

THE FUTURE OF POLICING: BACKGROUND:

INTRODUCTION

There are 3 questions to examine before looking into possibilities for the future of policing:



1. HOW DO THE POLICE WORK IN NEW ZEALAND AND THE U.S.?

- Police work to maintain a social order and keep the framework that has been in place for years. A similarity between the two contexts is the poor treatment and disrespect towards Native and Indigenous tribes (New Zealand's, 2021) (National Geographic Society, 2022).



2. HOW DID THE POLICE EMERGE IN THESE CONTEXTS?

- In New Zealand, the Police Act created the first formal police group (The Establishment).
- In the U.S., police forces have evolved from night watches, to slave patrols, and eventually, this became a paid position that began looking out for other sorts of crime (Hadden, 2021, p. [Pages 206-214]).



3. WHAT DOES POLICING LOOK LIKE IN THESE CONTEXTS TODAY?

- Policing in both contexts looks biased in a variety of ways, towards many demographic groups. New Zealand has sought more changes to their system than the entirety of the U.S. has though.



With the history and ineffectiveness of police in mind, what's next?

THE FUTURE OF POLICING: WHAT CAN WE DO?

TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE

Transformative justice is a movement that focuses on building community and resources so people of all demographics have access to the help and justice they deserve. In summary, we know that the police and emergency service workers do not always provide equal care to all people, and the only way to make this change is without the state (Barnard Center for Research on Women, 2020) .



OAKLAND POWER PROJECTS

The Oakland Power Projects is one specific movement in California for less reliance on calling 911 during conflict. They acknowledge that the police as well as other emergency workers can create a less than ideal situation for minorities. They also provide educational workshops for residents to learn what to do for themselves and for others in physical and mental health crises (Oakland Power Projects, 2020).



MENTAL HEALTH

A meta-analysis done in Australia and New Zealand regarding mental health and emergency service workers, such as police officers. It concluded that there must be more research, but that a mental health focus could benefit the work of emergency service personnel (Claringbold et al., 2022).



POLICE ABOLITION

Police abolition stands for reallocating the money and resources the police receive to other community safety groups. People view this idea as unsafe and inconceivable, but really, abolition of the police system would create safer community environments that focus on prevention of crime rather than reaction (Project Nia, 2021).



It's up to us to decide the future of policing.

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