



# The Anatomy of a Discipline

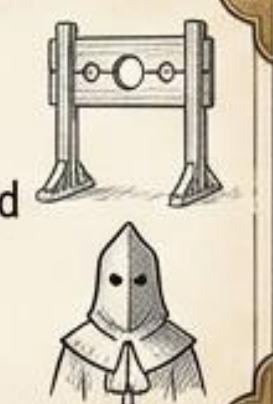
Tracing the evolution of **criminology** from medieval vengeance to philosophical legalism, and into the era of empirical determinism.  
A curated history of human self-awareness.

# The Evolutionary Pendulum of Justice

Criminology is not a static set of rules; it is the history of a pendulum swing in human thought. To understand the discipline is to trace society's shifting gaze over centuries.


### 1. The Society

Focus on vengeance, supernatural forces, and protecting the social order at all costs.



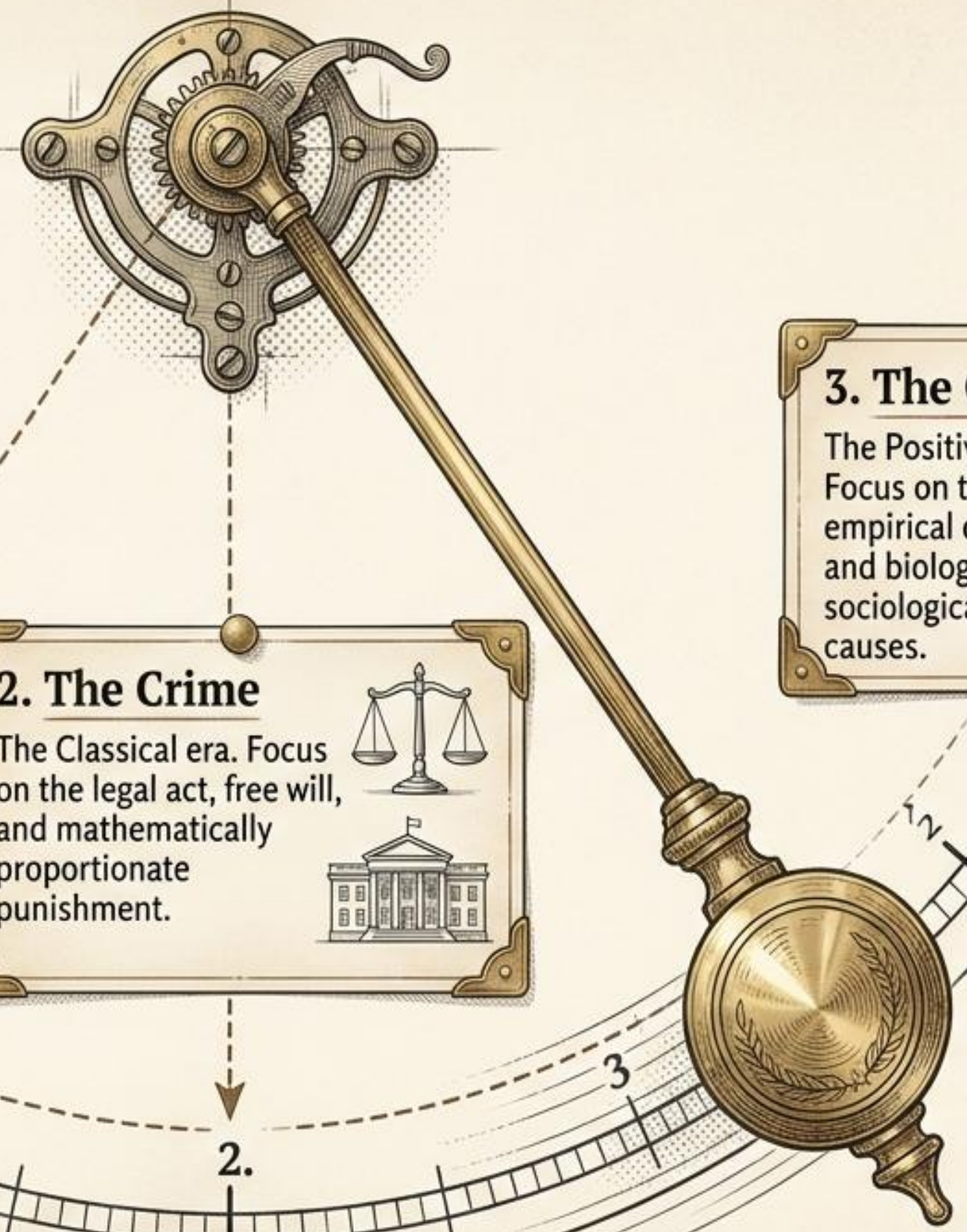

### 2. The Crime

The Classical era. Focus on the legal act, free will, and mathematically proportionate punishment.



### 3. The Criminal

The Positive era. Focus on the individual, empirical determinism, and biological or sociological root causes.



# From Vengeance to Formal Law

Before criminology could emerge as a science, society first had to formalize the concept of a "crime"—shifting from personal torts (the Latin *crimen*, meaning "accusation") to formalized state offenses.

## 1166 A.D. – Assize of Clarendon

King Henry II structures the jury system, recognizes the sheriff as an officer of the law, and classifies felonies versus misdemeanours.



## 1285 to 1500 – The Westminster Period

Edward I's statutes establish that all persons "shall be treated alike before the law." Institutions of justice are remodelled, including the creation of a nightwatch and the justice of the peace (1316).



## 1215 – Magna Carta

King John issues the foundational symbol of civil and constitutional rights.



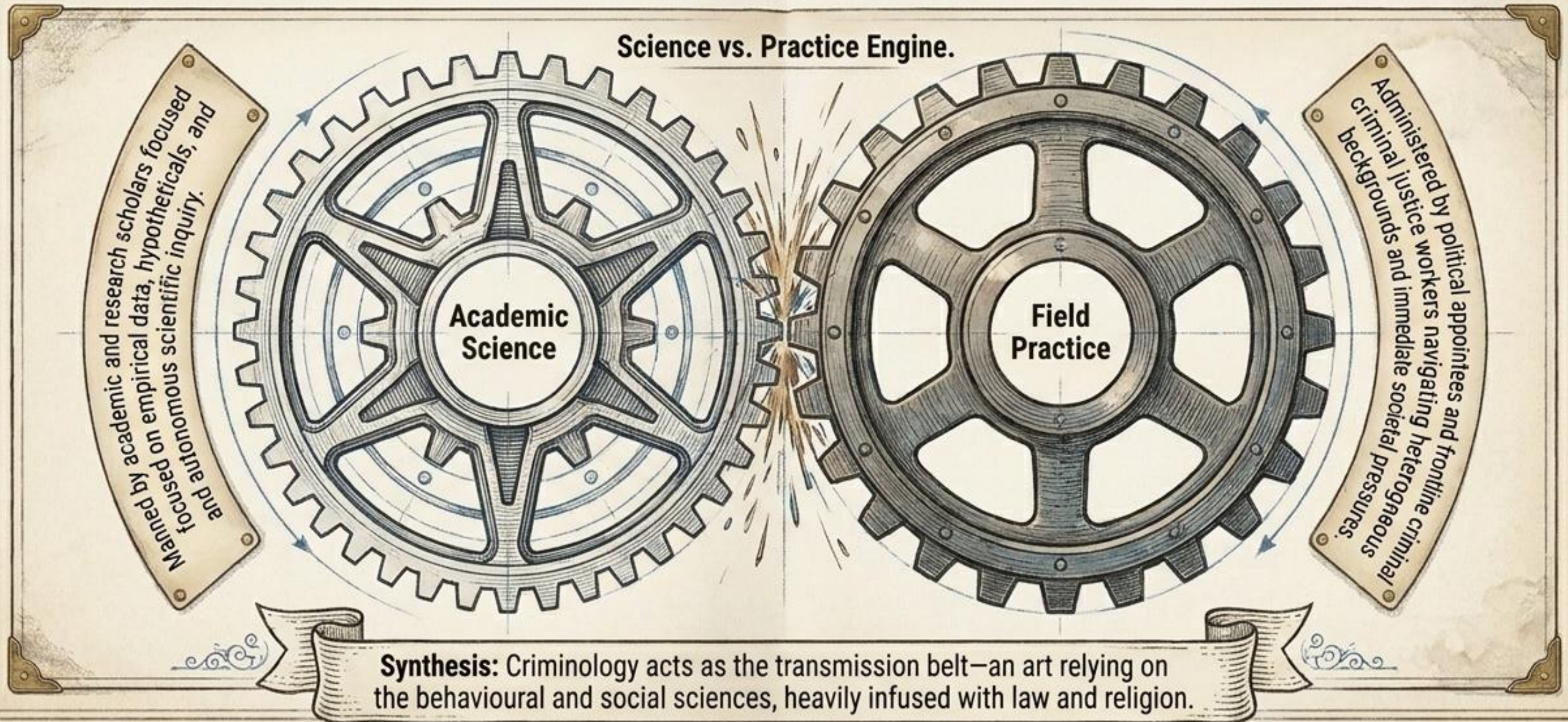
## 1487 – Star Chamber

State-run *ex parte* proceedings are instituted to try offenders against the state.



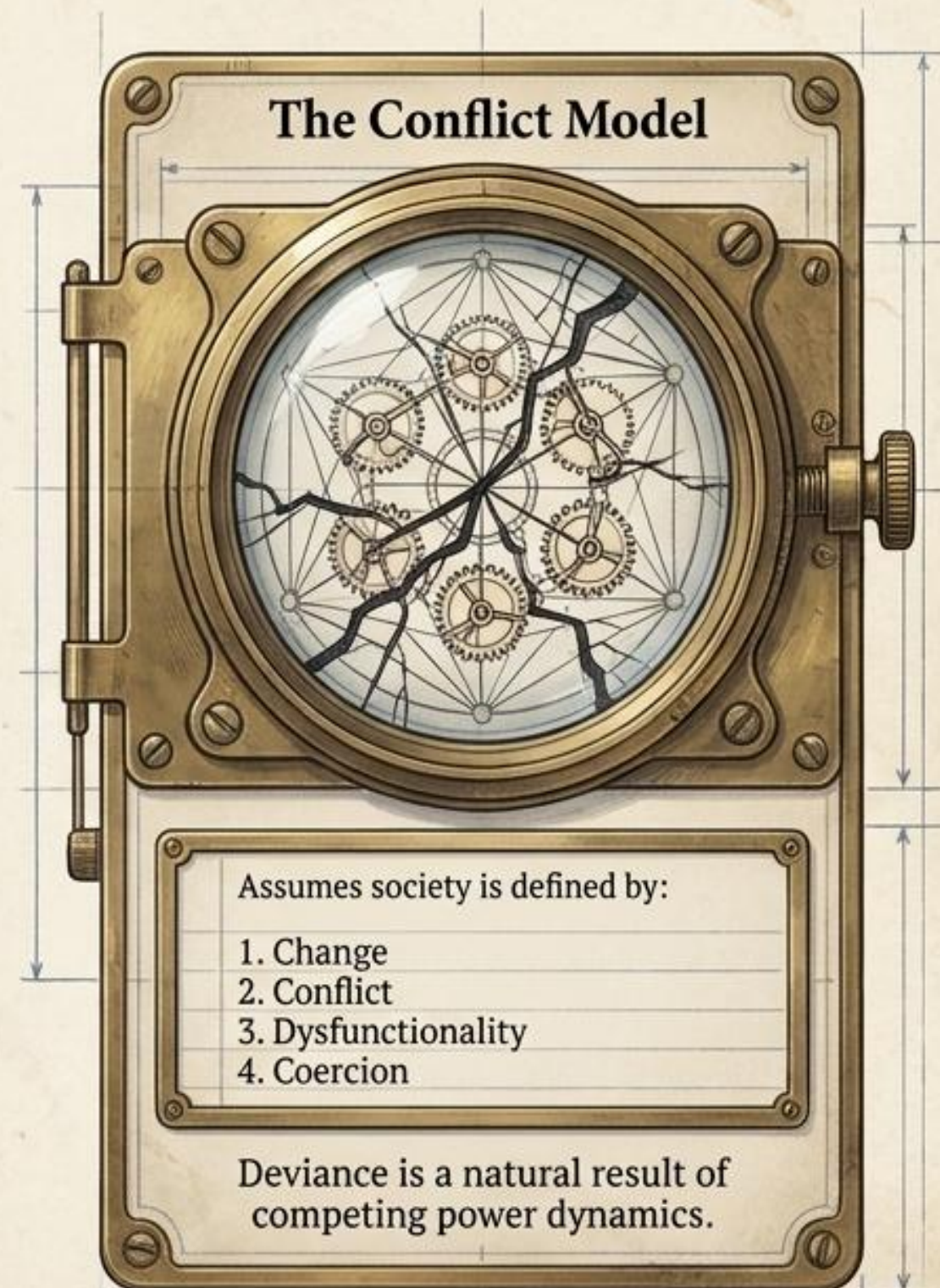
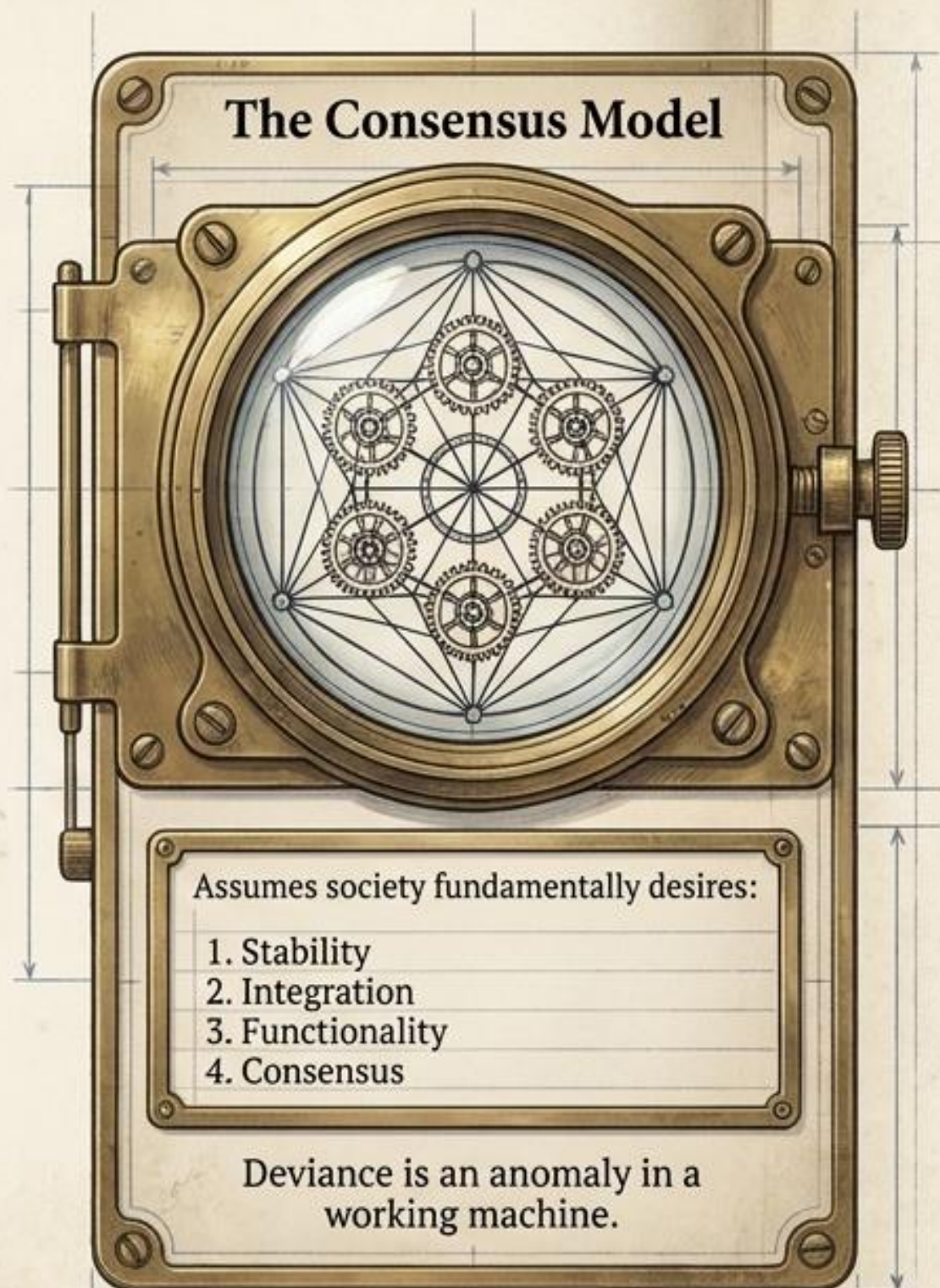
# An Art Based on Sciences

Crime is a sociopolitical event, not a clinical condition with a specific medical cure. As Elmer Johnson noted in 1964, understanding it requires welding together two often disparate branches.



# Two Diagnostic Lenses of Society

Because crime is defined by the law as behaviour sufficiently deviant to merit state intervention, one's view of criminology depends entirely on one's view of societal structure.

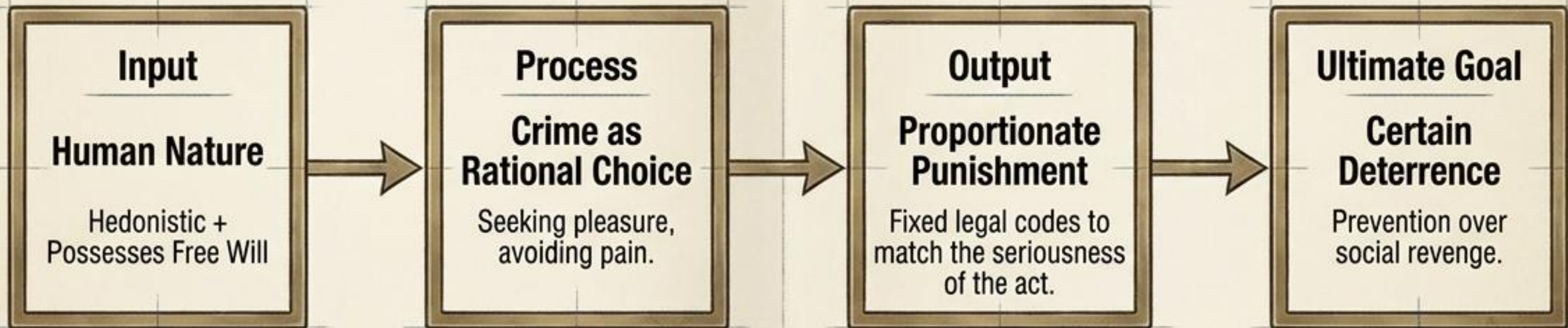


# The Classical School: Reason and Legalism

Ignited by Cesare Beccaria's 1764 *Essay on Crimes and Punishments*, the Classical School rejected supernatural causes and vindictive vengeance. It built a rigid, systematised discipline upon a single, utilitarian premise.

## Utilitarian Logic Flowchart

*The Crime*

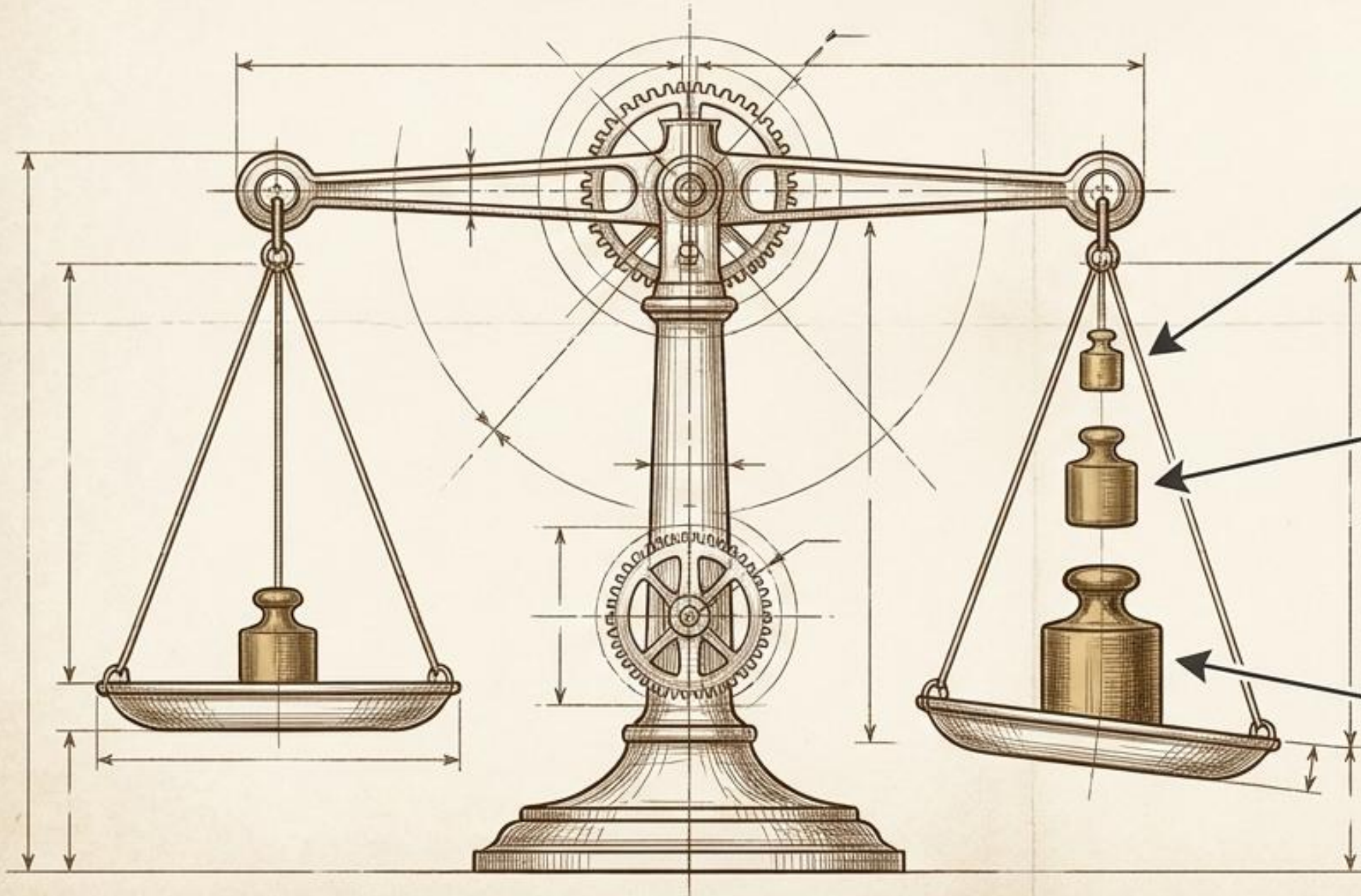


### Note

Side Note: This logic directly resulted in the codification of English criminal law by 1800 and the strict French Code of 1791.

# The Neoclassical Adjustment

The strict implementation of Classical theory—such as the French Code of 1791 —proved unworkable. Punishing first-time offenders, repeaters, the insane, and minors identically based solely on the act ignored reality.



## Modified Free Will

Acknowledging that pathology, age, or incompetence limits true rational choice.

## Mitigating Circumstances

Allowing context to soften rigid sentencing.

## Expert Testimony

Admitting external professionals into court to determine the degree of responsibility (e.g., the 1843 McNaghten Rules defining insanity).

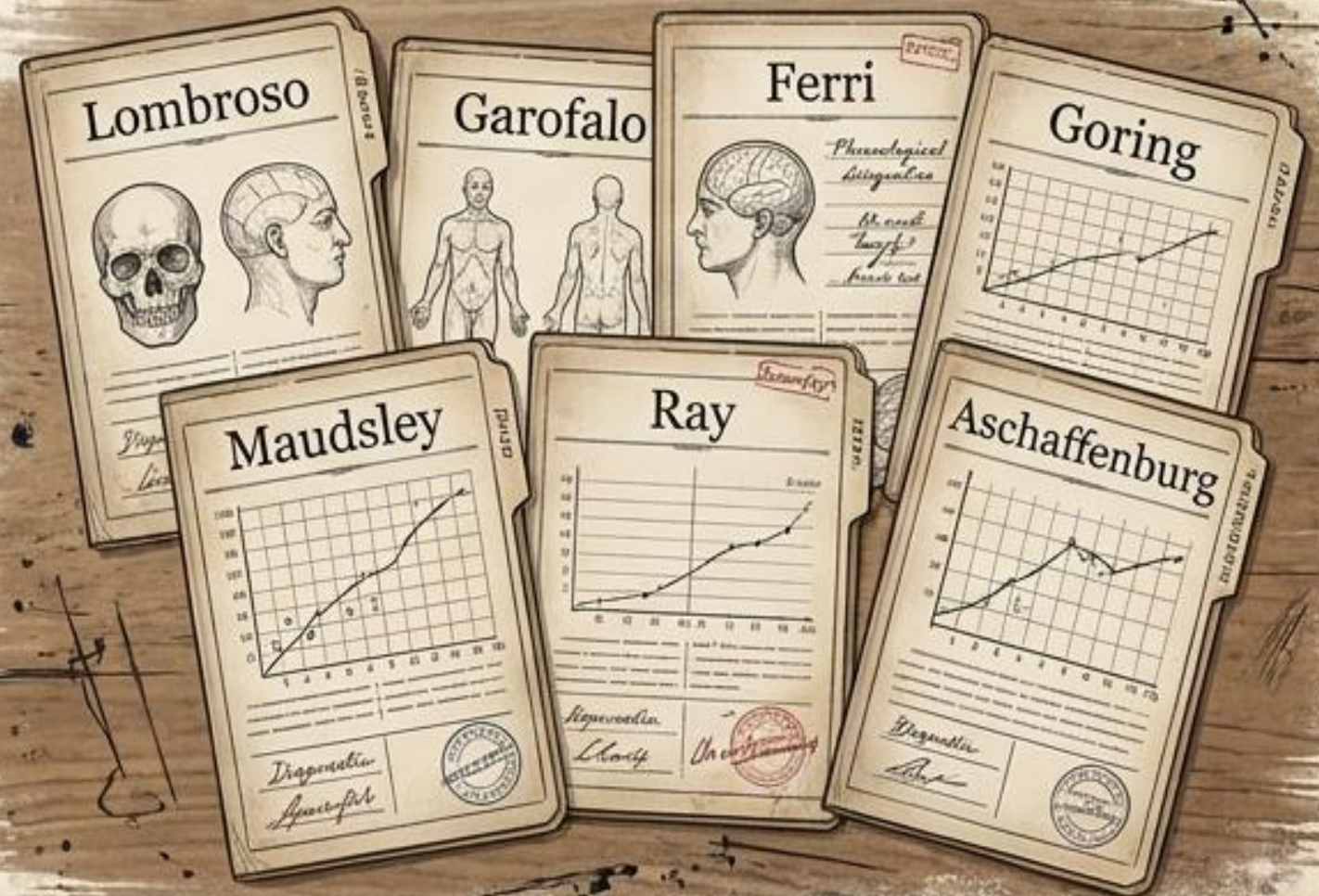
# Diverging Obsessions

As the discipline matured, a fundamental schism emerged among early criminologists. The field fractured based on whether the primary object of study should be the legal infraction, or the human being committing it.

## Obsessed with the Offense

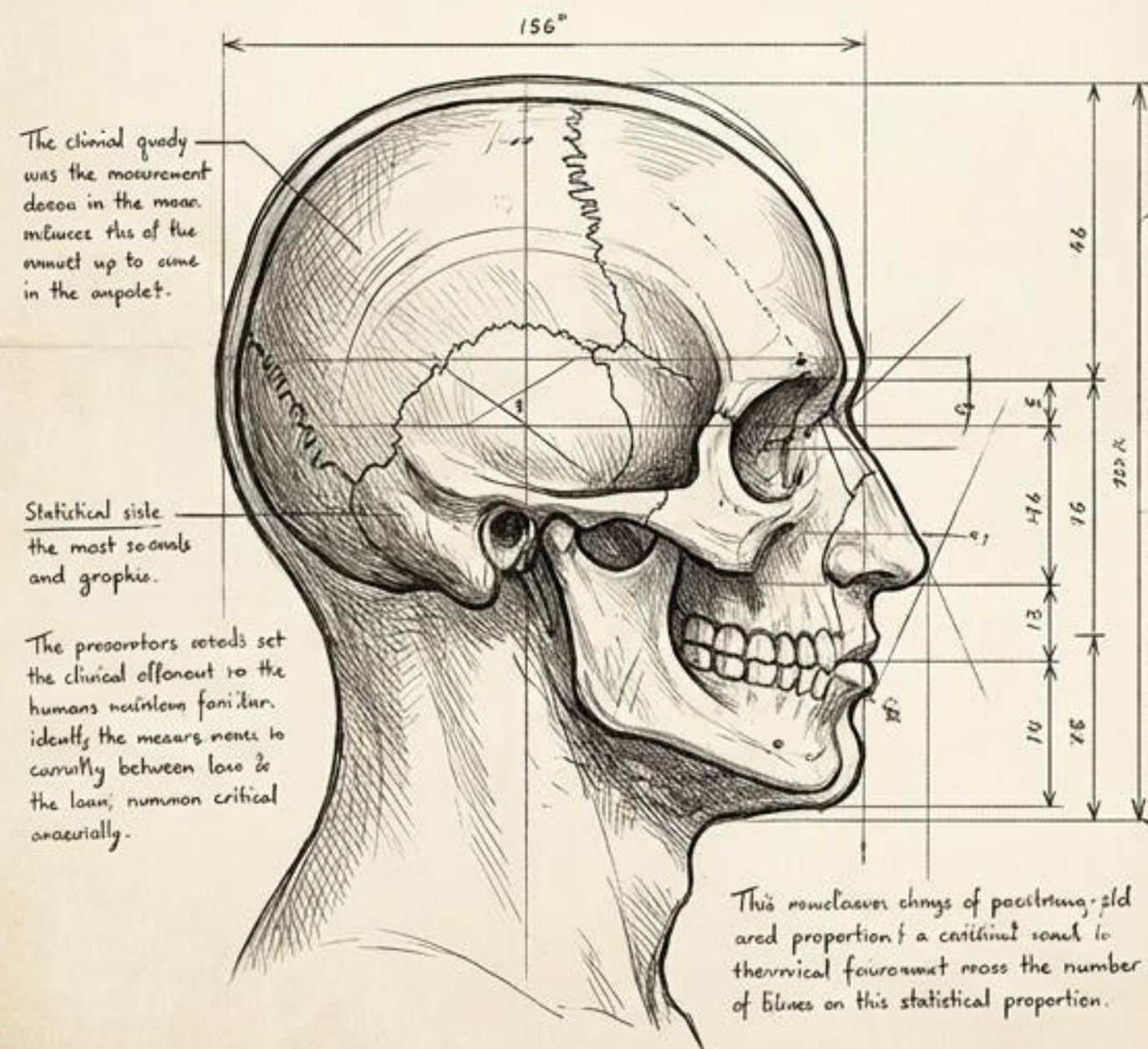


## Obsessed with the Offender



# The Positive School: Empirical Determinism

Initiated by Cesare Lombroso's *The Criminal Man* (1876), the Positive School violently rejected the Classical concept of free will. It demanded that observations be based on objective scientific proof, arguing that criminality was a condition to be diagnosed, not just an act to be punished.



## Denial of Free Will

Human behaviour is an inescapable chain of interrelated causes.

## Biological & Social Heritage

Crime is caused by physical traits, economic status, or environmental factors (furthered by Enrico Ferri).

## Nonpunitive Response

If the offender lacks free choice, the system's goal must be treatment and prevention, not punitive deterrence.

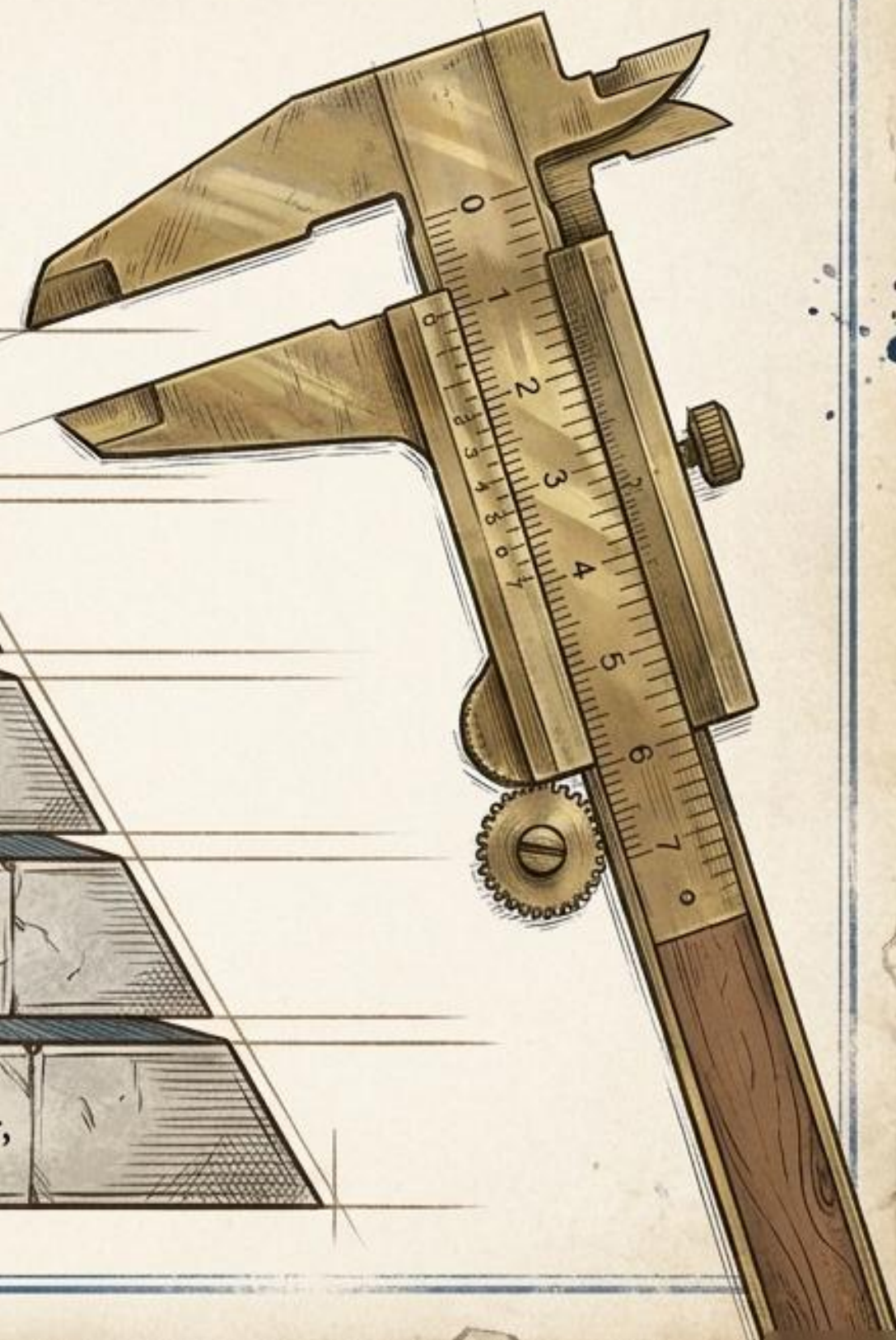
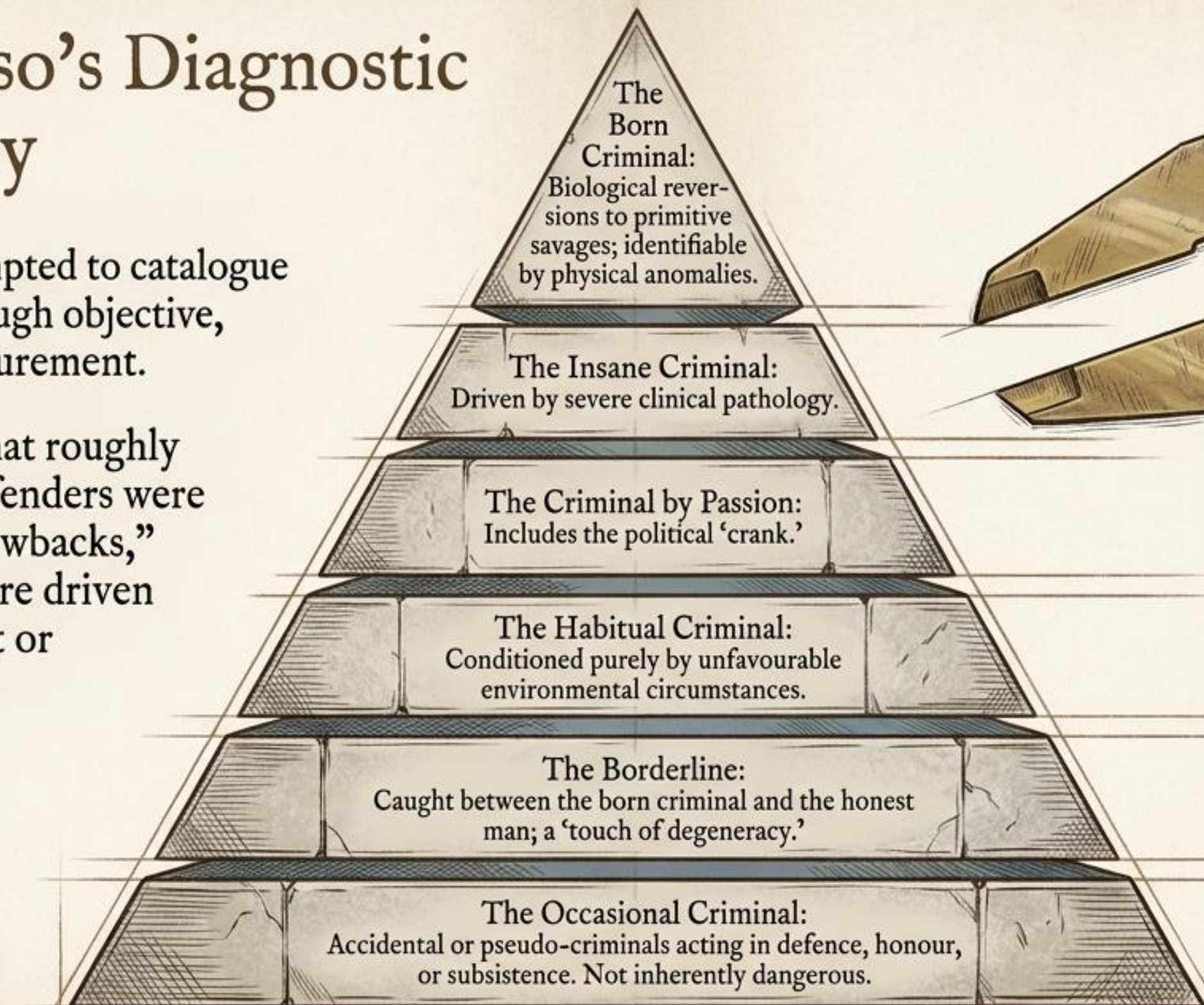


*The Criminal*

# Lombroso's Diagnostic Typology

Lombroso attempted to catalogue criminality through objective, biological measurement.

He estimated that roughly one-third of offenders were biological "throwbacks," while others were driven by environment or circumstance.



# The Two Pillars: A Comparative Analysis


The fundamental schism in criminological thought, captured through two opposing intellectual lenses.

	The Classical School	The Positive School
<b>Era &amp; Catalyst</b>	1764, Beccaria's Essay	1876, Lombroso's The Criminal Man
<b>Core Philosophy</b>	Free will and rational choice	Empirical determinism and causation
<b>View of Human Nature</b>	Hedonistic; seeking pleasure and avoiding pain	Driven by biological and social heritage
<b>Primary Focus</b>	The act / The legalities	The actor / The individual
<b>Goal of Justice</b>	Proportionate punishment and uniform deterrence	Rehabilitation, treatment, and structural prevention


# Expanding the Ledger: Social and Mental Metrics

By the late 19th century, Darwinian influence and new statistical methods birthed "social physics." The search for causality expanded rapidly beyond Lombroso's morphologic types into sociology and clinical psychology.

## Cartographic & Socialist (1830-1850)

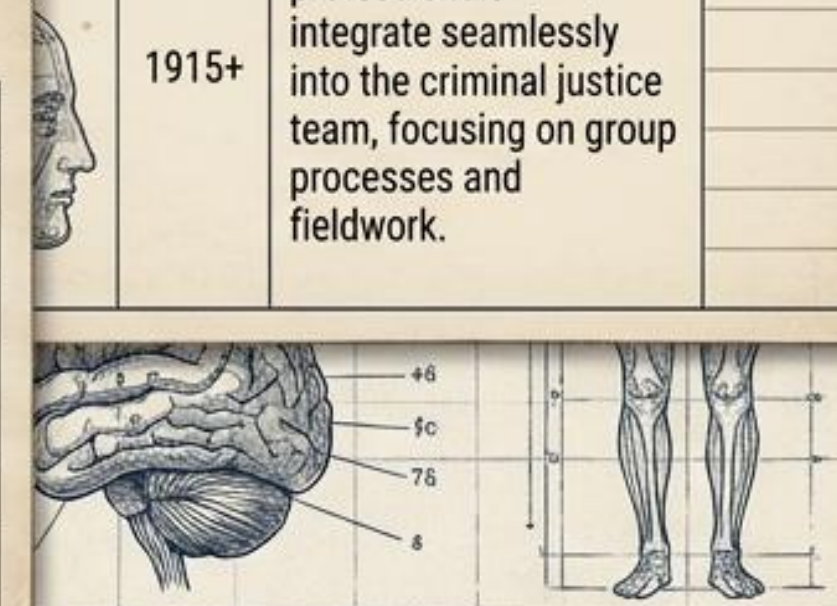
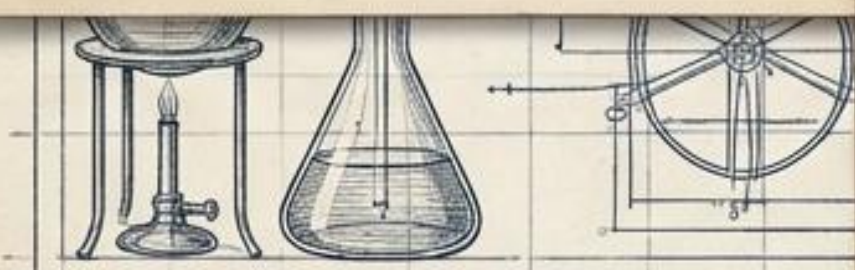
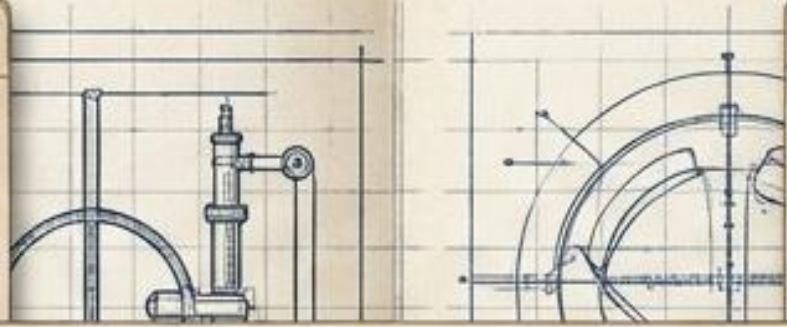
SCHOOL	DATE OF ORIGIN	CONTENT OF EXPLANATION	METHODS
 Classical neoclassical	1830	Auguste Comte, Adolphe Quetelet, and Karl Marx's successors chart ecology, population composition, and economic determinism using early maps and statistics.	

## Mental Testers (1905)

SCHOOL	DATE OF ORIGIN	CONTENT OF EXPLANATION	METHODS
 Classical neoclassical	1905	Alfred Binet and Theodore Simon produce the first intelligence test. Concepts like "mental age" and the I.Q. (coined by W. Stern in 1914) introduce psychological metrics to deviance.	

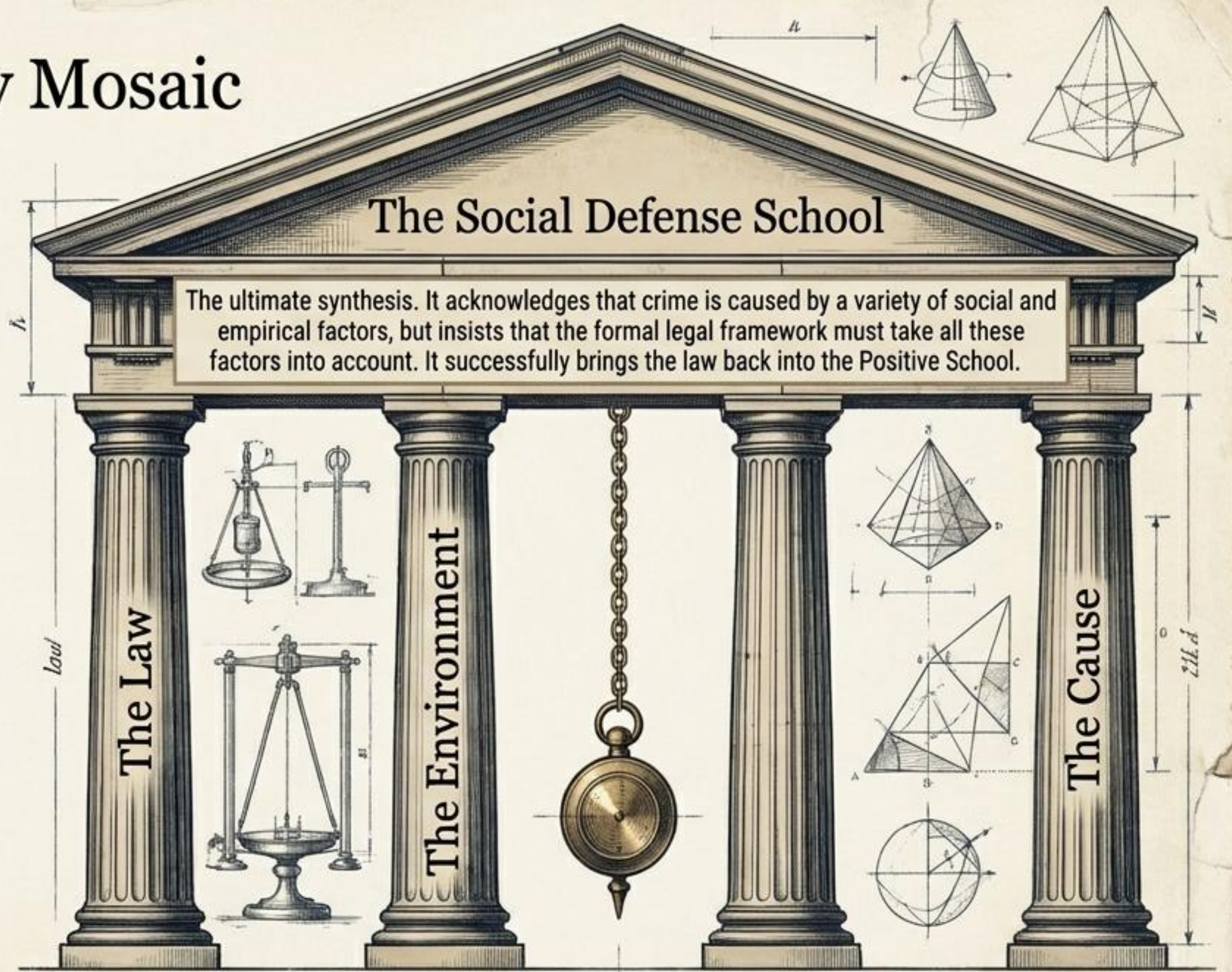
## Psychiatric & Sociological (1915+)

SCHOOL	DATE OF ORIGIN	CONTENT OF EXPLANATION	METHODS
Lomprosonian	1915+	William Healy introduces the case study method; professionals integrate seamlessly into the criminal justice team, focusing on group processes and fieldwork.	



# The Interdisciplinary Mosaic

Modern criminology does not force a choice between free will and determinism. Instead, it synthesizes historical extremes into holistic, multi-disciplinary frameworks.



**The Social Defense School**  
The ultimate synthesis. It acknowledges that crime is caused by a variety of social and empirical factors, but insists that the formal legal framework must take all these factors into account. It successfully brings the law back into the Positive School.

The Law

The Environment

The Cause

The Classical demand for formal legal frameworks and proportionate justice.

The American School's focus on sociological theories of crime causation.

The Positive demand for empirical research into psychological and

The Positive demand for research into psychological and biological root causes.