

Chapter 16

16.1 Self Check

1. Why did the criminalization of drugs and, for a time, alcohol benefit criminals? Can this be undone? Why or why not?

This criminalization unintentionally created the need for underground and illegal drug and alcohol distribution systems, which organized criminals provide in exchange for great profit. Although drug decriminalization may undo some of the damage, the fact remains that these druglords currently control the growth and distribution of these substances, and this may remain the case if drugs were made legal.

2. Why do organized criminals need to launder money, and how is this done?

Organized criminals launder the money they earn from illegal sources in order to justify their high incomes to the government. Money laundering is accomplished by processing illegally earned money through legitimate channels until its illegal origins are untraceable.

16.2 Self Check

1. Why, in your opinion, have gang activities changed so much over the years? Are drugs solely to blame?

Drugs are a large part of it, but poor family structures, increasing drug and alcohol awareness, and societal indifference to violence are also contributing factors.

2. Why do you think that girls and women are more involved in gang activities?

As society changes and girls and women gain more rights, their life options increase.

Although this almost always has positive results, it can also result in some high-risk activity such as crime.

16.3 Self Check

1. How have American perceptions regarding terrorism changed since the Oklahoma City bombing?

Since the Oklahoma City bombing, many Americans realized that terrorism is not a crime that is committed solely by other people in other countries. This crime made people realize that domestic terrorism can be committed by Americans with extreme, anti-government political agendas.

2. Which do you feel is a bigger threat to the United States: international or domestic terrorism?

Despite the terrorist attack in Oklahoma City and the presence of several extremist groups in the United States, some still feel that international terrorism is more serious; you may see the embassy bombings in Africa, and the terrorist attacks on tourists in Luxor, Egypt, as examples. On the other hand, some people feel that domestic terrorism is more important because it attacks people at home, where they should feel less at risk.