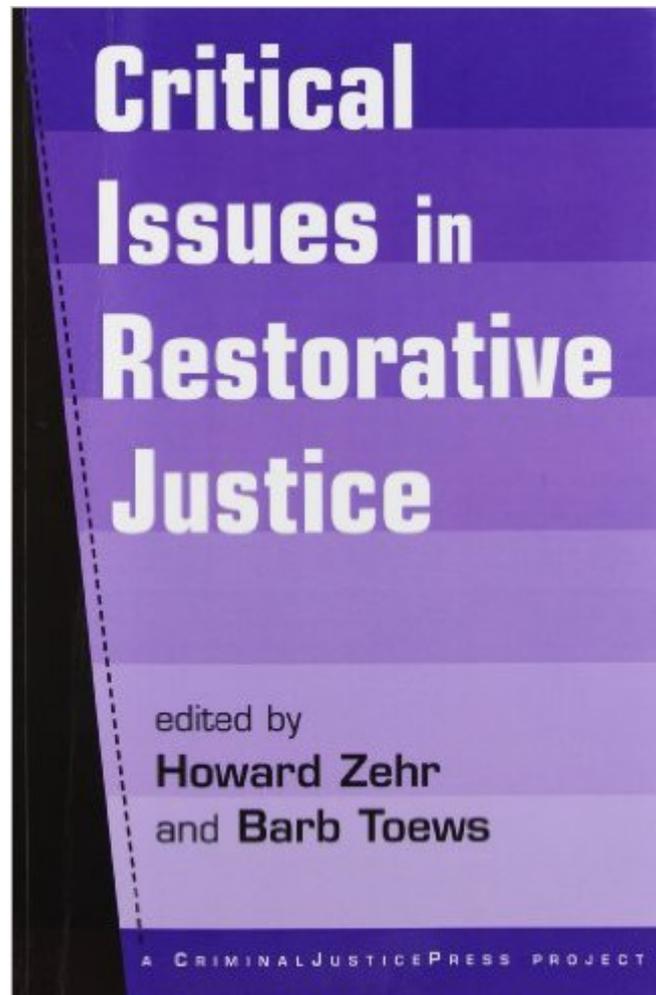


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Critical Issues In Restorative Justice



Synopsis

In a mere quarter-century, restorative justice has grown from a few scattered experimental projects into a worldwide social movement and field of study. The contributors to this book critically examine restorative justice, identifying the main threats to its integrity and effectiveness. The ground that they cover ranges from victim, offender, and practitioner issues, to the role of the state, to broad questions of social justice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Conventional punishment is based mainly on the principle of retribution and deterrence. A great deal of it is still hinged on the age old doctrine of lex talionis, an eye for an eye. Most, if not all, judicial punishment has followed this path which seems to serve its purpose well in spite of many troubling defects. Judicial punishment satisfies the victim's desire for revenge, it provides a relatively effective deterrence against crime, and it demarcates reasonably clearly the line between good and evil. So what is restorative justice and why should we fix a system that is not broke? Restorative justice is a theory that offers an alternative to judicial punishment. In large, it is a sentencing alternative that has its aims at restoring both the victim and the offender at minimal social and economic costs. "Critical Issues in Restorative Justice" (CIRJ) claims that restorative justice has made great inroads in the past 15 years (the book was published in 2004). It still commands a large following - see the more recent (2007) book "Restorative Justice" by Marian Liebmann). Restorative justice enables families and the community of the offender and victim to be involved in the process of restoring the victim

from the effect of the crime, and the rehabilitation of the offender. It utilizes mediation, compensation, and shaming of the offender among other methods in the process of restoration of justice to the parties involved. CIRJ answers some of the criticisms against the theory and method. It answers charges that the victim might be "short changed" and the dangers (such as the totalitarian threat) of reliance on the community.

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