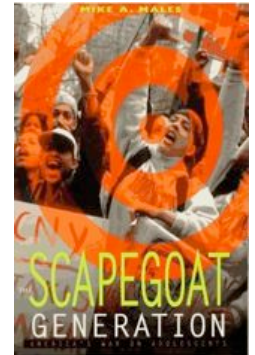


# POWER & DEVIANCE/SOCIAL DILEMMAS/BUREAUCRACY

March 9, 2009

## SCAPEGOATING THE YOUNG

- Violent crime
  - Teenagers commit just 13% of violent crime
  - They are more likely to be victims than offenders
- Drug use
  - Most drug users are adults, but teenagers are more likely to be arrested
- Results of scapegoating teenagers
  - Status offenses that apply only to young
  - Constitutional rights of young ignored
  - Youth culture targeted for censorship
  - Youths given harsher punishments than adults
  - Offenders against children receive lenient sentences



## SOCIAL DILEMMAS

- Social dilemma: potential for a society's long-term ruin because of individuals' tendency to pursue their own short-term interests (p. 260)
- Tragedy of the commons: situation in which people acting individually and in their own self interest use up commonly available (but limited) resources, creating disaster for the entire community (p. 260)
- Free-rider problem: tendency for people to refrain from contributing to the common good when a resource is available without requiring any personal cost or contribution (p. 261)
  - Once considered a major problem for social movements; some argued that social movements must provide "selective incentives"
- Critique
  - People do not always pursue their own short-term interests
  - Instead, people connect their identities to those of their families, networks, ethnic groups, religions, nations, etc.

## BUREAUCRACY

- Max Weber argued that bureaucracies were becoming the organizational model of the 19th Century
  - Bureaucracy: large hierarchical organization governed by formal rules and regulations and having clearly specified work tasks (p. 26)
  - Weber saw bureaucracy as leading example of rationalization, the most important social development of modernity; decisions should be based on efficiency, not tradition



Max Weber

## A NON-BUREAUCRATIC ORGANIZATION

- What does a non-bureaucratic organization look like?
- Gypsum plant described by Alvin Gouldner (1950)
  - Half of workers related to other workers
  - Little paperwork; things handled on case-to-case basis
  - Workers could try different jobs until they found one they liked; rhythm determined by workers
  - Workers used plant materials and services
  - Workers were happy, but customers and company managers were not



IRS BURGER