

crime, criminality

the crime rate

organized crime

banditisme

white-collar crime

juvenile delinquency

[ˈdʒu:vənəɪl dɪˈlɪŋkwənsɪ]

a juvenile delinquent, a young offender

petty crime

la criminalité

le taux de criminalité

la criminalité organisée, le grand

la criminalité en col blanc

la délinquance juvénile

un délinquant juvénile

la petite délinquance

Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister between 1997 and 2007, famously coined (*inventer*) the slogan “**tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime**” to describe his party’s crime policy. The phrase eloquently encapsulates (*résume*) the essence of The Third Way, the centrist ideology which he was to put into practice once in power: “tough on crime” means “severe with criminals” and is typically part of the Conservative Party’s programme, while “tough on the causes of crime” expresses the need to fight social inequalities, which are the root cause of crime, a necessity which has always been on the platforms (*programmes*) of left-wing parties.

a crime, a felony

to commit a crime

a criminal, a felon [ˈfelən]

a criminal record

an offense

a misdemeanor [ˌmɪsdɪˈmɪnə]

an offender

a repeat offender, a recidivist

murder

a murderer [ˈmɜːdəɹə(r)]

manslaughter [ˈmænsləʊtə]

a serial killer

theft

a thief, a robber

to steal a watch

to rob sb of sth

rape [reɪp]

armed robbery

a burglary

to mug sb, to attack sb

money-laundering

un crime

commettre un crime

un criminel

un casier judiciaire

un délit, une infraction

une infraction (GB), un délit (US)

un délinquant, un contrevenant

un récidiviste

le meurtre

un meurtrier

homicide

un tueur en série

le vol

un voleur

voler une montre

voler qch à qn

le viol

vol à main armée

un cambriolage

agresser qn

le blanchiment d’argent

were during apartheid. A human rights nightmare is occurring on our watch, she has written. When Americans today look back on the past, many of us wonder how our ancestors could have tolerated blatant injustices—like child labor, Jim Crow or male-only voting—for so long. When future generations look back on our era, I expect they will ask a similar question. They will be outraged that we forcibly confined a couple million of our fellow human beings to cages, often for no good reason. President Trump and his attorney general, Jeff Sessions, are trying to make the problem even worse, by locking up ever more people.

The New York Times, May 20, 2018

to break a law
lawful / unlawful
a lawbreaker

wrongdoing
a wrongdoer
to flout [flaʊt] the law
a no-go area
to obey the law
to abide by the law [ə'baɪd]
a law-abiding citizen

enfreindre une loi
légal / illégal
un délinquant, une personne
qui enfreint la loi
des méfaits
un malfaiteur
se moquer de la loi
une zone de non-droit
obéir à la loi
respecter la loi
un citoyen respectueux des lois

In a highly controversial study published in 2001 by two American economists, **John Donohue** and **Steven Levitt** argued that the falling crime rate in the US in the 1990s was partly due to the legalization of abortion in 1973. Their demonstration starts with the observation that crime began to decline about 18 years after 1973. They explain that the children that were not born after abortion became legal would have been more likely to become criminals because the environment they would have lived in was less favorable: women who have abortions are on average poorer and get divorced more often. Therefore, the decrease in the number of unwanted babies made possible by the legalization of abortion resulted in a drop in the number of crimes about 18 years later.

the justice system
a court, a court of law
a judge
a lawyer, a barrister (GB),
an attorney (US)

the jury
to prosecute sb
to bring a lawsuit against sb, sue sb [su:]

the prosecutor
a suspect
to charge sb with murder
a charge
to confess to a crime

la justice
un tribunal
un juge
un avocat
le jury
poursuivre qn (en justice)
intenter un procès à qn, engager
des poursuites contre qn
le procureur
un suspect
accuser, inculper qn de meurtre
une accusation, un chef d'inculpation
avouer un crime

to confess to embezzling money
 confession
 a defendant
 a witness / an eye witness

avouer avoir détourné de l'argent
 un aveu
 un accusé, un prévenu
 un témoin / un témoin oculaire

After the gruesome murder of an 18-year-old girl by a repeat offender (*récidiviste*) in Fresno, California, in 1992, her father launched the "Three Strikes and You're Out" movement calling for the adoption of **three-strikes laws**, which meant that a criminal convicted for the third time could be sent to jail for life. Many such laws were subsequently passed by states throughout the country, and in California the result was that even ex-convicts committing non-violent crimes such as stealing a bicycle could be put away (*mettre derrière les barreaux*) for life. This law had little effect on the crime rate but resulted in prison overcrowding—and hence waste of public money—on an unprecedented scale. In 2012, the Californian law was revised so that a life sentence could be imposed only when the new conviction (*condamnation*) was for a serious crime such as rape, murder or armed robbery.

a case [keɪs]
 a trial ['traɪəl]
 to be tried, stand trial
 to await trial
 the principle that a defendant is innocent until proven guilty
 forensic evidence
 a culprit ['kʌlpɪt]
 to acquit sb
 acquittal
 to find sb guilty
 to convict sb of rape, murder
 a conviction
 a fine
 to fine sb for sth
 to be sentenced to five years' imprisonment, five years in jail
 a death sentence
 a life sentence
 a suspended sentence

une affaire
 un procès
 passer en jugement, être jugé
 être en attente de jugement
 la présomption d'innocence
 preuves relevées lors d'une expertise
 un coupable
 acquitter qn
 acquittement
 condamner qn, reconnaître qn coupable
 reconnaître qn coupable de viol, meurtre
 une condamnation
 une amende
 condamner qn à une amende pour qch
 être condamné à cinq ans de prison
 une condamnation à mort
 une condamnation à perpétuité
 une condamnation avec sursis

America has around 5% of the world's population, and 25% of its prisoners. Roughly one in every 107 American adults is behind bars, a rate nearly five times that of Britain, seven times that of France and 24 times that of India. Its prison population has more than tripled since 1980... Probably the biggest driver of this growth has been ever-harsher drug penalties.

The Economist, August 14th, 2013

to be sent to prison
 to incarcerate, to imprison sb
 the incarceration rate
 a cell

être mis en prison
 incarcérer qn
 le taux d'incarcération
 une cellule

a high-security prison
solitary confinement
prison overcrowding

une prison de haute sécurité
l'isolement carcéral
la surpopulation carcérale

Minority Report is a 2002 Steven Spielberg science fiction film based the eponymous short story by Philip K. Dick. Tom Cruise is a "precrime officer" apprehending criminals thanks to foreknowledge provided by three psychics (*voyants*). The film poses the classic philosophical question of free will (*libre arbitre*) vs determinism: are we predestined to do what we do by fate or can free will alter the future?

a miscarriage of justice	une erreur judiciaire
to fabricate evidence	fabriquer des preuves
to be proved innocent, to be exonerated	être innocenté
to free, to release a prisoner	libérer, relâcher un prisonnier
to pardon ['paɪdən] a convict	grâcier un condamné
to parole sb [pə'reʊl]	mettre qn en liberté conditionnelle
to be on parole	être en liberté conditionnelle
to report to the police	se présenter à la police
an electronic tag	un bracelet de surveillance électronique

The evidence at the crime scene is pointing accusingly at you, but you were never even there. Unfortunately, your lack of alibi puts you in a sticky situation (*situation délicate*). Your hopes are pinned on the witness who saw the crime taking place. Surely they will exonerate (*disculper*) you? But eyewitness testimony is astonishingly unreliable. Take the case of John Jerome White, who was wrongfully convicted of beating and raping a 74-year-old woman in her home in Manchester, Georgia, in 1979. Her testimony saw White spend 22 years in jail, until DNA testing exonerated him, instead pointing the finger at James Edward Parham—who had been standing only a few feet away in the original police station line-up. And White is not alone. "Close to three-quarters of wrongful convictions have been in part due to faulty human memory", says Elizabeth Loftus, a psychologist at the University of California, Irvine.

Linda Geddes, *New Scientist*, June 15, 2016

IDIOMS

to act in self-defense	agir en état de légitime défense
to take the law into your own hands	se faire justice
to be on the wrong side of the law	avoir des démêlés avec la justice
to fall foul of the law	avoir des démêlés avec la justice
to be behind bars	être derrière les barreaux
to lay down the law	imposer sa loi
to get away with murder	s'en tirer impunément
behind closed doors	à huis clos

Traduire en français

1. Blair's slogan "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime" eloquently encapsulates the essence of The Third Way.
2. Liberals emphasize rehabilitation, the social roots of crime and the rights of the accused while conservatives stress deterrence, retribution and the rights of victims.
3. It should be kept in mind that two out of three crimes are never even reported.
4. Petty incivilities like vandalism, loud music and public loutishness contribute a lot to the anxiety felt by the general public.
5. Until 2012, a criminal committing a third offence in California could be sent to prison for life, no matter how trivial this third offence was.
6. The two US journalists who had been sentenced to hard labour in North Korea were later pardoned by Kim.
7. In China, the police are pushed to extract admissions by using electric shocks, sleep deprivation and submersion in water.
8. A New York state assemblyman has introduced a bill requiring rich inmates to pay for their stay in prison.
9. In Britain tiny cells, some 150 years old, house two inmates.
10. Are we predestined to do evil by fate or can free will alter the future?

Traduire en anglais

1. L'insécurité est l'une des principales préoccupations des électeurs même lorsque le taux de criminalité est en baisse.
2. L'opinion publique est favorable à des peines plus sévères pour les récidivistes.
3. Il existe des zones de non-droit dans certaines banlieues françaises défavorisées.
4. Voir des hommes politiques se moquer de la loi n'incite pas les jeunes à la respecter.
5. Il est soupçonné d'avoir assassiné sa femme et sera jugé la semaine prochaine.
6. Elle a été reconnue coupable et condamnée à quinze ans de prison.
7. Comment peut-on dissuader les gens d'enfreindre la loi sans les envoyer en prison ?
8. Un nombre considérable de condamnés à mort ont été innocentés grâce à des tests ADN.
9. Les prisons sont surpeuplées et la violence est endémique dans nombre d'entre elles, sans parler des détenus qui se suicident.
10. Pourquoi beaucoup de gens s'opposent-ils à la castration chimique pour les pédophiles ?

Questions

Why is crime the top concern in many surveys?

Is prison the solution to crime?

Why are there so many movies about criminals?

01. Tous les mots nécessaires pour compléter ces définitions comportent l'élément law.

1. A is someone whose job is to advise people about laws or represent them in court.
2. A is someone who does something illegal, a criminal.
3. A is a legal problem taken to a court of law, by an ordinary person or an organization rather than the police, for a legal decision.
4. Something is allowed by the law.
5. Something is not allowed by the law.

02. Trouver les dérivés des mots-racines à gauche.

<i>poursuivre</i>	to prosecute		<i>procureur</i>
<i>défendre</i>	to defend		<i>accusé, prévenu</i>
<i>voler</i>	to rob		<i>voleur</i>
<i>acquitter</i>	to acquit		<i>acquittement</i>
<i>foule</i>	crowd	prison.....	<i>surpopulation carcérale</i>

03. Choisir le mot qui convient dans les phrases suivantes.

1. She was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for (manslaughter / murder) after she convinced the jury her husband had died accidentally.
2. Jake spent two and a half years in jail for armed (robbery/theft).
3. A (pardon/parole), that is to say the forgiveness of a crime and the penalty associated with it, is usually granted by a head of state, or a governor in the US.
4. Only murderers who have killed at least three people on separate occasions can be described as (cereal/serial) killers.
5. The evidence is overwhelming, it's quite certain he will be (sentenced / convicted).

04. Donner la traduction correcte des faux-amis suivants.

1. an offense • 2. a confession • 3. a case • 4. a felon • 5. to sue sb

05. Compléter les phrases avec la préposition adéquate ou bien ø.

1. To abide the law basically means the same as to obey the law.
2. Prisoners parole have to report the police every week.
3. My neighbour was robbed his wallet during his trip to Denmark.

06. Donner la traduction des mots suivants qui sont à la fois noms et verbes.

1. murder • 2. suspect • 3. fine • 4. sentence • 5. jail

1. Blair's slogan "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime" eloquently encapsulates the essence of The Third Way. **Le slogan de Blair « sans pitié pour les auteurs de crimes, sans pitié pour les causes du crime » résume éloquentement l'essence de la Troisième Voie.**
2. Liberals emphasize rehabilitation, the social roots of crime and the rights of the accused while conservatives stress deterrence, retribution and the rights of victims. **Les gens de gauche insistent sur la réhabilitation, les causes sociales de la criminalité et les droits de l'accusé tandis que les conservateurs mettent l'accent sur la dissuasion, le châtement et les droits des victimes.**
3. It should be kept in mind that two out of three crimes are never even reported. **Il ne faut pas oublier que deux crimes sur trois ne sont même jamais déclarés.**
4. Petty incivilities like vandalism, loud music and public loutishness contribute a lot to the anxiety felt by the general public. **Les incivilités comme le vandalisme, la musique jouée très fort, les grossièretés commises en public contribuent beaucoup à l'anxiété ressentie par la population.**
5. Until 2012, a criminal committing a third offence in California could be sent to prison for life, no matter how trivial this third offence was. **Jusqu'en 2012, un criminel enfreignant la loi pour la troisième fois en Californie pouvait être mis en prison à perpétuité, aussi mineur que soit ce troisième délit.**
6. The two US journalists who had been sentenced to hard labour in North Korea were later pardoned by Kim. **Les deux journalistes américaines qui avaient été condamnées aux travaux forcés en Corée du Nord ont ensuite été graciées par Kim.**
7. In China, the police are pushed to extract admissions by using electric shocks, sleep deprivation and submersion in water. **En Chine, la police est poussée à extorquer des aveux en faisant usage de chocs électriques, en privant les suspects de sommeil ou en les immergeant dans l'eau.**
8. A New York state assemblyman has introduced a bill requiring rich inmates to pay for their stay in prison. **Un membre de l'assemblée de l'État de New York a présenté un projet de loi obligeant les détenus riches à payer leur séjour en prison.**
9. In Britain tiny cells, some 150 years old, house two inmates. **En Grande-Bretagne de minuscules cellules, dont certaines ont 150 ans, reçoivent deux détenus.**
10. Are we predestined to do evil by fate or can free will alter the future? **Sommes-nous condamnés à faire le mal par le destin ou bien le libre arbitre peut-il modifier l'avenir ?**

1. L'insécurité est l'une des principales préoccupations des électeurs même lorsque le taux de criminalité est en baisse. **Insecurity is one of the voters' main concerns even when the crime rate is declining.**
2. L'opinion publique est favorable à des peines plus sévères pour les récidivistes. **Public opinion is favourable to more severe penalties against repeat offenders.**
3. Il existe des zones de non-droit dans certaines banlieues françaises défavorisées. **There are no-go areas in some underprivileged French suburbs.**
4. Voir des hommes politiques se moquer de la loi n'incite pas les jeunes à la respecter. **Seeing politicians flouting the law does not encourage young people to respect it.**
5. Il est soupçonné d'avoir assassiné sa femme et sera jugé la semaine prochaine. **He is suspected of murdering his wife and will be on trial next week.**
6. Elle a été reconnue coupable et condamnée à quinze ans de prison. **She was found guilty and sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment.**
7. Comment peut-on dissuader les gens d'enfreindre la loi sans les envoyer en prison ? **How can you deter people from breaking the law without sending them to prison?**
8. Un nombre considérable de condamnés à mort ont été innocentés grâce à des tests ADN. **A vast number of death-row prisoners have been exonerated thanks to DNA tests.**
9. Les prisons sont surpeuplées et la violence est endémique dans nombre d'entre elles, sans parler des détenus qui se suicident. **Prisons are overcrowded and violence is rife in many of them, not to mention inmates who commit suicide.**
10. Pourquoi beaucoup de gens s'opposent-ils à la castration chimique pour les pédophiles ? **Why do a lot of people object to chemical castration for pedophiles?**