

REVIEWS

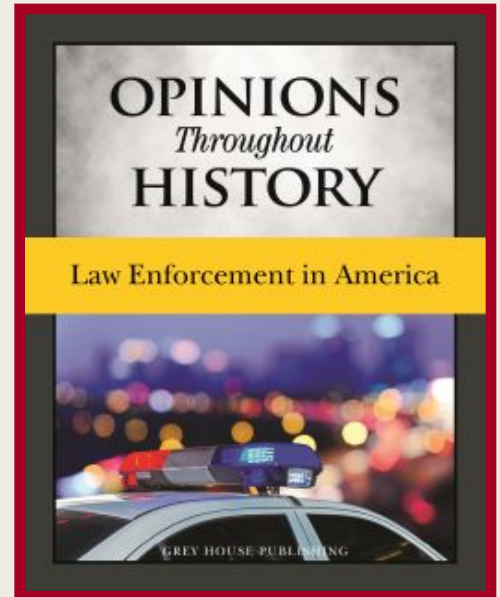
Opinions Throughout History: Law Enforcement in America

“This illustrated work presents a fascinating history of law enforcement in North America, from its inception in the 1620s colonies to the COVID pandemic in 2020. The volume provides an understanding of the origin of policing and their power in the United States; touching on pertinent, watershed events in the history of law enforcement. The chapters are organized in a logical format, allowing the reader to follow the progression of law enforcement in the United States from the colonies at Roanoke and Jamestown all the way to the capitol insurrection on January 6th, 2021.

Each of the 28 chapters focuses on a specific law enforcement topic; from the slave patrols in the 1700s; to the private guns (detectives and detective agencies); and to protecting the country during the capitol insurrection. Some chapters focus on specific issues having an impact on law enforcement; legal cases (Mapp v. Ohio), Miranda warning, 911 system, citizen surveillance, Black Lives Matter and “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot;” these chapters look at more than simply law enforcement; they look at issues that have shaped law enforcement in good and bad ways.

Chapters include a variety of primary and secondary documents — accompanied by “expert commentary and analysis,” that provide the reader with an opportunity to understand how law enforcement has evolved in this country. Chapters begin with an introduction to the topic and segue into topics covered in the chapter. Source documents are an attractive feature of each chapter and offer a window into American society at that time and help readers understand the context of the topic; the chapter on “The Slave Patrols” uses “Appointment to a Slave Patrol,” January 1856 as its source document. Chapters end with a conclusion, discussion questions, and a list of works used. Chapters can be read independently. Additional resources are available for readers, including notes, primary & secondary sources, glossary, historical snapshots (1880-2021), bibliography, timeline (Antiquity to 2021), and an index. **The volume is easy to read, avoiding discipline specific language.” – *Against the Grain***

Continued on Next Page



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“The author Micah L. Issitt is an independent scholar, historian, journalist, and editor. He has authored previous volumes for *Opinions Throughout History*, including national security vs. civil right, and immigration.

Looking at a specific chapter can help the user understand the unique resources and readability of the volume. Chapter nine on “The Rise of the G-Men: Policing During Prohibition and in the Era of Organized Crime (1920s)” starts with a short introduction and lists the topics covered in the chapter: prohibition, organized crime, Chicago, Al Capone, and Elliot Ness. Discussing prohibition and the Volstead Act, the chapter paints a vivid picture of that timeframe in America, highlighting the factors at play, including women, religion, the black market, and the industrialization of the liquor industry. Illustrations, including a prohibition map of the United States, help readers understand the political and public views of the time. Gangster Al Capone is portrayed as a family man in a newspaper article from *The Bismarck Tribune*, June 1929 entitled “Chicago’s Al Capone likes to wear apron, cook spaghetti.” The article discusses Capone as a family man who loves his mother and talks with his son every night, while shielding him from his father’s activities. The article provides an interesting side to Al Capone that few probably saw during his illegal activities.

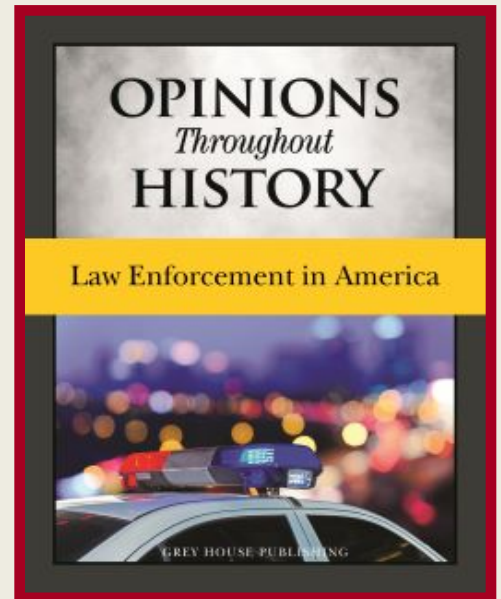
The chapter conclusion discusses how the G-men (FBI) were viewed as heroes against organized crime — and helped illustrate the value of federal law enforcement.

One can pick this book up and read any chapter, learning about law enforcement history in the United States. A valuable work for criminal justice students or arm-chair enthusiasts.

ATG Reviewer Rating: I need this book on my nightstand. (This book is so good, that I want a copy close at hand when I am in bed.)”

– *Against the Grain*

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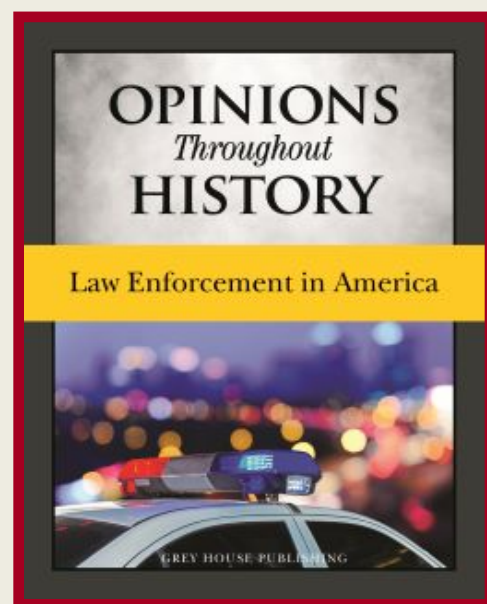
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“National headlines covering current state of policing in America indicate use of excessive force biased on racist, sexist, and social divisions; street protests to defund police forces; and litigation against criminals charged to serve and protect. Media portrayals of cops, judges, federal agents, attorneys, and U.S. courts further distort perception of law enforcement in America. This work examines the historical background of policing social order, which sheds light on controversial perspectives about a high-risk job. **The informative timeline traces public compliance to federal and state regulations toward public safety beginning with Jamestown colonists and ending with the U.S. in COVID lockdown.** The 551-page reference documents increased security measures including local watch, U.S. marshals, slave patrols, Pinkertons, and G-Men, through unionization, Miranda rights, 911 alerts, body armor, scientific evidence, and data surveillance. Each well organized chapter refers to primary and secondary sources, and includes notes, sources, glossary, snapshots, and bibliography. **Thoughtful questions guide student discussion of main points of view with a useful index. Recommended for high-school students and undergraduate researchers. An excellent resource for high-schoolers examining criminal justice and policing in the U.S.”**

-Booklist



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