

# The History of Street Gangs in the United States: Their Origins and Transformations

*James C. Howell*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*




## THE HISTORY OF STREET GANGS IN THE UNITED STATES

THEIR ORIGINS AND TRANSFORMATIONS

JAMES C. HOWELL

Copyrighted Material

 Download

 Read Online

#1596597 in Books 2015-06-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.30 x .71 x 6.351, .0 #File Name: 1498511325178 pages | File size: 43.Mb

**James C. Howell : The History of Street Gangs in the United States: Their Origins and Transformations** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The History of Street Gangs in the United States: Their Origins and Transformations*:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An insightful and engaging book By Rob Lubitz As one not very knowledgeable about gang activity and gang culture, I began Dr. Howell's book with some trepidation as it had all the

surface appearance of a long, boring, academic tome. I was quite wrong. The book provides fascinating insights into the history and evolution of street gangs in the United States covering almost two hundred years. Of particular interest is chapter three which vividly describes the emergence and transformation of gangs illuminating why they form, how they grow, and their special appeal to disenfranchised urban youth. The book also dispels some myths about gangs and offers some promising approaches for combating their influence. Overall, Dr. Howell does a truly remarkable job of synthesizing current gang research, theory, and data into a clear, comprehensive, and engaging book.

This book is an historical account of the emergence of youth gangs and the transformation of these into street gangs in the United States. The author traces the emergence of these gangs in the four major geographical regions over the span of two centuries, from the early 1800s to 2012. The authors authoritative analysis explains gang emergence and expansion from play groups to heavily armed street gangs responsible for a large proportion of urban crimes, including drive-by shootings that often kill innocent bystanders. Nationwide, street gangs now account for 1 in 6 homicides each year, and for 1 in 4 in very large cities. In recent years, the number of gangs, gang members, and gang homicides increased, even though the U.S. has seen a sharp drop in violent and property crimes over the past decade. The authors historical analysis reveals the key contributing factors to transformation of youth gangs, including social disorganization that occurred following large-scale immigration early in American history and urban policies that pushed minorities to inner city areas and public housing projects. This analysis includes the influence of prison gangs on street gangs. The first generation of prison gangs emerged spontaneously in response to dangers inside prisons. The second generation was for many years extensions of street gangs that grew enormously during the 1980s and 1990s, particularly in large urban areas in which public housing projects have served as incubators for street gangs. The third generation of prison gangs is extremely active in street-level criminal enterprises in varied forms, often highly structured and well managed organizations that are actively involved in drug trafficking. In recent years, returning inmates are a predominant influence on local gang violence. Now, prison gangs and street gangs often work together in street-level criminal enterprises. This book identifies the most promising ways that gang violence can be reduced. The best long-term approach is a combination of gang prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies and programs. Targeted suppression of gang violence is imperative. Street-workers that serve as violence interrupters can break the cycle of contagious gang violence.

One might ask why we need yet another book on street gangs, as there have been a number of contributions to this line of research within the past couple of decades. What makes Howells book decidedly different is that he does not offer mere lip service to history, but devotes the whole of his book to following the course of gangs and gang formation in the US and beyond. . . .The book is saved from obscurity with a predictive epilogue that is solidly based in modernity while offering a cautionary reminder that history has a way of repeating itself. Howell predicts that the more recent immigration wave may very well have an effect on existing gang structures as well as the possibility of new structures emerging. For the money, Howell is one of the leading specialists on gangs in the US today, and keeps an eye on transnational trends. A must-have in the library of any scholar interested in studying street gangs. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates and above. (CHOICE) Suffice it to say, Howell knows gangs!. . . Howells History is an important endeavor. . . . History reads like an apprenticeship from a wise master. For this reason, History is a credible addition to an ever-expanding library of gang research. (Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Books) Howells rare blend of scholarly and public policy expertise is evident in this definitive and well written historical analysis of gangs - - street gangs, prison gangs, and transnational gangs - - that includes a breakdown by regions of the U.S. It should be read by all those who seek to understand the emergence and growth of gangs in the United States. (C. Ronald Huff, University of California, Irvine and The Ohio State University) Buddy Howell has produced an informative book on the history of American gangs; it fills a void in the literature. The book presents a nice synthesis of what has become a voluminous literature detailing the American gang situation. (Finn Esbensen, University of Missouri-St. Louis) This book covers the waterfront on American street gangs, past and present, including some of the new developments and issues that have plagued law enforcement and other government agencies. (Diego Vigil, University of California, Irvine) Buddy Howell displays a dizzying mastery of gangs. Very few people can claim expertise of any single type of gang, gang behavior, or type of data and Howells uncanny ability to synthesize such material has produced a book of great value to the field. This book tackles historical, anthropological, sociological, psychological, and criminological analyses on gangs from just about every corner of the world. Howell weaves together these different strands of research to provide a serious and thoughtful analysis of gangs from their emergence in the US during the 1800s to the present. Serious debates are addressed head-on, and new directions for research and policy development are raised. (Andrew V. Papachristos, Yale University) About the Author James C. Howell is senior research associate at the National Gang Center in Tallahassee, Florida.