

Justice for All?: Jews and Arabs in the Israeli Criminal Justice System

By Gideon Fishman, Arye Rattner



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How does the Israeli criminal justice system treat its most significant minority group?the Arabs? This book explores the functioning of Israel's criminal justice system in the context of the volatile relationship between Jews and Arabs in Israel and the conflict between Jews and the Palestinians of the occupied territories. Examining decisions at each juncture of the system, the authors study the question of whether the system treats Arabs fairly and equally or discriminates against them.

Aware of the potentially volatile nature of the subject, the authors have taken care to make the book methodologically sound and their findings level-headed. Their study shows that despite legislative efforts to protect minority rights and treat all citizens as equals, these goals are not always achieved. Arabs are treated differently in the criminal justice system.



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Rank: #10600058 in BooksPublished on: 1998-08-20Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 9.02" h x .50" w x 5.98" l, .86 pounds

• Binding: Hardcover

• 152 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"This book is a balanced analysis of the case of Arabs in the Israeli criminal justice system that uses solid data and sophisticated methodological tools. In the wake of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, informative research projects that are sharply focused on issues related to civil rights and justice, as the one reviewed here, are welcome additions to Third Worlds studies."-Journal of Third World Studies

"[t]his is an important work."-MESA Bulletin

..."this is a useful study that for the first time provides sophisticated statistical analysis of official crime data."-International Criminal Justice Review

"Justice For All? Jews and Arabs in the Israeli Criminal Justice System is a timely examination of the criminal justice system in the context of the volatile relationship between Jews and Arabs in Israel....This book is for those interested in comparative criminal justice."-The Literature of Criminal Justice

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"[This book] is the definitive statement on the operation of the Israeli criminal justice system and the disparities it generates in the treatment of the Israeli Arabs and Jews....This book is readable, filled with surprising sidebars, conceptually interesting and current. The quantitative research is sophisticated in its design, methodology and data analysis. It is a must read for those interested in cross-cultural criminology."-Simon Dinitz Professor Emeritus Ohio State University

"Arye Rattner and Gideon Fishman have produced a landmark study of the treatment of Jews and Arabs by the Israeli criminal justice system. Using large and comprehensive data bases, they present compelling evidence of discriminatory treatment in the criminal justice system against both Israeli Arabs and Palestinians. The authors rightly warn of the ominous potential consequences of resulting perceptions of criminal injustice among minority groups in this as well as other democratic societies."-John Hagan University of Toronto

About the Author

ARYE RATTNER is Professor of Sociology at the University of Haifa. He has written numerous articles on wrongful conviction and eyewitness identification and is coauthor of the book *Convicted But Innocent:* Wrongful Conviction and Public Policy (1996).

GIDEON FISHMAN is Professor of Sociology at the University of Haifa. He is co-founder and co-director of the Minerva Center for Youth Policy at the University. He is the author of numerous articles on crime trends, stereotypes, violent behavior, and suicidal behavior.

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Dolores Parker:

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