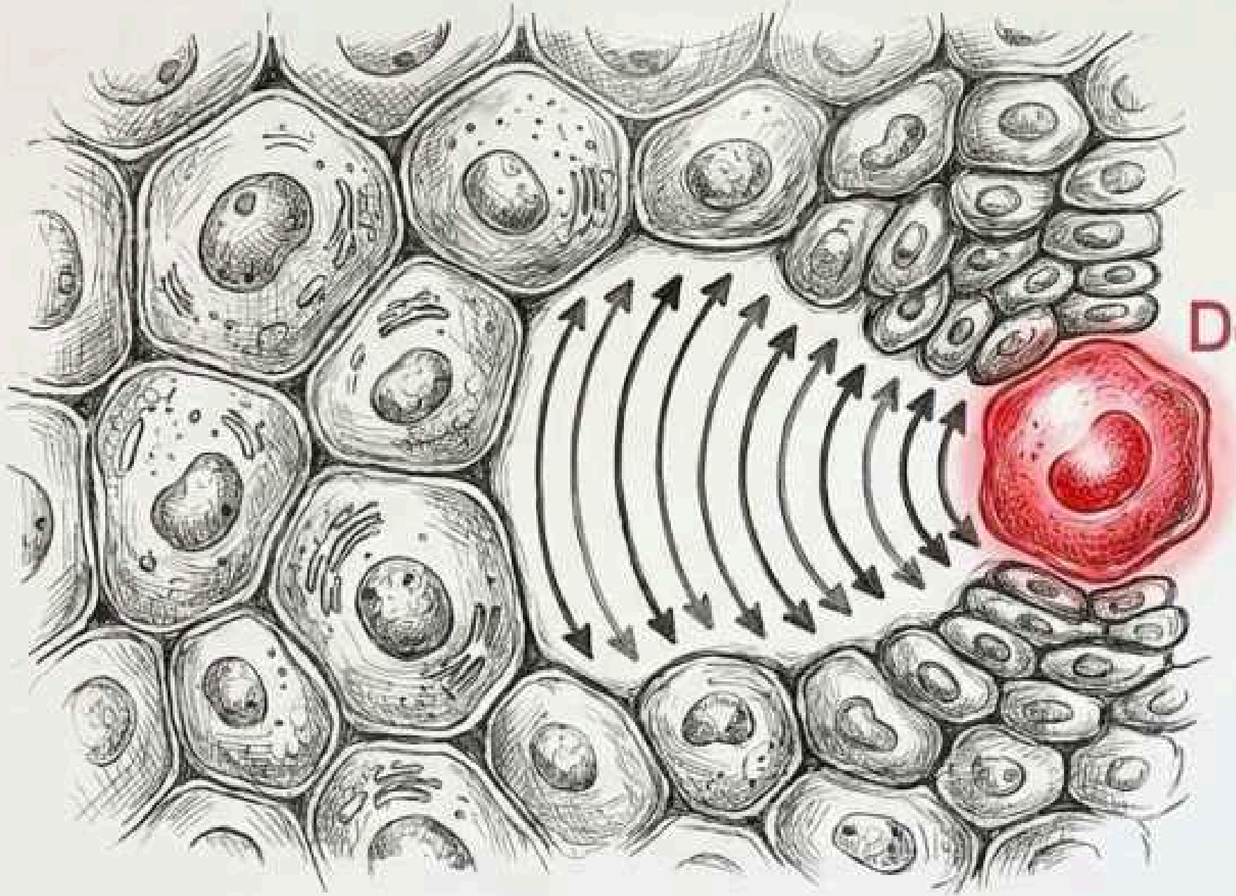




No act is deviant in itself; it becomes deviant when a group defines it so. Laws on drugs, gambling, and marriage have completely changed within a single century.

Functionalism: Emile Durkheim

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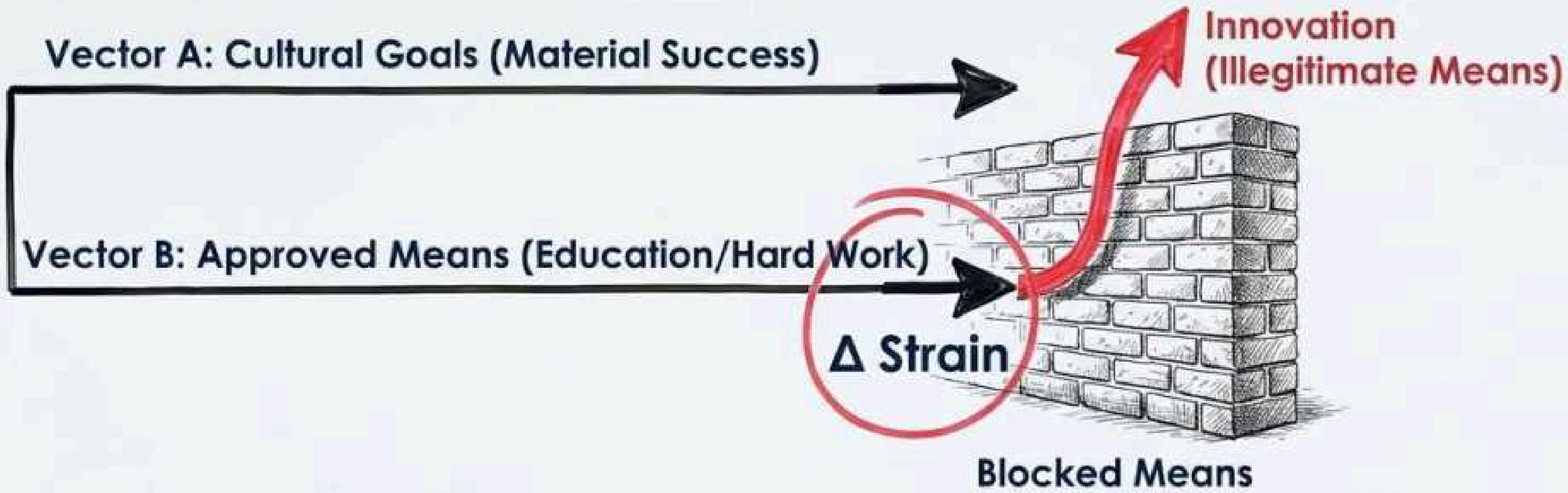


1. Reaffirms the community's moral boundaries.
2. Draws people together against a common threat.
3. Signals when a norm needs to change (e.g., civil rights protests).

Deviance is **normal** and even **useful**. No society could be free of it.

Strain Theory: Robert Merton (1938)

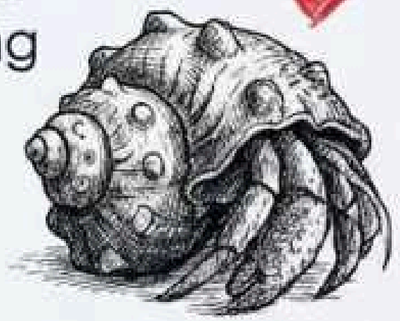
¶ 4.5



When approved means to reach cultural goals are blocked for some people, they feel strain. One response is innovation: pursuing the goal by illegitimate means.

Merton's Typology of Responses

¶ 4.6

Cultural Goals \ Institutional Means	(+ Accept)	(- Reject)
(+ Accept)	**Conformity** 	Innovation
(- Reject)	**Ritualism:** Going through the motions while giving up the goal. 	**Retreatism:** Withdrawing from both. 

Rebellion (±, ±): rejecting the system and seeking to replace it.

Critique: Strain theory explains why crime clusters where opportunities are scarce, but fails to explain why most people facing blocked opportunities do not turn to crime.

¶ 4.7

Differential Association: Edwin Sutherland (1939)

Favorable definitions
of lawbreaking



Unfavorable definitions
(Respect for law)

If (Favorable Definitions > Unfavorable Definitions) → Delinquency

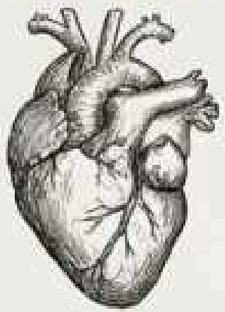
People learn criminal behavior exactly like any other behavior: through interaction in close groups. They learn techniques, but more importantly, attitudes.

Control Theory:
Travis Hirschi (1969)

Instead of asking why people break rules, ask why most do not.

¶ 4.8

Attachment to others

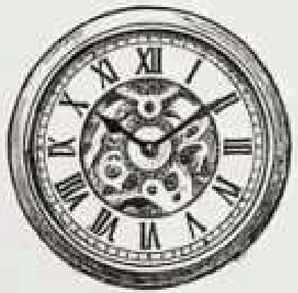


Commitment to conventional goals





Involvement in ordinary activities



Belief in the rules

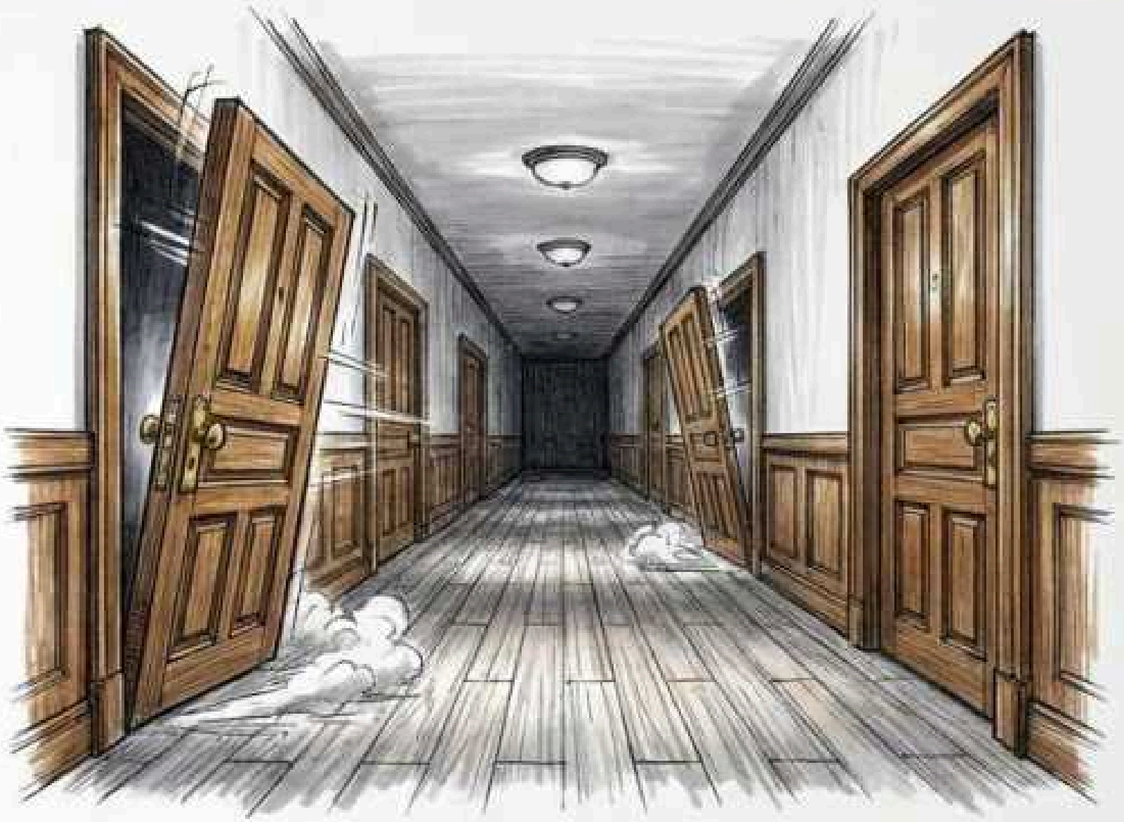


When these social bonds are weak, deviance becomes more likely.
A teenager with strong ties has much to lose.

Labeling Theory: Howard Becker (1963)

¶ 4.9



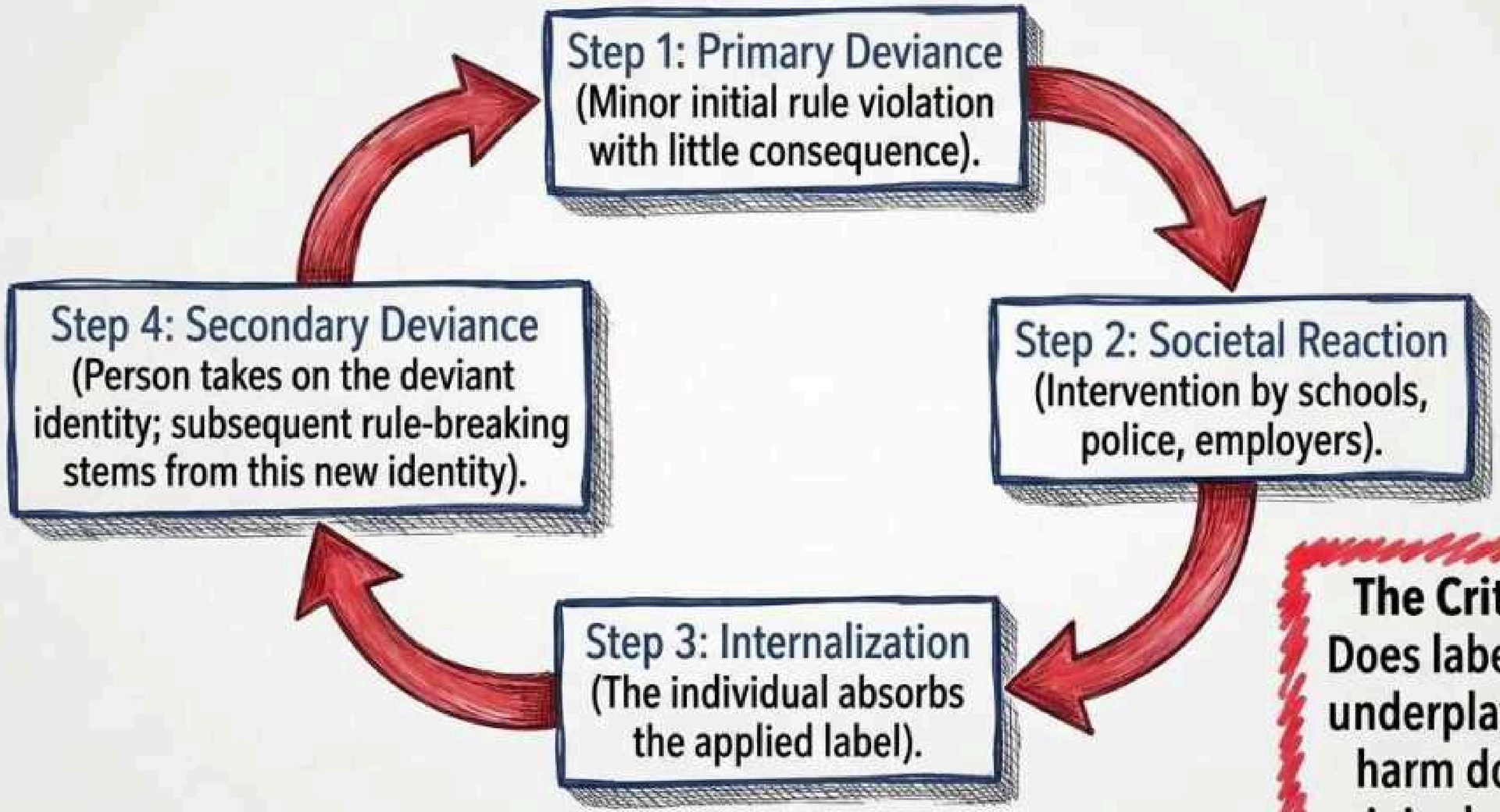


Deviance is not a quality of an act, but a label successfully applied.

- Many break rules; only some are caught, charged, and branded.
- Once treated as a criminal, doors close, and the person may come to accept the identity.

The Deviance Feedback Loop: Edwin Lemert

¶ 4.10

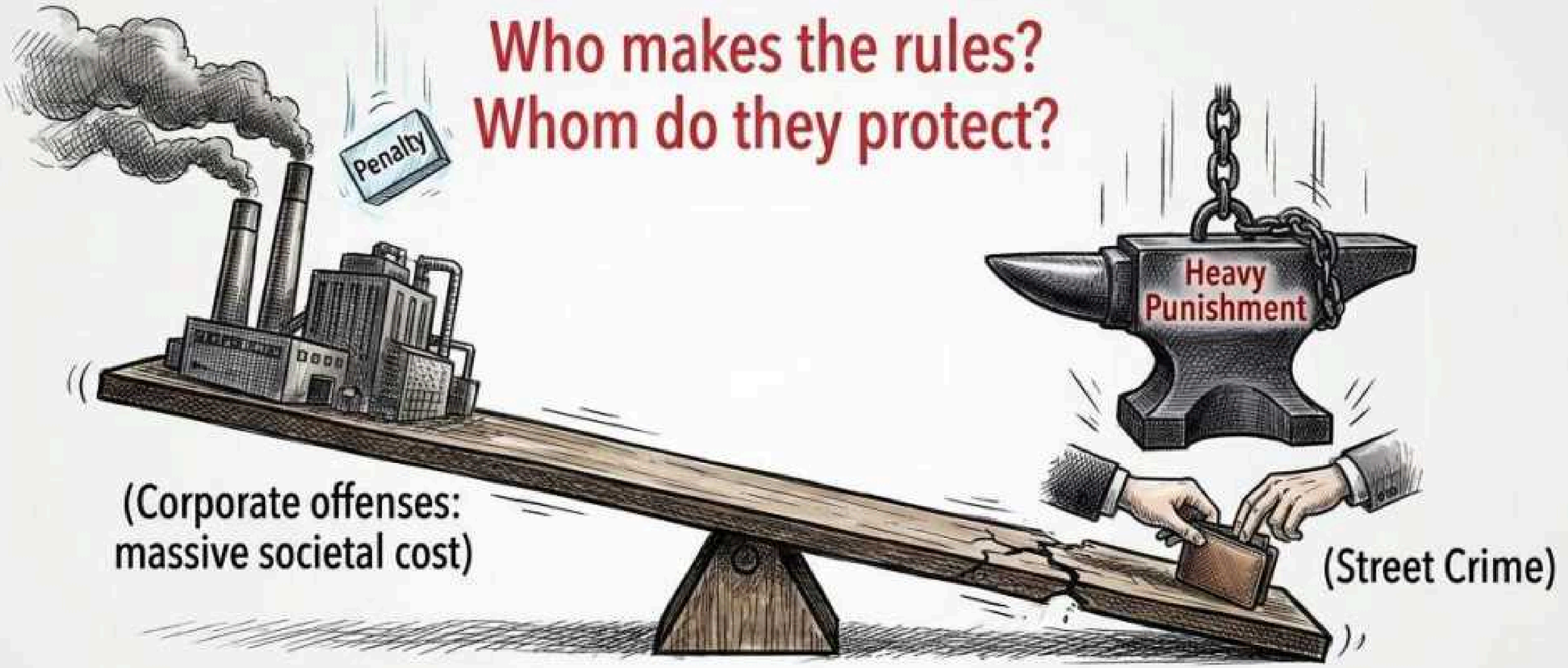


The Critic's View:
Does labeling theory underplay the actual harm done by the original primary act?

Conflict Theory: Power and the Law

¶ 4.11

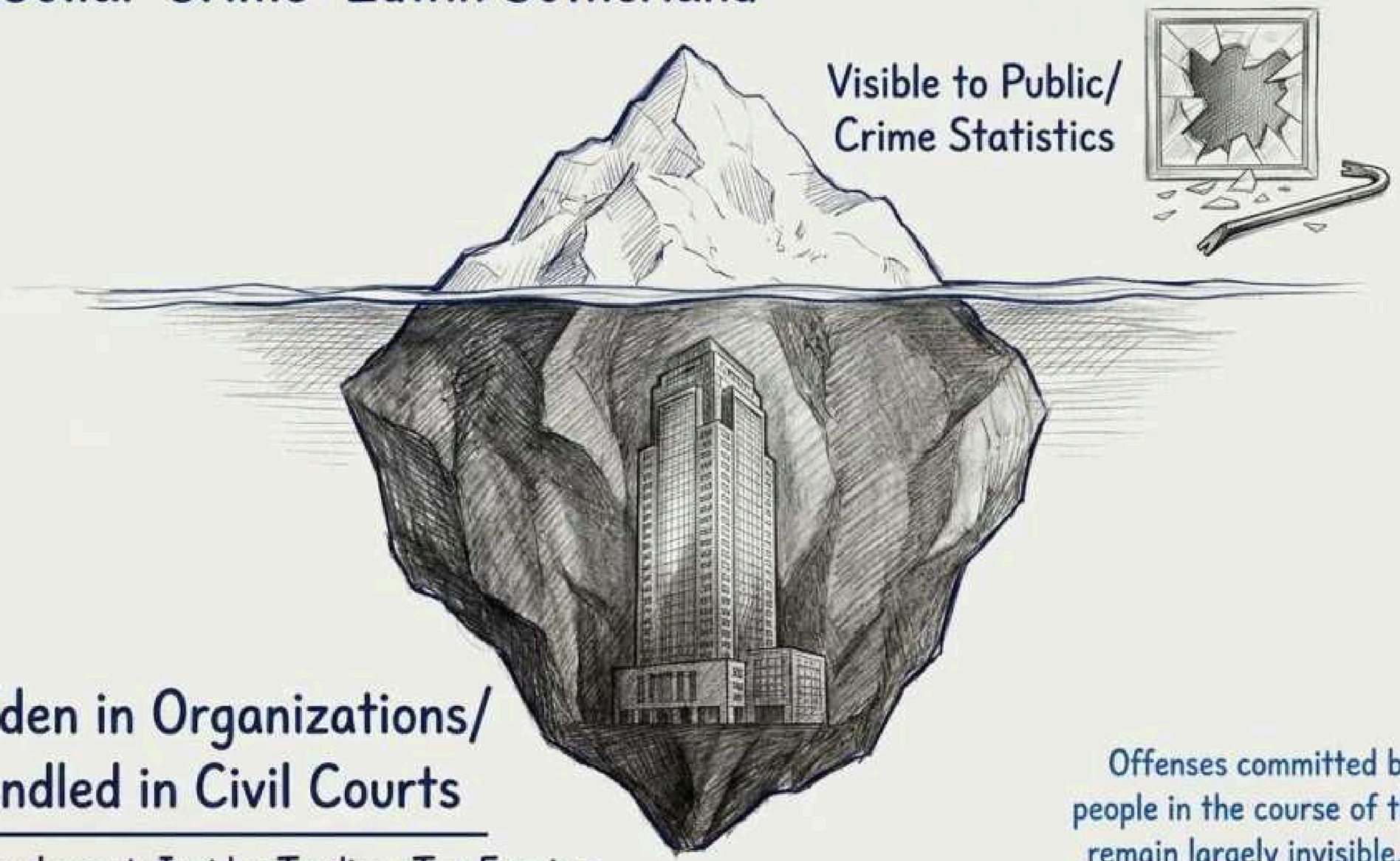
Who makes the rules?
Whom do they protect?



The powerful have more say in defining crime. The law treats similar **similar harms** very differently depending on who commits them.

White-Collar Crime: Edwin Sutherland

¶ 4.12



Hidden in Organizations/ Handled in Civil Courts

Embezzlement, Insider Trading, Tax Evasion

Offenses committed by respectable people in the course of their occupations remain largely invisible, keeping public attention fixated on the poor.

The Limits of Measuring Crime

¶ 4.13

Actual Crime Committed
(The true, unknowable volume)

Victimization Surveys
(Catches more; asks people about crimes suffered regardless of police reporting)

Police Records
(Shows only crimes officially reported and recorded)



Crime Rates = Behavior of Citizens + Behavior of Police + Behavior of Officials

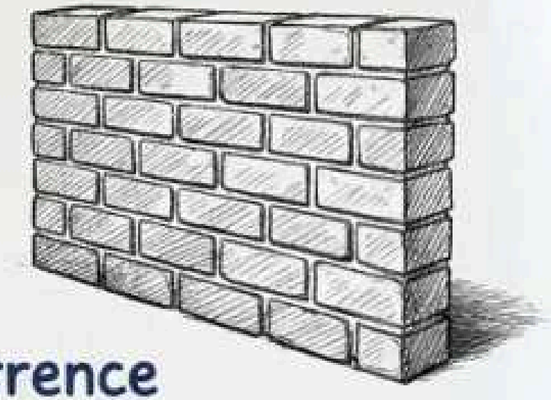
Sociologists read statistics with care; they are not perfect reflections of reality.

The Contested Purposes of Punishment

¶ 4.14

Retribution
(Wrongdoers deserve to suffer in proportion)



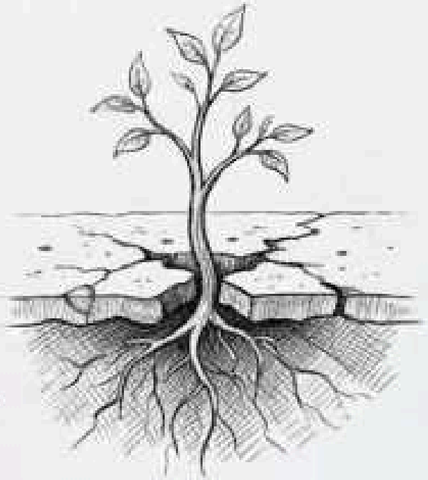


Incapacitation
(Protecting the public by removing the offender)

These aims pull penal policy in different directions, creating deep systemic friction.

Deterrence
(Discouraging the offender and others)





Rehabilitation
(Changing the offender to return to society)

The Effects of Punishment

¶ 4.15

Certainty of Capture > Severity of Sentence

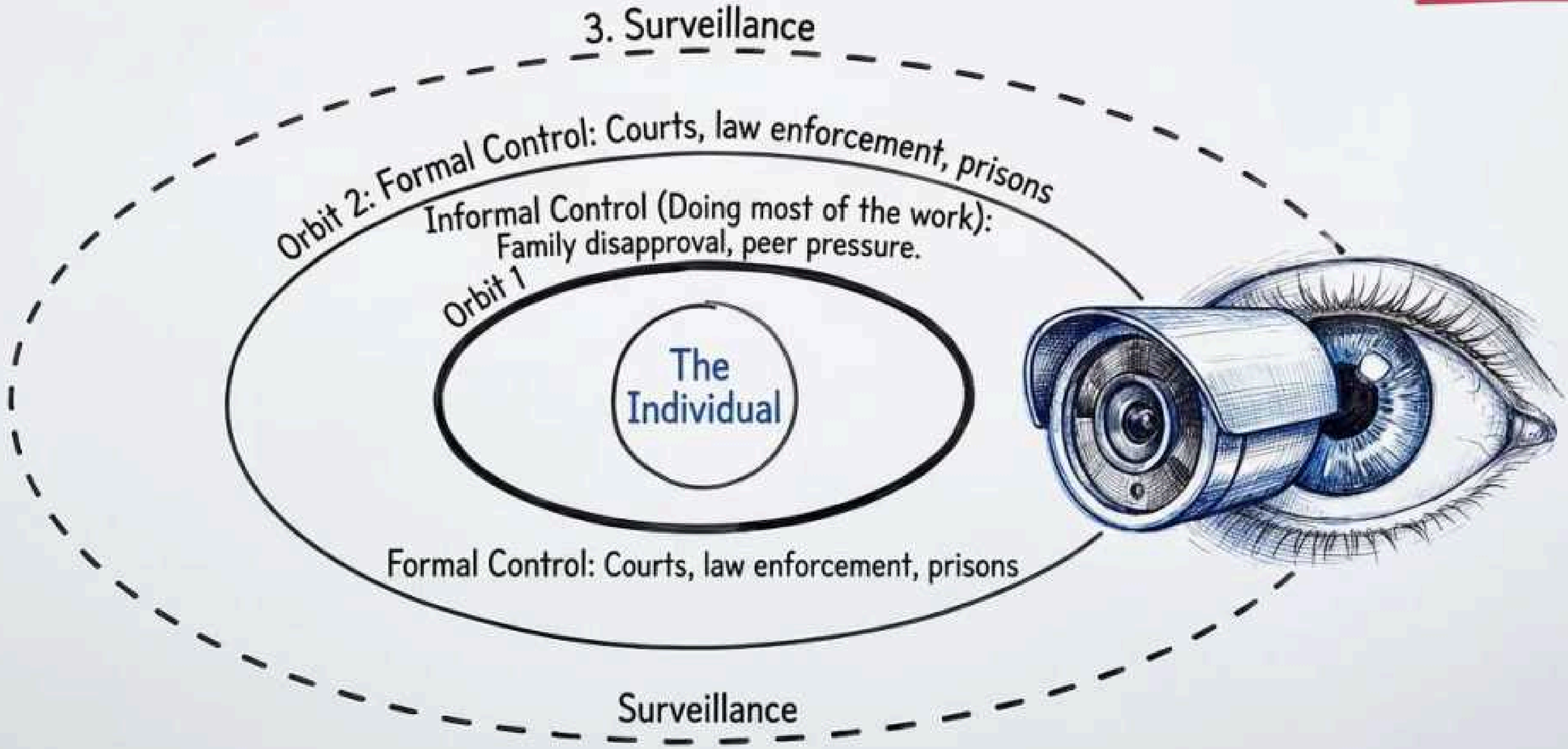
Research shows certainty deters more than severity.



Policy Shift : Several countries now try to balance punishment with programs for education, treatment, and reintegration to mitigate these ripple effects.

Systems of Social Control

¶ 4.16



Surveillance (cameras, online tracking) raises new questions about privacy and power. A sociologist asks: Not just does it work, but who is being controlled, and by whom?

Lecture Application: Analyze the Shift

¶ 4.17

THEN (Considered Deviant)	NOW (Socially Accepted)



- ☐ Functionalism (Durkheim)
- ☐ Strain Theory (Merton)
- ☐ Differential Association (Sutherland)
- ☐ Control Theory (Hirschi)
- ☐ Labeling & Conflict Theory (Becker / Power Dynamics)

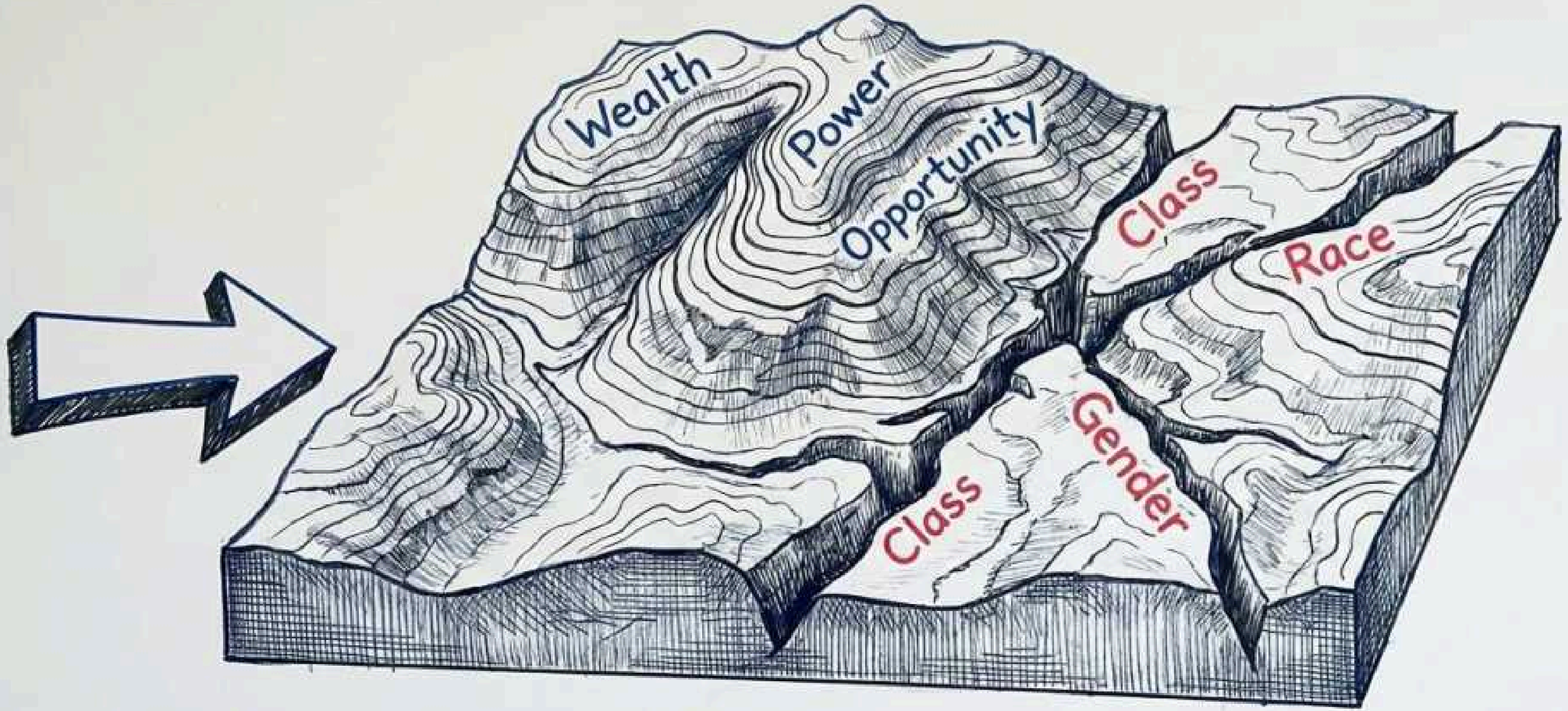
What changed?

Who had the power to make the change?

Which of the theories above best explains it?

Preview: Lecture 5

¶ 4.18



Next, we examine Social Inequality: how wealth, power, and opportunity are unequally shared across society's structural divides.

End of Lecture 4