

The Emergence of Criminology: A History of Thought

Tracing the shifting lens of justice—from the punishment of the act
to the resocialisation of the actor.

The pre-scientific origins of penology were rooted in survival and the supernatural

The Catalysts

Harsh Environments

Survival pressures dictated absolute social conformity.

Natural Disasters

Viewed as cosmic or supernatural retribution requiring human sacrifice.

Religion

Viewing crime as inherently sinful or motivated by malicious spirits.

The Outcome

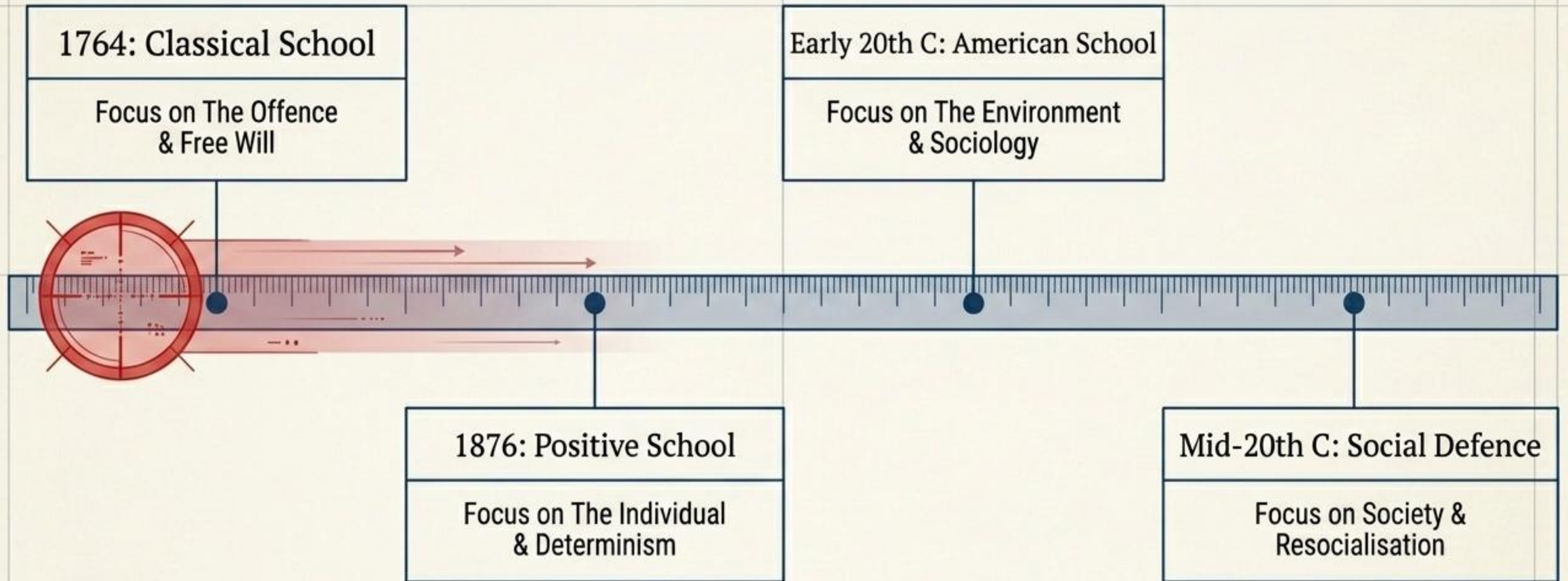
Vengeance & Retribution



The Role of Slavery:

Early society's demand for compensation established slavery as a social institution, which heavily contributed to the mechanical foundations of early penology.

The evolutionary arc of criminological paradigms



The discipline permanently shifted from supernatural vengeance to a multidisciplinary science.

The Classical School codified crime as a free choice requiring equal punishment



The Catalyst

Published in 1764 by Cesare Beccaria (Essay on Crimes and Punishments).

Core Doctrine

Criminal behaviour is a product of Free Will and personal moral choice.

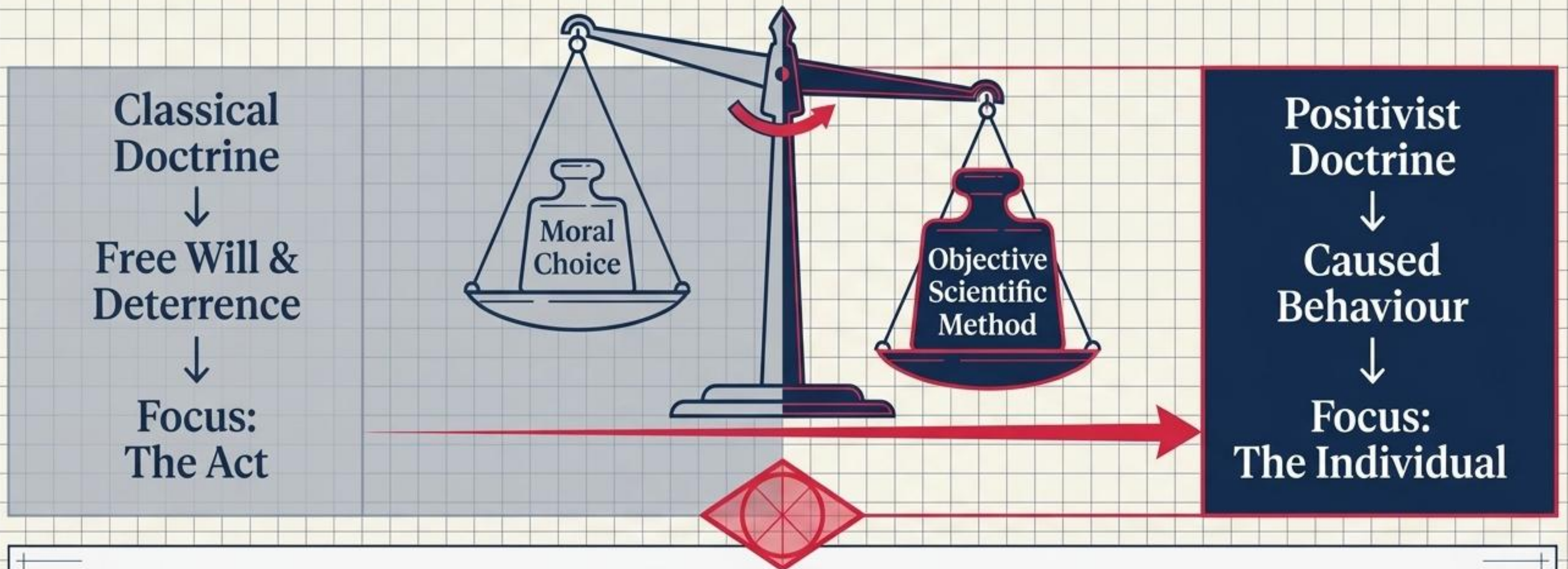
The Mechanism

Strict adherence to the law. A mandate for equal punishment for equal crimes.

The Goal

The welfare of society. Society's reaction depends solely on the seriousness of the crime, rendering the offender's background strictly irrelevant.

The Positivist revolt rejected free will in favour of scientific determinism



Because crime is 'caused' rather than freely chosen, the Positivist School deems deterrence ineffective. Instead, social reaction must shift to diagnosis, treatment, and the reform of the individual.

The “Holy Three” of early Positivism fractured into biological, psychological, and sociological determinism

Biological

Cesare Lombroso (1876)

Focus on physical-type anthropology.

Objective scientific method applied to physiology and bodily characteristics as the primary cause of criminality.

Psychological / Moral

Raffaele Garofalo

Focus on a lack of altruistic sentiments.

Coined “natural crime” (violating probity and pity).

Followed Darwinian social selection, suggesting death, partial elimination, or enforced reparation depending on the permanence of the psychological anomaly.

Sociological

Enrico Ferri

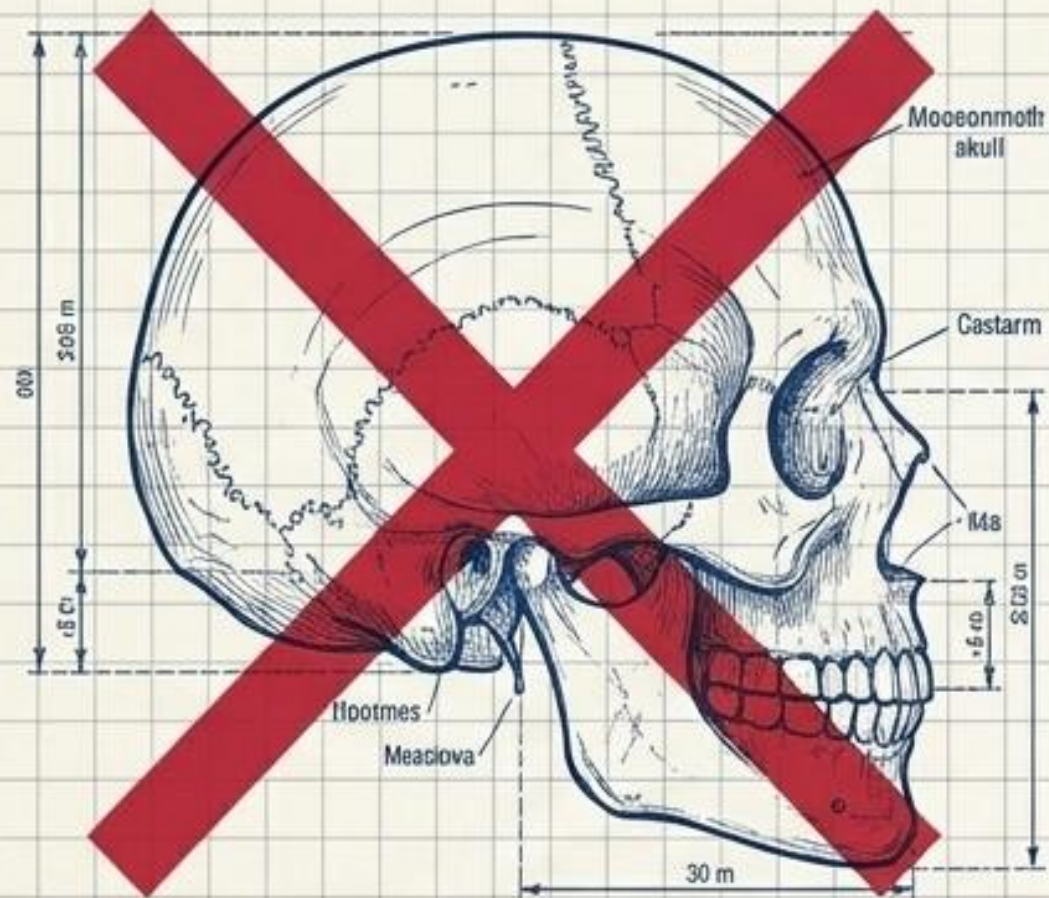
Focus on environmental and socioeconomic conditions.

Radically denied moral responsibility entirely.

His 1921 Draft Code for Italy rejected punishment completely, but was dismissed as too radical.

Statistical refutation cleared the path for crime as a learned, psychological disposition

The Refutation (1913)

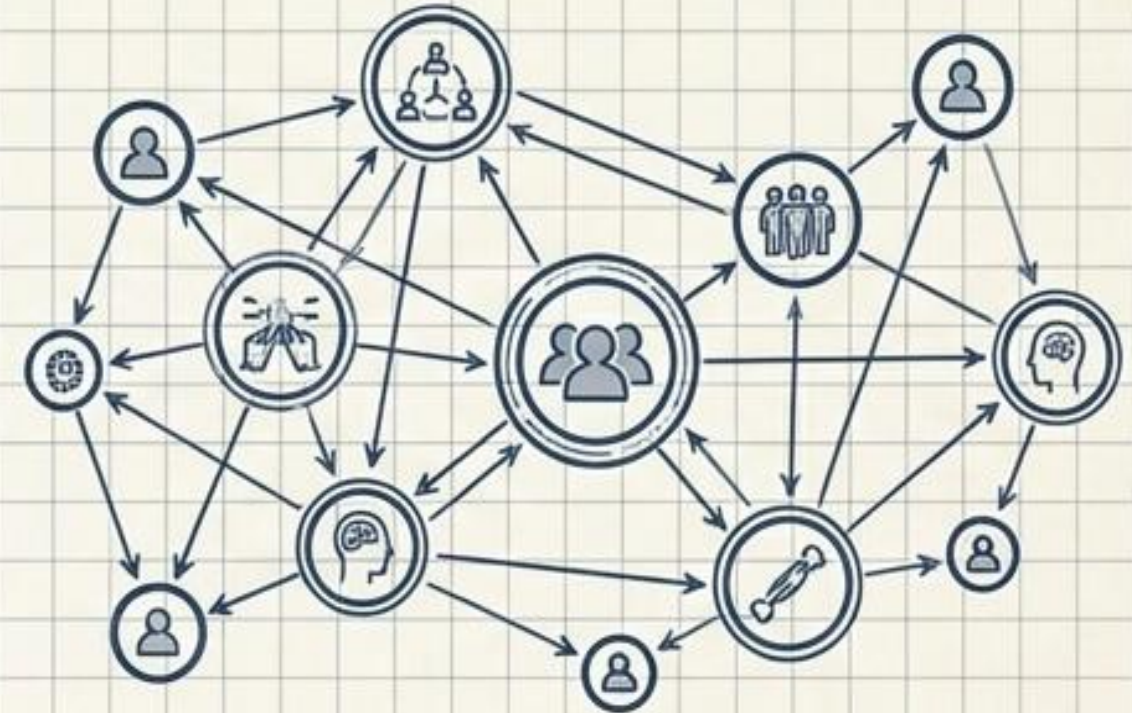


Teekine fotoneet
sünni teie see
naamen pr. ISP 1805

v. Ctoide ar dooed
onra dnoe da
atessy el ee oo
seved netaadid
doctra.

Charles B. Goring & Karl Pearson.
Their exhaustive statistical study of English inmates conclusively debunked Lombroso's doctrine of physical types.

The Replacement (1890)



Tõhokad dehvato
nõu neltõn chotõõ
mveine agõõ t- fõõõ
rõõõõõ.

Gabriel Tarde (*Laws of Imitation*).
Held that behaviour is learned. Believed a committee of doctors should determine psychological responsibility. Opposed equal sentencing for equal crimes as simplistic and unfair.

The American School firmly established criminology as an environmental and sociological discipline

Adolphe Quetelet:
Developer of social statistics
(climate, age, sex).
"Society prepares the crimes."

John Haviland:
Functional radial prison design
(Eastern State Penitentiary).

Criminology:
A Subspeciality
of Sociology
(Early 20th C)

Henry Mayhew:
Differentiated professional vs.
accidental offenders.

Isaac Ray:
Pioneered forensic psychiatry
(Medical Jurisprudence of
Insanity, 1838).

Hans Gross:
Originated scientific
criminal investigation.

The Constitutional Offshoot

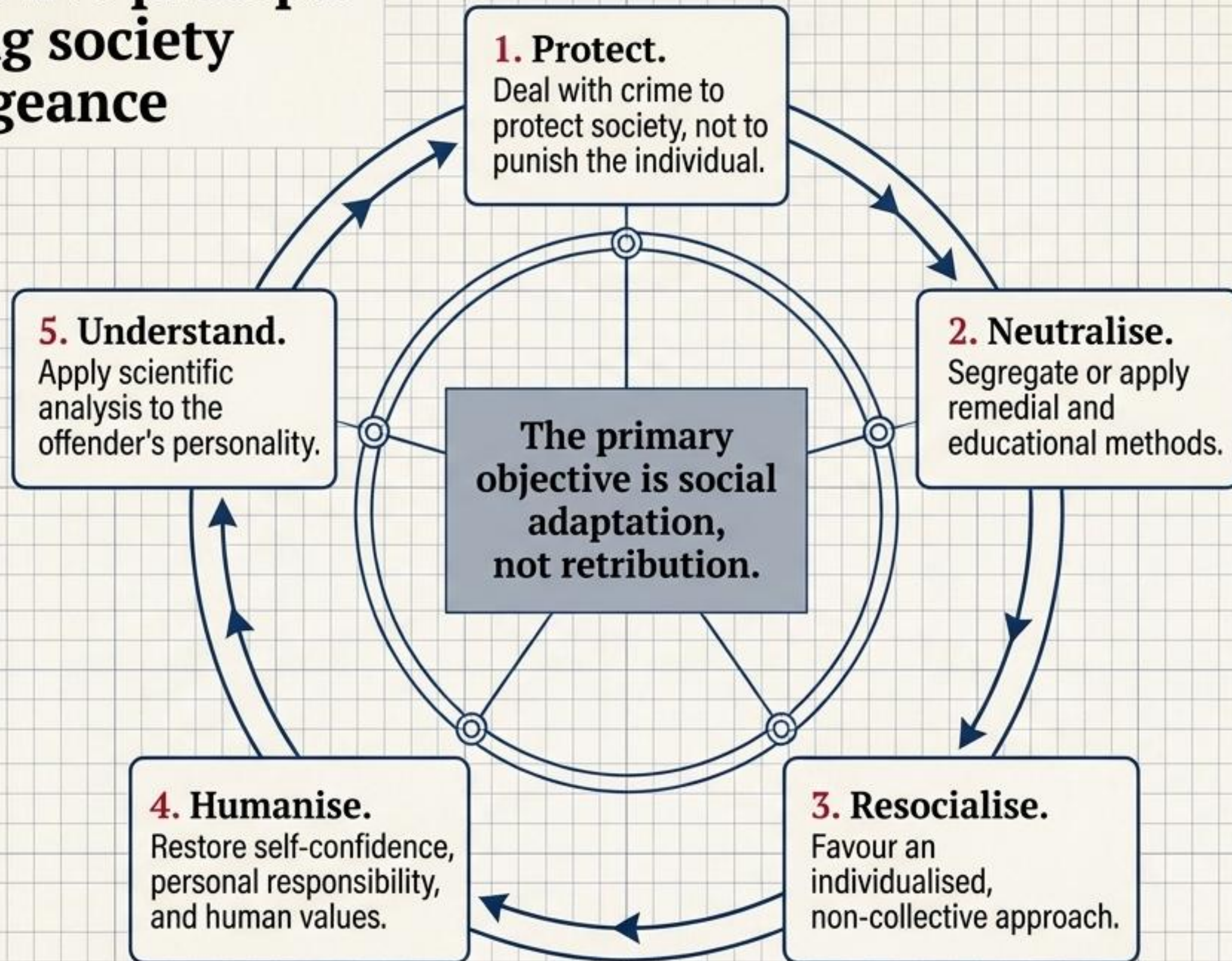
Parallel research by Hooton, Sheldon, and the Gluecks maintained a separate track emphasising body-build and familial degeneration.

Social Defence transcended earlier schools by reconciling penal law with offender rehabilitation







Theorised by Fillippo Gramatica and implemented by Marc Ancel, Social Defence firmly rejects legal fictions like mens rea (intent) and eliminates punishment as an end goal.

Marc Ancel's five precepts for protecting society without vengeance



The Shifting Lens: A diagnostic comparison of the four criminological paradigms

	Classical School 	Positive School 	American School 	Social Defence 
Core Focus	The Offence	The Individual	The Environment	Society & Integration
View of Behaviour	Free Will	Determinism (Biology & Psychology)	Determinism (Sociology)	Caused but Adaptable
Primary Goal	Equal Punishment	Diagnosis & Treatment	Environmental Reform	Protection & Resocialisation
Relationship to Law	Adheres strictly to Law	De-emphasises Law	De-emphasises Law	Brings Law back to serve offender needs

Modern applied criminology balances four concurrent modalities of intervention

Control Model

Emphasises external control, arrest, custody, and behaviour modification. (Echoes Classical/Retributive theories).

Medical Model

Offenders are viewed as 'sick' patients requiring psychotherapy, casework, and counselling. (Echoes Positivist theories).

No definitive superiority exists. In practice, all four modalities are brought to bear on the offender simultaneously to varying degrees.

Justice Model

Determinate sentencing based strictly on crime seriousness, ignoring causation entirely. (Purely Classical approach).

Sociogenic Model

Focus on improving social and economic settings, housing, and neighbourhoods. (Echoes American/Sociological theories).

The enduring friction between social order and the grace of justice

Criminology has irreversibly evolved from the supernatural pursuit of vengeance into a complex, sociologically anchored science. Crime is now understood not just as an individual failure, but as an identification of systemic problem areas in society.



**“Crime really creates the social order,
and not the other way around...
There is little grace in justice.”**