

Efficacy, Limits and Accountability of Private Security

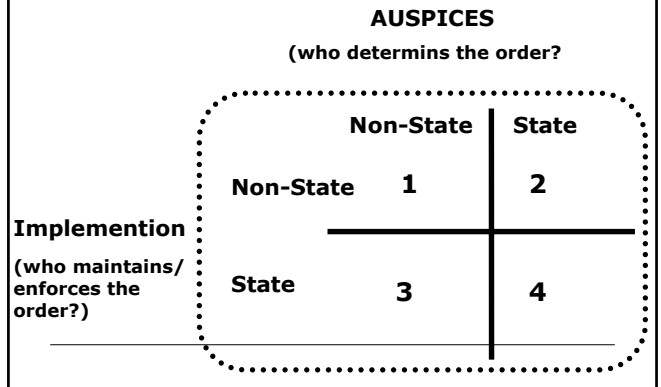


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Salvador, Bahia, Brasil 25/04/2006

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PLURAL POLICING PROVISION CRUDE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



Alternative (plural) policing provision

- Within/by the state**
- "Above" the state (transnational & international policing)**
- "Below" the state (citizen and "community" policing)**
- Outside or beyond the state ("private policing")**

Pluralisation outside (or beyond) the state

- ("private policing")**
- 1. "Formal" (recognized by the state)**
- The contract security industry**
- The in-house security sector**
- 2. "Informal" (not recognized by the state)**
- Vigilante groups**
- Criminal gangs**

Three explanations for modern growth of private policing

- Filled gaps in public provision**
- Growth of "mass private property" and other kinds of "communal property"**
- Neo-liberal governance, New Public Management and contracting out**

Some private security and policing services

- Static & mobile guard & patrol**
- Investigation services**
- Security consulting**
- Secure cash-carrying**
- Personal protection**
- Alarm systems**
- Other security equipment**

Some key features of private policing

- "Order" is privately defined**
- Not necessarily focused on crime and law enforcement**
- More hardware/technology-intensive and less labour-intensive**
- Policing is often "embedded"**

MECHANISMS OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PRIVATE POLICING

- STATE REGULATION**
- INDUSTRY SELF-REGULATION**
- CRIMINAL LIABILITY**
- CIVIL LIABILITY (FOR TORTS/DELICTS)**
- LABOUR/EMPLOYMENT LAW**
- CONTRACTUAL LIABILITY**
- MARKET ACCOUNTABILITY**

Some potential benefits of private policing

- Increased cost-effectiveness & efficiency**
- Wider participation in policing policy etc. determination**
- Policing priorities & approaches more easily tailored to local and special needs**
- Increased opportunities for experimentation**
- Financial costs more likely to be borne by beneficiaries**

Some potential problems arising out of private policing

- Inequitable access to effective policing**
- Public interest may be subordinated to private interests**
- Difficult to effectively regulate**
- Risk of exploitation**
- Challenge to sovereignty, national (domestic) values etc.**