“One and the Same Interest”
THELMA WILLS FOOTE

in Black and White Manhattan: The History of Racial Formation in Colonial New York City

This chapter shows that the disciplinary mechanism of antiblack racism became a key instrument of governance in colonial New York City. It notes that New York City's Slave Revolt of 1712 was the act of uncultured native Africans and other slaves, who from their own distinctive worldviews, regarded colonial New York's institution of slavery as an unjust social relation. It demonstrates the specter of interracial sexual desire, especially in households where slave owners and their families lived under the same roof with black Africans.

Policing in New York City
Franklin E. Zimring

in The City that Became Safe: New York’s Lessons for Urban Crime and Its Control

This chapter is a four-part down payment on the comprehensive portrait of the New York experience that the two-decade history of policing deserves. The first section provides a short history of police methods and social science understanding of the effectiveness of police circa 1990 in the United States. It describes a crisis of confidence in orthodox theories of policing produced in large part by systematic evaluation efforts that deconstructed decades of received but unproven wisdom. This left the field more open to new leadership and ideas in the 1980s and 1990s than in previous decades, but without proven methods of crime control.
and prevention. The second section briefly describes the three major changes in city policing and when they occurred: changes in numbers of police, changes in organization and accountability, and changes in the strategies and tactics of street policing. These changes were the inputs of the new approach to policing—the series of shifts that were supposed to prevent and control crime. The third section shifts focus from how policing changed in the city to the question of whether the sum of changes reduced crime, whether the magnitude of police crime prevention in New York can be measured, and whether the effectiveness of different segments of the multi-part shifts in policing can be separately assessed. The fourth section addresses the lessons that can be learned from available data, as well as the things that can't be known until the slow and painful bean counting of policy science displaces storytelling and salesmanship.

The City that Became Safe
Franklin E. Zimring

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Item type: book

The 40% drop in crime that occurred across the U.S. from 1991 to 2000 largely remains an unsolved mystery. Even more puzzling then is the crime rate drop in New York City, which lasted twice as long and was twice as large. This 80% drop in crime over nineteen years represents the largest crime decline on record. This book sets off in search of the reason for the New York difference through a detailed and comprehensive statistical investigation into the city's falling crime rates and possible explanations. If you listen to City Hall, aggressive police created a zero tolerance law enforcement regime that drove crime rates down. Is this self-serving political sound bite true? Are the official statistics generated by the police accurate? The book shows the numbers are correct and argues that some combination of more cops, new tactics, and new management can take some credit for the decline, but zero tolerance policing and quality of life were never a consistent part of the NYPD's strategy. That the police can make a difference in preventing crime overturns decades of conventional wisdom for criminologists, but the book points out that the New York experience challenges the major assumptions dominating American crime and drug control policies that almost everyone else has missed. First, imprisonment in actually New York decreased significantly from 1990 to 2009 and was well below the national average, proving that it is possible to have substantially less crime without increases in incarceration. Second, the NYPD sharply reduced drug violence (over 90%) without any reduction in
hard drug use. In other words, they won the war on drug violence without winning the war on drugs. Finally, the stability of New York's population, economy, education, demographics, or immigration patterns calls into question the long-accepted cultural and structural causes of violence in America's cities. That fact that high rates of crime are not hard wired into modern city life is welcome news for policy makers, criminal justice officials, and urban dwellers everywhere.

A Difference amongst Ourselves”
THELMA WILLS FOOTE

in Black and White Manhattan: The History of Racial Formation in Colonial New York City

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This chapter stresses that the English Crown relied on surrogates to project its sovereignty to the English overseas colonies. Colonial administrators, clergymen, missionaries, and schoolmasters undertook the assignment of transplanting English institutions of governance and English-derived cultural institutions and systems of representation in the colonial frontier.

Lessons from the Past: Sicilian Mafiosi in New York City and Rosario, circa 1880–1940
Federico Varese

in Mafias on the Move: How Organized Crime Conquers New Territories

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Item type: chapter

From the mid-nineteenth century, many Sicilians, including members of the mafia, were on the move. After sketching the contours of the mafia in Sicily in the nineteenth century, this chapter outlines the parallel history of Italian migration and mafia activities in New York City and Rosario, Argentina, and offers an analytic account of the diverging outcomes. Only in the North American city did a mafia that resembled the Sicilian one emerge. The Prohibition provided an enormous boost to both the personnel and power of Italian organized crime. The risk of punishment was low, the gains to be made were enormous, and there was no social stigma attached to this trade.
A Safe City Now?
Franklin E. Zimring

in The City that Became Safe: New York’s Lessons for Urban Crime and Its Control
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The lesson of Chapter 1 is that New York City has experienced a decline in rates of serious crime that is unprecedented in modern American history. This chapter focuses on the current circumstances of this largest of American cities. Is the city safe? And if so, compared to what? The method of analysis here is to present three different layers of comparison for the current circumstances of New York City. The first analysis looks at crime rates and risks in New York in 2009 in comparison with its 1990 circumstances—to compare the city with its former conditions and to repeat this comparison for the four major boroughs of the city. A second series of comparisons involves the current circumstances of the other major cities in the United States, not simply as a matter of statistical ranking but of the relative risk run by individuals for “fear crimes.” A third layer of comparison measures New York’s current circumstances against other major cities in the developed world. How does New York City in its current condition measure up against London, Paris, Tokyo, and Sydney?

ORDERLY AND DISORDERLY MOBILIZATION IN THE TAVERNS OF NEW YORK CITY
Benjamin L. Carp

in Rebels Rising: Cities and the American Revolution
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City dwellers collected together in taverns to eat and drink, converse, exchange news and information, and debate politics. New York City stood at the pinnacle of alcohol consumption, communication, and sociability in the American colonies. New York's taverns and grogshops frequently played host to British officers, troops, and sailors, bringing the Sons of Liberty and friends of government face to face. Clubs and associations, laws and polite hierarchies were in place to maintain an orderly tavern setting. Yet rebels and other dissenters often capitalized on the entropic,
drunken atmosphere of taverns to create societal disorder and political upheaval. In the complex world of New York politics, whichever faction could organize and rally tavern companies would have the greatest success at mobilizing the populace. During the imperial crisis, taverns or public houses brought together a cross-class political network that was necessary for the coherence of a revolutionary alliance.

“The Most Natural View of the Whole”
THELMA WILLS FOOTE

in Black and White Manhattan: The History of Racial Formation in Colonial New York City

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Item type: chapter

This chapter reveals that, by the 1740s, interracial socializing among colonial New York City's subaltern population of enslaved blacks, propertyless white servants, and transients troubled ruling elite and its binary racial division of society. It explains that with the additional threat of an impending Spanish invasion, the aggravation of an unsolved crime wave, and the outbreak of a mysterious rash of fire during the winter of 1741-42, fear of the city's dangerous classes crystallized in the discovery of the “plot of 1741-42,” an alleged conspiracy among enslaved blacks and several white outsiders accused of plotting together in secret to overthrow English rule, murder the city's white male settler population, enslave white females in harems, and establish a “Negro regime” under the protection of Catholic Spain.

“We Shall Never Be Quite Safe”
THELMA WILLS FOOTE

in Black and White Manhattan: The History of Racial Formation in Colonial New York City

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This chapter investigates examples of insubordination, ranging from the unruly behavior of the city's laboring class in the streets, marketplaces, dock areas, and taverns to the remarkable bids for freedom on the part of runaway servants and slaves. It points out that the largely unregulated population flows moving in and out of the port of New York
compounded the problem of policing the city's servile population. It notes that the British war policy marked the abandonment of the long-standing disciplinary mechanism of governing the rulers and the majority settler population by cultivating a shaded interest between the rulers and the ruled in subjugation of the black population.

Continuity and Change in New York City
Franklin E. Zimring

in The City that Became Safe: New York’s Lessons for Urban Crime and Its Control

This chapter is a wide-ranging survey of population, social, and economic factors thought to influence crime trends. It marches through various data sets to test continuity or structural change in the city over two decades. A concluding section summarizes a view of the meaning of this empirical montage. The bottom line is a mixed verdict. One of New York's four biggest boroughs—Manhattan—showed big social changes in the period after 1990 that could help explain a major crime drop. The other three major boroughs—Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx—were not transformed in such a similar fashion.

The Crime Decline: Some Vital Statistics
Franklin E. Zimring

This chapter provides a statistical profile of the substantial crime decline that started in New York City in the early 1990s which has continued well past the turn of a new century. The first section of the analysis concentrates on three important features of the official statistical portrait of declining crime in the largest city in the United States—the magnitude of declining crime rates, the breadth of the drop, and the length of the decline. Each of these determinations sets New York apart from other big cities in the United States and elsewhere.
Open Questions
Franklin E. Zimring

in The City that Became Safe: New York’s Lessons for Urban Crime and Its Control

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This chapter identifies a series of important unanswered questions that are priorities for future research. It organizes the “need to know” list around five main areas: the unsolved mystery of particular clause; four questions about crime rates in the future; the dynamics and the limits of preventive policing; the impact of lower crime on high-risk populations and areas; and for the final area the chapter asks the question, where have all the criminals gone?

“The Happiness of Liberty of Which I Knew Nothing Before”
THELMA WILLS FOOTE

in Black and White Manhattan: The History of Racial Formation in Colonial New York City

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This chapter shows that the final split between the English colonial rulers and settlers in British North America provided passports to freedom for runaway slaves, who during the white American War for independence deserted their passport masters. It provides a historical analysis of the formation of the binary racial division that arose out of the project of colony building on Manhattan Island during the early modern era and took shape in articulation with divisions of class, religion, birthplace, gender, sexuality, and language.

Proportional Representation and the Practice of Democracy in New York City
Daniel O. Prosterman

in Defining Democracy: Electoral Reform and the Struggle for Power in New York City

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This chapter identifies a series of important unanswered questions that are priorities for future research. It organizes the “need to know” list around five main areas: the unsolved mystery of particular clause; four questions about crime rates in the future; the dynamics and the limits of preventive policing; the impact of lower crime on high-risk populations and areas; and for the final area the chapter asks the question, where have all the criminals gone?
Chapter 3 examines the immediate aftermath of the electoral reform movement’s greatest victory in the United States. Withstanding a series of legal challenges, the city conducted its first PR elections in November 1937. New Yorkers elected the most diverse legislature in the city’s history. Less than one year after the new council members assumed office, Democrats and Republicans in the state legislature pursued a statewide ban of PR. The repeal measure failed, primarily because many viewed the referendum as a crude attempt to reassert state supremacy over municipal government. As the debate over PR evolved, party officials and civic activists on both sides strengthened the notion that the fate of voting rights in New York was fundamentally tied to broader struggles over the nature of democracy in the United States and the expansion of totalitarianism globally.

Crime and the City
Franklin E. Zimring

This chapter argues that the crime decline documented in this study requires a fundamental rethinking of the relationship between urban life and urban crime in the 21st century. Most of the high rate of life-threatening violence and predatory crime that observers have regarded as an inherent element of the structure and social content of polyglot big cities in the United States is not a necessary outgrowth of modern urban life. The chapter is organized around four topics. The first section revisits the data presented in Chapter 1 to argue that the scope of New York's decline is singular because its variability undermines conventional assumptions about the link between urban populations and urban crime rates. The second section then contrasts previous assumptions about the malleability and variability of urban crime with the experience in New York City since 1990. The third section provides preliminary data on the impact of crime policies and crime rates on minority populations. The final section considers the implications of what we are learning about the malleability of urban crime for criminological theories about crime causation and distribution and for social theories about modern urban life.
Foundations have amplified top-down coordination and rapid implementation of new policies in New York City. Using social network analysis, this chapter demonstrates that foundations are primarily allied with an elite network in New York City, including top district bureaucrats and education nonprofits; advocacy organizations and parent leaders are largely excluded. Furthermore, debates over issues such as school closures and reauthorization of mayoral control have hardened political divisions in the district.

Of Demography and Drugs:
Franklin E. Zimring

This chapter examines the two predominant theories of crime risk in the 1990s: the expansion of high-risk youth and the high rates of drug sales and use. These pessimistic indicators did not change much but also did not produce the criminogenic future that was expected.

Restructuring Urban Democracy amid the Great Depression
Daniel O. Prosterman

Chapter 2 argues that reformers’ definition of democracy shifted in the late nineteenth century to incorporate the broader electorate as crucial
participants in what they labeled a “good-government” movement. This change occurred as a diverse coalition of political activists joined good-government groups in calling for the ouster of Tammany Hall and affiliated organizations that had long monopolized power in New York City. By the time Judge Samuel Seabury, appointed by then-governor Franklin Roosevelt, concluded his investigations of municipal corruption at the height of the Great Depression, a reform alliance had coalesced that included elite civic associations, Communists, Socialists, labor unions, anti-Tammany Democrats, Republicans, and women’s rights activists. Activists from across the city’s political spectrum saw proportional representation as the key to their quest for municipal power. This coalition campaigned to fundamentally alter the city’s balance of political power, culminating in the victories for charter reform and PR in 1936.

A Changing Neighborhood
Ida Susser

in Norman Street: Poverty and Politics in an Urban Neighborhood, Updated Edition

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The trends that have shaped the industry and social structure of the United States have also fashioned New York City and its neighborhoods. This chapter traces the course of the city’s economic and political development and the particular conditions which formed Greenpoint–Williamsburg. Greenpoint–Williamsburg does not have defining geographic characteristics, but certain population trends differentiate it clearly from surrounding areas. These same characteristics of the population affect political development and the composition of protest movements.

Black and White Manhattan
Thelma Wills Foote

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Race first emerged as an important ingredient of New York City's melting pot when it was known as New Amsterdam and was a fledgling colonial outpost on the North American frontier. This book details the
arrival of the first immigrants, including African slaves, and traces encounters between the town's inhabitants of African, European, and Native American descent, showing how racial domination became key to the building of the settler colony at the tip of Manhattan Island. During the colonial era, the art of governing the city's diverse and factious population, the book reveals, involved the subordination of confessional, linguistic, and social antagonisms to binary racial difference. Everyday formations of race are investigated — in slave owning households, on the colonial city's streets, at its docks, taverns, and marketplaces, and in the adjacent farming districts. Even though the northern colonial port town afforded a space for black resistance, that setting did not, this book argues, effectively undermine the city's institution of black slavery. This history of New York City demonstrates that the process of racial formation and the mechanisms of racial domination were central to the northern colonial experience and to the founding of the United States.