

■ ***Crime in the Digital Age: Controlling Telecommunications and Cyberspace Illegals.*** P.N. Grabosky and Russell G. Smith. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 1998. 259 pp. \$25 pbk.

In a truly "Digital Age," no aspect of life will escape some type of alteration, and crime apparently is no exception. While the term "computer crime" generally prompts thoughts of software piracy, hacking, or solicitation for child pornography, *Crime in the Digital Age* examines how transition to a "Digital Age" will affect every crime that involves or could involve use of a telecommunications system. Since that essentially is every crime, the volume has a rather broad sweep. What makes the volume particularly useful, however, is that it brings an international perspective to the role of digital technologies, their regulation, and their effects.

Although the Internet is an international network, the dominance of U.S. technology and commercial interests often overshadows its global reach—another aspect, perhaps, of U.S. media imperialism. While the authors, P.N. Grabosky and Russell G. Smith of the Australian Institute of Criminology in Canberra, use examples of crime, law enforcement, and case law from the United States, Great Britain, and other countries, their Australian perspective is refreshing in the analysis of laws and regulations pertaining to the Internet and how to deal with "digital crime." U.S. readers particularly may be interested in jurisdictional issues in Australia's criminal justice system.

Crime in the Digital Age does not ignore the most standard connotations of "computer crime." The volume addresses software piracy in the larger context of "Telecommunications Piracy," hacking in the larger context of "Electronic Vandalism and Terrorism," and "Pornography and Other Offensive Content." The volume, however, also examines topics as varied as illegal interception of telecommunications, stealing telecommunications services, and "electronic money laundering." Generally, whatever analog telecommunications can do to assist crime, digital communications systems can do better, faster, and more efficiently.

With the rapidly changing nature of digital communication technologies and their

applications, the authors make no conclusive forecasts of the full effects that digital technologies may have on criminal activity. They attempt, instead, to look at how individuals and institutions, national and international, may have to cope with digital crime and how to balance these approaches effectively. They support consistency in how nations address criminal use of digital technologies.

No singular or simple approach, however, is appropriate for dealing with digital crime. The authors contend that efforts to counter such crime need to be broad-based. They suggest a five-program approach to crime countermeasures that would include self-protection on the part of individuals, market-based commercial solutions, self-regulation on the part of commercial interests, law enforcement or state regulation where necessary, and third-party intervention where necessary.

Crime in the Digital Age would be valuable reading for communication law and policy courses, international communication courses, and new media courses. As often is the case with books that deal with the Internet or new communication technologies, the shelf life may be too short because of the rapidly changing media environment. The authors, however, create a useful framework for continuing study as technology, crime, and case law change.

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■ ***Cultural Diversity and the U.S. Media.*** Yahya R. Kamalipour and Theresa Carilli, eds. Albany, NY: State University of New York, 1998. 307 pp. \$21.95 pbk.

Describing the illustration on the cover of this book is perhaps the best way to explain the nature of the topics addressed by this edited volume. A television screen (or perhaps a computer screen, anyhow some sort of cathode ray tube) exploding into fragments symbolizes the many facets of cultural diversity and the various approaches taken by the contributors of this book.

Authors, predominantly from the fields of communication and sociology, approach the