World Encyclopedia of Police Forces and Correctional Systems
World Encyclopedia of Police Forces and Correctional Systems

SECOND EDITION
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World Encyclopedia of Police Forces and Correctional Systems
SECOND EDITION

VOLUME I
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George Thomas Kurian
EDITOR
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**WORLD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF POLICE FORCES AND CORRECTIONAL SYSTEMS, SECOND EDITION**

### OVERVIEWS

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Introduction

World Encyclopedia of Police Forces and Correctional Systems is the second edition of the work published in 1988 as World Encyclopedia of Police Forces and Penal Systems. The first edition covered 183 countries in one volume. The present one covers 198 countries in two volumes. In the intervening years between the first and the second editions the world has changed dramatically, and so have law enforcement and corrections. In the first edition, law enforcement was perceived as a local activity limited to nations and localities within nations. With the ever-present threat of terrorism, law enforcement has taken on a global dimension and the globalization of the science and the profession will only continue to grow in the future. When the first edition was published the Soviet Union had pulled down its iron curtain across half the world, permitting little information to leak into the free world. The collapse of Communism meant not only that there were now 21 more nations in the world, but that there was more access to the police systems of those countries that were once closed to the scrutiny of scholars. Since 1988 the information revolution and the resulting quantum jump in technology have changed the once staid and slow-moving profession of law enforcement into a dynamic one where every policeman has access to as much information in the field as his commanders at headquarters. Even in the smallest countries of the world, law enforcement people are seamlessly connected into a vast network that, through Interpol and other organizations, can reach into the farthest corners of the world. In fact not since the birth of the modern police in Robert Peel’s Britain in the mid-1840s has there been a greater expansion in police powers and functions than in the last two decades.

These changes are reflected in the second edition and in the scope of the work. Because these global issues and trends needed to be addressed, the encyclopedia is now divided into two parts. The first part deals with critical global themes that affect all nations and that cannot be properly treated in national chapters. Terrorism has emerged as a discrete target of law enforcement activity. Although it can be dealt with only in a quasi-military fashion, most of the first responders are law enforcement officers and fire fighters. The conventional rubrics that governed law enforcement do not apply to terrorism, which is often described as a war. As the police gain new powers in this asymmetric war, questions are raised about the limits to such powers and the human rights that could be impacted as a result. It is not merely terrorism that confronts police forces and corrections throughout the world. The very same technological revolution that helps the police to be more innovative in foiling criminal activity also helps criminals to outsmart the police and devise new forms of crime. As technology has erased borders and shortened distances,
crime in all forms has become global. It is now possible for criminals to commit crimes in any country without necessarily being physically present there. Immigration crime and cybercrime are two examples of the new threats that law enforcement agencies face in the twenty-first century. This has called for an extraordinary degree of transnational cooperation among police agencies at every level. Borderless nations create borderless crimes and they in turn create borderless law enforcement strategies. The increasing use of drugs also contributes to the breakdown of law and order, especially among the youth. Even with technology on their side, few national police agencies have been able to resolve these new problems that beset them.

One indicator of how law enforcement has become one of the top priorities for every government is the fact that during the past 20 years, the ratio of police to the general population has risen in every country. Worldwide there is now one policeman for every 860 persons, compared to one policeman for every 1,300 persons in 1988. Worldwide there are now 7.2 million men and women in police uniforms. Unlike the military, policemen are highly visible and ubiquitous and their presence and profession affect society at every level.

Even though law enforcement and criminal justice studies are now major disciplines in their own right, police and corrections remain among the least studied institutions and ones on which the least information is available to scholars and researchers on a global basis. The reasons are twofold: The first is the instinctive and historical academic distrust of the more forbidding aspects of police and correctional studies, and the second is the uncommunicative nature of police and penal professionals who see little practical benefit in scholarly investigation. This is slowly changing. Movie and television dramas with police and court themes have helped to romanticize the investigative aspects of law enforcement. Secondly, there is now more accountability in law enforcement, especially in democratic countries. Nevertheless, the information currently available in police and corrections is of such poor quality outside of Europe and North America that many decades will pass before it reaches the level currently obtainable in other fields of public activity.

Information on police forces and penal systems is not only meager but also uneven and limited to certain areas of law enforcement to the exclusion of others. The situation is not helped by the fact that Interpol, the major international police organization, does not have a strong publishing or data collection program and has never taken an aggressive initiative in promoting police studies. It depends on the voluntary cooperation of members for input into the irregularly published *International Crime Statistics*. This publication provides only strict crime data and does not deal with law enforcement forces.

The individual country entries in the second edition are broader in scope and provide more information on areas that were not covered in the first edition. The most important of these new sections are the ones on human rights, including police corruption and prison conditions. Police activity is one that easily lends itself to brutality and corruption if left unchecked and if proper accountability procedures are not in place. This is particularly true of non-democratic nations where the police (as well as the military) are used by the powers that be to suppress legitimate dissent under the guise of enforcing the law.

Within each country entry the information is organized under four main headings: Law Enforcement; Human Rights; Crime; and Correctional System. Basic statistics are presented for both police and crime. While every effort has been made to present the information in a uniform and consistent manner, the schema had to be modified for some countries because of the paucity of information. Nevertheless, the encyclopedia represents one of the largest caches of information on law enforcement and correctional systems now available in print.

*George Thomas Kurian*
The compilation of an international encyclopedia is the result of teamwork that extends across continents. Much help was received from countless scholars, librarians, and consultants in every country, and many national police agencies provided information. In the United States, the dean and members of the Criminal Justice Department at Sam Houston States University in Texas were closely associated with the project from the beginning. Particularly worthy of mention are Richard Ward, the director, who served as a member of the editorial board, and Adam Dulin, Joseph D. Serio, and Mitch P. Roth, all of whom have contributed to the encyclopedia and served as consultants. Their participation was an asset to the encyclopedia. I wish also to acknowledge the strong professional support and cooperation of the project team at Thomson Gale, led by Kristin Hart, Jan Klisz, and Dan Marowski.

I wish to add a personal note of gratitude to my wife, Annie Kurian, for her unfailing support and encouragement.

George Thomas Kurian
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