

Preface

In the 19th century and early part of the 20th century, few scholars discussed or wrote about the victim's role in a criminal situation. It was not until the 1940s that interest in the victim developed. Von Hentig's paper titled "Remarks on the Interaction of Perpetrator and His Victim" (1941) and his book *The Criminal and His Victim* (1948); Mendelsohn's paper "New Bio-Psycho-Social Horizons: Victimology" (1947); and Ellenberger's study on the psychological relationship between the criminal and his victim (1954) brought clear scholarly focus to the plight of the victim.

The last quarter of the 20th century brought even more focus to the victim. The First International Symposium on Victimology held in Jerusalem in 1973 gave the discipline of victimology international recognition as a distinct focus separate from the discipline of criminology. The scholarly papers presented at the symposium were divided into five volumes that aimed to provide new data, theoretical inputs, and analyses to encourage the building of ideas and the development of intellectual dialogues in the field of victimology. In particular, the volumes sought to contribute to a discourse within the international community of scholars and to bring together scholars whose paths might not easily cross, despite their common interest.

At the opening ceremony of the symposium, Professor Israel Drapkin, chairman of the Organizing Committee, identified five purposes of the meeting:

- To reach agreement on the scope of victimology.
- To establish a valid typology of victims as an indispensable tool for future developments.
- To analyze the role of the victim, both in juridical and judicial settings, to improve the current situation.

- To analyze the offender–victim relationship, particularly with regard to the main categories of criminal offense.
- To develop strategies to improve society’s reaction toward victims, be it by means of compensation, insurance, prevention, or treatment.

Although the science of victimology has expanded over the decades, it is upon this early scholarly and research foundation that this textbook on victimology has been conceptualized. This textbook provides an overview of issues related to people who become victims of a wide variety of crimes. At times, these crimes are specific to particular populations, such as children, the elderly, women, or individuals and groups of a specific race or religion. At times, these crimes are more general in who is targeted, such as in the case of Internet crime. We have focused on the incidence of each type of victimization, the impact of the crime on victims, the motivation of the perpetrator, strategies for intervention, laws that define the nature of the crime, and legal attempts to punish offenders and protect victims and society at large.

The second edition of the text includes chapter cases for discussion and expands the traditional academic concepts and theories of victimology to include an applied component for those students who will assess and/or treat victims or offenders. The text emphasizes data from North America regarding the scope of the problem, measurement of victimization, the typologies of victims and offenders, victim impact statements, policies, services, and future research areas. This text is written for students whose work or careers will bring them into contact with victims, offenders, and/or the justice system.