

CRIME, JUSTICE AND POLITICS

Crime, Justice and Politics is the second volume of Michalos' study on the quality of life in the United States and Canada. It compiles and compares statistics related to such things as murder, rape, the number of law enforcement personnel, and rate of conviction. Also included is an analysis of numbers related to such indicators as voter turnout, campaign spending, military expenditures, and union support and distrust. While his information is dated, some of his findings are quite interesting.

On the matter of crime and justice, Michalos' findings are ambiguous. He does find that Canada fares better on such indicators as crime rates, the amount of people charged, conviction rates, and the number of lawyers. But contrary to conventional wisdom, Michalos concludes that "with respect to the general area of criminal justice, the quality of life in Canada is lower than that in the United States" (p. 62). This is so, he says, because the United States fares better with respect to violent crime convictions, the number of practicing lawyers, and expenditures on criminal justice. (ambiguous!)

With respect to politics and organizations, Michalos' general finding is that "the quality of life in Canada is higher than that in the United States". His evaluative matrix, in fact, implies that in this area, Canada is almost twice as well off. This is the case, he finds, because of Canada's performance on such indicators as voter turnout, foreign aid, military expenditures, satisfaction with the nation's world position, and percentage of unionized labour force.

A summary of some of his findings is attached.

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