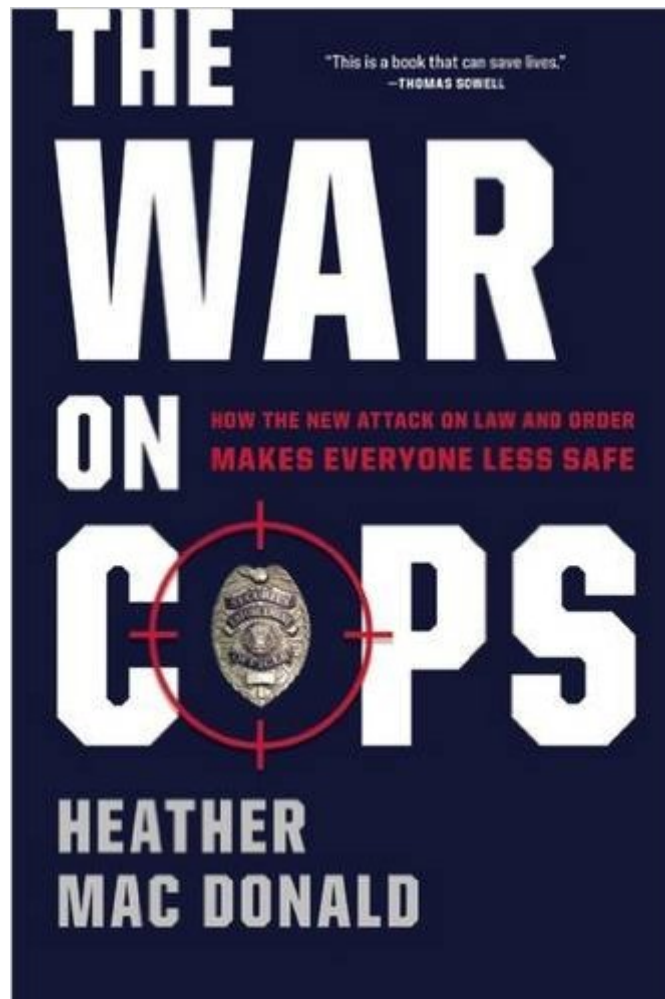


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The War On Cops: How The New Attack On Law And Order Makes Everyone Less Safe



Synopsis

Violent crime has been rising sharply in many American cities after two decades of decline. Homicides jumped nearly 17 percent in 2015 in the largest 50 cities, the biggest one-year increase since 1993. The reason is what Heather Mac Donald first identified nationally as the “Ferguson effect”: Since the 2014 police shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, officers have been backing off of proactive policing, and criminals are becoming emboldened. This book expands on Mac Donald’s groundbreaking and controversial reporting on the Ferguson effect and the criminal-justice system. It deconstructs the central narrative of the Black Lives Matter movement: that racist cops are the greatest threat to young black males. On the contrary, it is criminals and gangbangers who are responsible for the high black homicide death rate. The War on Cops exposes the truth about officer use of force and explodes the conceit of “mass incarceration.” A rigorous analysis of data shows that crime, not race, drives police actions and prison rates. The growth of proactive policing in the 1990s, along with lengthened sentences for violent crime, saved thousands of minority lives. In fact, Mac Donald argues, no government agency is more dedicated to the proposition that “black lives matter” than today’s data-driven, accountable police department. Mac Donald gives voice to the many residents of high-crime neighborhoods who want proactive policing. She warns that race-based attacks on the criminal-justice system, from the White House on down, are eroding the authority of law and putting lives at risk. This book is a call for a more honest and informed debate about policing, crime, and race.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Homicides in America's 50 largest cities rose nearly 17% in 2015, the greatest rise in fatal violence in a quarter-century, and reversing a two-decade-long decline. The biggest beneficiaries of that decline were the law-abiding residents of minority neighborhoods. Since late summer 2014 and the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri while attacking a policeman, the protest movement Black Lives Matter has spawned riots, 'tie-ins,' and the assassination of police officers. 'Broken Windows' policing and the practice of stopping and questioning suspicious individuals have been especially targeted. The African-American culture of drive-by shootings and gang warfare was omitted from discussions initiated by Black Lives Matter proponents. At the same time, academic allegations have been raised about the discriminatory imprisonment of African-Americans. Officers in inner cities routinely found themselves surrounded by hostile, jeering crowds when trying to make an arrest or conduct an investigation., and feared becoming the latest YouTube pariah. In response, police began to disengage from proactive policing. Criminal summons and misdemeanor arrests for public-order offenses plummeted. Riots are returning to the urban landscape. After hearing three months of testimony/evidence, a St. Louis County grand jury declined to press charges against officer Wilson - despite some witnesses supporting the officer refused to appear due to community pressure. The Justice Department's investigation did not support federal civil rights charges either. Ferguson's population is two-thirds black, but five of its six council members are white, as is its mayor.

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