



Crimes
That Changed
Our World

Criff: New Hope shooter got
a straw buyer
no was killed by officers at
stand-in buyer for firearms.
EARNINGS
DAILY VEGAS COURIER-JOURNAL
Gunman lost Social Security
Two Killed in Las Vegas Cou
who illegally dealt

OVERVIEW

CAN A CRIME MAKE OUR WORLD SAFER?

CAN TRAGEDY INSPIRE CHANGE?

CAN CORRUPTION TRIGGER IMPORTANT LEGAL AND SOCIAL REFORMS?

Crimes that Changed Our World is a true crime series that will present incredible stories of how some of the most serious crimes have shaped our current justice system. Each episode will vividly recount these shocking, yet fascinating crimes of the past century. We'll uncover the stories behind revolutionary shifts in society and gain insight into personal motivations that changed our world forever.

Imagine a world in which 9-1-1 Emergency Assistance did not exist, where the FDA did not test drugs for safety, and SWAT teams were not trained to stop violent riots. Today, we have alert systems for missing children, laws to protect against drunk driving and DNA testing to identify killers. You would be surprised to discover that in our not so distant past, these systems did not exist. Our world was one where children could die from poisonous medication, where unsafe buildings could burn to the ground with hundreds of people trapped inside, and murderers could attack women on public streets without being caught.

Crimes that Changed Our World will chronicle the heinous crimes and subsequent events that led to safety innovations and legal reform. Through dramatic and personal stories, viewers will learn about the struggle, the loss and the outrage that inspired change. We discover that the very crimes that shocked our nation to its core, also gave rise to solutions and laws that protect our citizens today.

Crimes that Changed Our World will continually connect past crimes to relatable present day situations. Each episode will highlight one crime and it's correlation to prior landmark cases will be presented through a combination of cinematic sequences, archive material, and relevant interviews.

FORMAT

The opening scene will captivate viewers featuring a well-known recent incident that brings both tension and a slice of modern history to the screen. From the frantic 9-1-1 call alerting police to gunmen in Sandy Hook elementary school to the screen of a cell phone flashing an Amber Alert for 9-year-old Hannah Anderson who was abducted in Southern California to breaking news that forensic DNA tests put the Green River Killer behind bars.

We will then take viewers on a journey back to the time of the crime. Here we'll employ cinematic sequences depicting an intimate, subtle portrayal of the crime that changed our world. These sequences will captivate and draw in the audience. Even if the audience knows what will happen next, they won't be able to look away. We'll dive deep into lives and actions of the everyday people who made history. These sequences will enrapture viewers, building slowly to the shocking and heart-wrenching crimes that sparked an outcry for change.



To supplement the cinematic sequences, we will utilize interviews from experts to everyday people. Every episode will include modern-day beneficiaries of the legal reform, providing a human touchstone from which to base progress and perspective.

Experts will explain each crime, the ensuing investigations and outcomes, the obstacles faced by the victims and their families, the legal and public reaction to each crime and the long-term national effects. Interviews will include witnesses, investigators, law enforcement officers, lawyers, scientists, and advocates amongst others. Modern-day beneficiaries will include victims who were rescued, family members, and witnesses. Each will explain how current laws and safety innovations saved their life or that of loved ones.

Archive materials will be used throughout **Crimes that Changed Our World** to reinforce the narrative and expand the audience's understanding of the events significance. Researchers will exhaust resources to ensure we use the most fitting and exclusive footage.



In the case of nine-year old Amber Hagerman, her brother explains what they were doing moments before she was kidnapped. He paints a picture of a happy, playful girl who was a Girl Scout and a good student at school. Together they rode their bikes to a nearby store in a safe and close-knit community. Only moments later, a pickup truck hurtled into the parking lot of the store and a man grabbed Amber.

Interviews with police, family, and investigators reveal the details of the ensuing search. A local resident from the town explains that he was walking his dog by a nearby creek when he saw the body of a naked girl lying face down in the water. The county medical examiner confirms that the girl is Amber Hagerman. She was kept alive for forty-eight hours, sexually assaulted and her throat slashed five times. Police spokesperson Dee Anderson explains how the Amber Hagerman Task Force was formed and the steps taken to find her killer. Amber's parents look to the future and urge law enforcement to create an abduction alert system, which would notify community members immediately after a kidnapping. They explain how the "Amber Alert" came into existence and how they felt when the system had its first success story.

SIGNATURE SERIES ELEMENTS

CINEMATIC RECREATIONS

Each story will come to life with cinematic and true to life recreations. We will use the best fiction filmmaking techniques, from camera angles to stylish editing. Audiences will be fully immersed in the world of our characters, providing emotional context to understand the crime at hand. Weaving documentary interviews with recreations of such painful and historically significant material will make this approach all the more extraordinary and heighten the narratives.



INTERVIEWS

Whenever possible, the stories will be told by those who witnessed and experienced the crimes. Victims who live to tell will vividly recount their personal stories. The unraveling drama will be as tense as it is heartfelt. Those who are no longer with us will be represented by those closest to them.

Stylized interviews with criminal law experts, investigators, police officers, forensic scientists, and civilians who helped solve the crimes will take the viewer through each incident. They will give detailed accounts of the crime, the public's reaction and explain how new laws or innovations came into place.



ARCHIVE MATERIAL

The interviews will come to life with archival footage, photographs, newsreel and articles. Personal photographs and family videos from each case will be used, radio segments and gripping news reports will be used to build climatic sequences and elicit a strong emotional reaction from the viewer.

We will strive to uncover new content that has never been seen, such as intimate and personal photos, videos and audio recordings from family archives. We will build each story with material such as flyers and postings from the time of the crime, letters, speeches, police reports, investigator notes, medical records, radio segments and news footage.



SAMPLE EPISODES

NEW PROBLEMS

Some crimes trigger reforms because they highlight a new societal problem. These cases show America effectively meeting the new challenges presented by a changing world.

1932 Lindbergh Kidnapping & Dillinger robberies – Federalization of Criminal Law

On March 1, 1932 Charles Lindbergh Jr. was abducted from his crib and the nation held its breath. In 1932 John Dillinger and his gang began a series of bank robberies throughout the Midwest. The solution to the problem was the start of the federalization of criminal law, first by making kidnapping and then bank robbery federal offenses.

1937 Sulfanilamide Crisis – Drug Safety

In 1937 a palatable liquid anti-biotic called Sulfanilamide was developed and shipped all over the country. After 105 people died from the medicine this palatable additive was determined to be toxic. The disaster provoked a public outcry that led to the passage of the 1938 Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act, which for the first time gave the FDA power to monitor the safety of everything from new drugs, to animal food to vitamins.

1962 Dempsey Vigilantes in Harlem Heroin Epidemic – War on Drugs

In the 1960's the devastation that heroin brought to communities became a rallying cry for Reverend Oberia Dempsy of Harlem. He brought the plight of addiction to the attention of anyone who would listen and ultimately was instrumental in getting the harsh sentences of the Rockefeller Drug laws passed.

1972 TWA Bombing – Airport Security

It is March of 1972 and extortionists demand that TWA pay \$2,000,000 or one of their airplanes will be blown up. The government responds with airport security laws and procedures, first in the United States and then all over the world.

1989 Shriner Murder – Sexual Predator Civil Commitment

In 1989 a seven year-old was attacked by Earl Shriner. The child survives but the community is outraged when they learn that the authorities were fully aware that Shriner, who had been jailed for violent behavior on several occasions, had been determined by psychiatrists to be “too dangerous to be at large.” Without a functioning civil commitment process, other protective measures had to be developed.

1993 Polly Klaas Abduction – Three-Strikes Sentencing

In 1996 three girls were enjoying a sleep-over when Richard Allen Davis broke into the house and abducted 12 year-old Polly Klaas. When the child's body was found, the community was vocal in their frustration with the system that allowed Davis to be set free to commit yet another crime. Using Polly's death as an example of the harm that could come with allowing repeat offenders to be free, California instituted repeat offender statutes. Nearly all states have such statutes today.

NEW SOLUTIONS

Some crimes trigger reforms because a recent technical or legal innovation offers a new solution to an old problem. In these cases we see creative minds on the lookout for applying newly available tools, or inventing their own.

1915 Chloroform Killer – Medical Examiners

In 1915 Frederic Morse announces to the police that he has killed several patients at a nursing home. The police want justice to be served but they have no way of knowing if Morse actually killed anyone or just says he did. The outrage that follows leads to legislation that compels the state to hire medical examiners, trained doctors were capable of performing autopsies and investigation of deaths.

1956 NYC Mad Bomber – Criminal Profiling

From 1940 until 1952 a series of bombs were placed in public spaces around New York City. The police had plenty of evidence but they lacked the knowledge to use the evidence to catch the “Mad Bomber” whose skills at bomb-making seemed to be growing. The police invite Dr. James Brussel to help them by providing a psychological profile of the bomber. Using Brussel’s profile the police quickly capture the man. Significant advances in the psychological sciences allow behavioral scientists to predict the characteristics of offenders.

1957 Appalachian Meeting – RICO

In 1957 a large group of powerful Mafia bosses meet in rural New York. The New York police are able to make several arrests when they break up the meeting but the law is not flexible enough to criminalize the conduct of the bosses, so they are set free. In 1970, Robert Blakey, a member of an organized crime task force develops a novel solution for organized crime prosecutions: Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations statutes (RICO statutes). These laws essentially make running a criminal organization a crime, which had not previously been the case.

1964 Genovese Rape Witness Scandal – 9-1-1

In March of 1964, Kitty Genovese has nearly reached her home upon returning from work when Winston Moseley repeatedly attacks and finally kills her. When a newspaper picks up the story and gives an account of all the people who knew the woman was in trouble but do nothing, the public is outraged. In the debate that follows, it becomes clear that if society wants bystanders to help it will be important to make getting help simple. The Johnson administration puts the idea of a universal emergency assistance number into motion and 9-1-1 comes into being.

1965 Watts Riots & Texas Sniper – SWAT Teams

In August 1966 rioting breaks out in the Watts section of Los Angeles. After 6 days, 34 deaths, and the deployment of the National Guard, the riots end. One year later, Charles Whitman, a college student, climbs into a tower on the University of Texas Austin campus and begins shooting people. 14 people die before the police are able to borrow a gun big enough to cope with the situation. Largely out of these two incidences, SWAT teams are developed and deployed. Advances in weaponry and tactics, developed by the military in Vietnam to deal with guerrilla warfare, are adapted for use by civilian police departments confronted with dangerous situations.

1967 Calabrese Intimidation – WITSEC

In 1964 “Paddy” Calabrese, a young mafia man who is in jail serving time for bank robbery, offers to testify against two mobsters working for a boss named Magaddino. If the government can offer protection to his family, Calabrese would help the government. Gerald Shur, a rookie attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Organized Crime and Racketeering Section, agrees to arrange some means of providing the protection and out of this effort eventually develops the Federal Witness protection program, which becomes an essential crime-fighting tool.

1979 Patz Disappearance – Child Protection

In May of 1979, six-year-old Etan Patz disappears on the two-block walk from his home to the bus stop. In July, 1981 six-year-old Adam Walsh goes missing while shopping with his mom. In January, 1996, Amber Hagerman is taken while riding her bike. The country builds an alert system thru which alerts can go out quickly, increasing the chances of a recovery, and an elaborate communication network to quickly recover abducted children have been put in place.

1983 Beirut Barracks Bombings – Internationalization of the FBI

In October of 1983, a truck filled with explosives detonates on a Marine base in Beirut killing 254 Marines. By 1984 congress passes several bills to expand legal authority for action against terrorists beyond our borders. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is given jurisdiction over terrorists who take Americans hostage anywhere in the world.

1986 Leicestershire Murderers – DNA

In November of 1983, 15-year-old Lynda Mann is found raped and strangled in Narborough, England. Three years later, in a nearby town, Dawn Ashworth is found dead and the two cases seem very similar. With two bodies and no answers, investigators seem completely stumped, until Alec Jeffreys, a geneticist at a nearby university who recently invented genetic fingerprinting offers his services. For the first time, DNA left at a crime scene can be used to identify a killer.

2001 9/11 Attacks – War on Terrorism

In September of 2001, four planes are taken over by terrorists. The attacks demonstrate to the World that America has insufficient intelligence to protect itself and few tools to fight a terrorist form of war. The attacks also prompt the enactment of a wide range of surveillance, investigative, and prosecution tools to fight the large-scale terrorism that has come to darken the world.

CHANGING NORMS

In these cases, the nature of the world around us has not changed – we have the same problems and solutions available as existed previously – but it is we ourselves who have changed. A shift in social norms leads to a broader recognition of a problem or a motivation to apply available solutions to it.

1911 Triangle Factory Fire – Building Safety

In 1911 a garment factory in a high-rise catches fire and kills 140 workers, mostly young women. As burning bodies fall from the building, many people are on hand to watch. New York authorities have long known about the conditions but the insistence that it is a problem the government is now a widely held view. The Progressive Era under President Theodore Roosevelt has increased people's expectations of government and reduced their willingness to accept man-made disasters as simply accidents to be tolerated.

1963 Birmingham Church Bombings – Civil Rights

In 1963 four girls are killed when a bomb explodes in their church. The church and its Black congregants are targeted because of the unrest over civil rights that is growing in the South. While the press for civil rights has been going on for years, little progress has been made. Within months the Civil Rights Act is being made into law. The original focus on racial discrimination spreads to include other personal characteristics, such as sexual preference or identity and disability status.

1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill & Cuyahoga River Fire – EPA

Early in 1969 a giant oil spill hits the pristine beaches of Santa Barbara and six months later *Time* magazine publishes pictures of Cleveland's Cuyahoga River burning. The natural environment of the nation has been continually degraded for decades but these events help trigger a growing awareness that there are long term costs to ignoring the environment. The anger brings forth the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and legal authority in the EPA to do something about the problem.

1980 Lightner Crash – Drunk Driving

After finishing up a softball game with her friends in May of 1980, eleven year-old Cari Lightner is killed by a drunk driver as she walks along the road. When it is revealed that the driver has a long history of drunk driving, Cari's mother becomes an advocate for more serious drunk-driving penalties and forms Mother Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Within a year, California increases fines and jail time associated with repeat drunk-driving offenses. Other states, pushed by other branches of MADD and various citizen activist groups, soon follow California's lead.

1983 Thurman Beating – Domestic Violence

By 1983 Tracy Thurman has been trying to escape from her brutal husband for more than a decade. When she is stabbed 13 times by her husband in front of witnesses, the police still do not arrest him. Thurman survives the knife attack and in 1985 brings a successful suit against the police for their failure to protect her. Her decade long struggle becomes a national call to action. All across the country states enact legislation to protect victims of domestic violence.

2001 Enron Scandal – Financial Crimes

Enron is a natural gas company that has no legitimate means to become a super-high-value company and yet by 2001 it is reporting profits of \$425 million for a single quarter. By the end of the year, however, the company is forced to file for bankruptcy and it is revealed that the publicly-reported profits are simply financial trickery. Thousands of people lose their savings or retirement accounts and an outraged America demands that someone be held accountable. Federal investigations pull up the dirt on a litany of enablers. Auditors, boards of directors, bankers, politicians, the media, and lawyers have all played roles. The large financial scandals demonstrate to the public that many businessmen engage in dishonest activity with impunity, and increase the public's willingness to treat White Collar Crime more seriously.

THE AUTHORS

Paul H. Robinson is one of the world's leading criminal law scholars, having lectured in over 100 cities in 33 states and 25 countries with his writings translated into 13 languages. He has published a dozen books and over 100 scholarly articles but is writing now primarily to a general audience. Paul is a Colin S. Diver Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.



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