Crime is low now. **Taylor 11/20[[1]](#footnote--1)**

Murders and other **crimes are not spiking in 2015**, contrary to suspicions that police have scaled back on protecting their communities due to scrutiny of their tactics following the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, [a phenomenon that has been dubbed “the Ferguson effect.](http://america.aljazeera.com/watch/shows/Ali-Velshi-On-Target/2015/6/the-ferguson-effect-is-leading-to-lawlessness.html)” That’s according **to** researchers from [**the Brennan Center for Justice** at New York University School of Law](http://www.brennancenter.org/), a law and policy institute, who [**released a report Thursday in which they dispel the notion**](https://www.brennancenter.org/publication/crime-2015-preliminary-analysis)**that crime is on the rise** in U.S. cities. The report found that the incidence of crime in 2015 is about the same as it was in 2014, and that murder rates have only increased slightly over the last year. “**The average person** in a large urban area **is safer** walking **on the street** today **than** he or she would have been **at** almost **any time in the past 30 years**,” the authors wrote. “Although headlines suggesting a coming crime wave make good copy, a look at the available data shows there is no evidence to support this claim.” The researchers examined preliminary statistics on murders and general crime data from the 30 largest U.S. cities from Jan. 1 through Oct. 1, 2015, gathered from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and local police departments.What they found is that **overall crime rates** — which they calculated using a statistical composite of murder, non-negligent manslaughter, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, larceny and auto theft — **thus far in 2015 decreased by 1.5 percent** as compared to 2014.

The AFF increases crime, specifically drug crime the people in the AFF will uniquely become dealers since they know they can get away with it. Leipold 96**[[2]](#footnote-0)**

This reasoning is contradicted by everything we know about how incentives affect behavior. **The belief that defendants will mend their ways is** particularly **hard to figure.** It is unlikely that **those in the drug business** commit their crimes because they feel under appreciated by their community, or because they misperceive the harm that drugs cause. More likely, they **sell and use drugs because they** have loosely **calculated the costs**[\*129]  and benefits of doing so, have weighed the alternatives that seem available to them, and have decided that crime is the most profitable use of their time. [n74](http://ntlic.nths.net:2053/us/lnlib/frame.do?tokenKey=rsh-20.296291.955042964&target=results_DocumentContent&returnToKey=20_T23036228709&parent=docview&rand=1447890834609&reloadEntirePage=true" \l "n74) A **race-based** **acquittal will** probably **change these calculations, but not in a desirable direction. Black defendants will soon learn that black jurors enter a trial with a presumption of nullification, and thus will quickly understand that the cost of drug dealing has just gone down.** Drug dealers already work on the assumption that they will not get caught, and if caught, that they will not be convicted; using nullification to reduce the odds of conviction will increase, not decrease, the likelihood that a defendant will continue his current line of work. [n75](http://ntlic.nths.net:2053/us/lnlib/frame.do?tokenKey=rsh-20.296291.955042964&target=results_DocumentContent&returnToKey=20_T23036228709&parent=docview&rand=1447890834609&reloadEntirePage=true" \l "n75)

Drugs spillover elsewhere drug users lead to more violent crime – low drug crime reduced murders, rapes robberies and assaults. **Jablonski 8**[[3]](#footnote-1),

"That person needs to support his habit," Blount told NPR. "**It's kind of like a spider web effect, where you have the drug user in the middle, and then this person is responsible for a multitude of other things**." Eric Siddall, a Los Angeles prosecutor who serves on the board of the Association of Deputy District Attorneys, staunch opponents of Proposition 47, told NPR **the increased penalties kept the criminals off the streets and made neighborhoods safer**. But academics like Steven Raphael, an economist at the University of California, Berkeley, and an expert in the costs and benefits of a big prison population, told NPR it's not that simple. "What drove the increase over the last three decades was sort of a series of sentencing reforms that were just kind of layered on top of each other, decade after decade, especially during the '80s and '90s," Raphael told NPR. "And I don't know that there was really much attention being paid to the effectiveness of this particular tool. We have a fairly strong body of research that suggests as the incarceration rate goes up, the effectiveness of incarceration as a crime-control tool goes down." Steve Cook, president of the National Association of Assistant U.S. Attorneys, wrote an op-ed piece Thursday in USA Today defending mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines. "**In the mid-1980s, we endured a wave of violent crime that was largely caused by the crack cocaine epidemic**," Cook wrote. "**Congress responded by enacting mandatory minimum penalties for drug trafficking, and law enforcement began using those mandatory minimum sentences to dismantle drug trafficking organizations. "By the early 1990s, we began to experience a steady, dramatic reduction in violent crime, including murders, rapes, robberies and assaults. As of 2013, violent crime rates were cut in half with similar reductions in property crime. That's no coincidence. Mandatory minimum penalties are the cornerstone of federal efforts to infiltrate and dismantle drug trafficking organizations."**

Crime kills soft power. **Falk 12**[[4]](#footnote-2)

This unabashed avowal of imperial goals is the main thesis of the article, perhaps most graphically expressed in the following words: "The United States can increase the effectiveness of its military forces and make the world safe for soft power, America's inherent comparative advantage." As the glove fits the hand, **soft power** complements hard power within the wider enterprise of transforming the world in the United States' image, or at least in the ideal version of the United States' sense of self. The authors acknowledge (rather parenthetically) that their strategy **may not work if the US continues** much longer **to be seen unfavourably abroad as a national abode of** drugs, **crime, [and] violence**, fiscal irresponsibility, family breakdown, and political gridlock. **They make a** rather meaningless **plea to restore "a** **healthy democracy" at home as a prelude to** the heavy lifting of **democratising the world, but they** do not pretend medical knowledge, and **offer no prescriptions for restoring the health of the American body politic.** And now, 16 years after their article appeared, it would appear that the adage, "disease unknown, cure unknown", applies.

#### Leveraging effective US soft power is key to prevent a laundry list of existential scenarios and large-scale oppression. **Lagon, 11**[[5]](#footnote-3)

**Despite** large economic **challenges**, two protracted military expeditions, and the rise of China, India, Brazil, and other new players on the international scene, **the** United States **still has an** unrivaled ability **to confront** terrorism, nuclear proliferation, financial instability, pandemic disease, mass atrocity, **or** tyranny. Although far from omnipotent, **the U**nited **S**tates **is still**, as former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called it, “**the indispensible nation.” Soft power is** crucial **to** sustaining and best leveraging **this role as catalyst**. That President Obama should have excluded it from his vision of America’s foreign policy assets—particularly in the key cases of Iran, Russia, and Egypt—suggests that he feels the country has so declined, not only in real power but in the power of example, that it lacks the moral authority to project soft power. In the 1970s, many also considered the US in decline as it grappled with counterinsurgency in faraway lands, a crisis due to economic stagnation, and reliance on foreign oil. Like Obama, Henry Kissinger tried to manage decline in what he saw as a multipolar world, dressing up prescriptions for policy as descriptions of immutable reality. In the 1980s, however, **soft power played a crucial part in a turnaround for US foreign policy. Applying it**, President Reagan sought **to transcend a nuclear balance** of terror with defensive technologies, **pushed allies** in the Cold War (e.g., El Salvador, Chile, Taiwan, South Korea, and the Philippines) **to liberalize** for their own good, backed labor movements opposed to Communists in Poland and Central America, and called for the Berlin Wall to be torn down—over Foggy Bottom objections. This symbolism not only boosted the perception and the reality of US influence, but also hastened the demise of the USSR and the Warsaw Pact. For Barack Obama, this was the path not taken. Even the Arab Spring has not cured his acute allergy to soft power. His May 20, 2011, speech on the Middle East and Northern Africa came four months after the Jasmine Revolution emerged. His emphasis on 1967 borders as the basis for Israeli-Palestinian peace managed to eclipse even his broad words (vice deeds) on democracy in the Middle East. Further, those words failed to explain his deeds in continuing to support some Arab autocracies (e.g., Bahrain’s, backed by Saudi forces) even as he gives tardy rhetorical support for popular forces casting aside other ones. To use soft power without hard power is to be Sweden. To use hard power without soft power is to be China. Even France, with its long commitment to realpolitik, has overtaken the United States as proponent and implementer of humanitarian intervention in Libya and Ivory Coast. When the American president has no problem with France combining hard and soft power better than the United States, something is seriously amiss

1. Taylor, Marisa. "Crime, Murder Rates Hold Steady in 2015, Report Say." *Http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/11/20/crime-murder-rates-hold-steady-in-2015.html*. Al Jazera, 11 Nov. 2015. Web. 22 Nov. 2015. <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/11/20/crime-murder-rates-hold-steady-in-2015.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref--1)
2. Andrew D. Leipold, [Associate Professor, University of Illinois College of Law], “The Dangers of Race-Based Jury Nullification: A Response to Professor Butler,” UCLA Law Review Vol. 44, 1996. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
3. Ray. "Some Fear Obama's Plan To Reduce Federal Sentencing Guidelines Will Increase Crime Rates.” May 10, 2008. Web. October 16, 2015. <http://www.cleveland.com/nation/index.ssf/2015/07/some\_fear\_obamas\_plan\_to\_reduc. html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
4. “When soft power is hard,” Richard Falk, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Palestinian human rights. Al Jazzera Opinion. July 28th, 2012. http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/07/201272212435524825.html [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
5. (Mark P. Lagon, International Relations and Security Chair at Georgetown University's Master of Science in Foreign Service Program and adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He is the former US Ambassador-at-Large to Combat Trafficking in Persons at the US Department of State, Sept/Oct 2011, "The Value of Values: Soft Power Under Obama", World Affairs Journal, http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/article/value-values-soft-power-under-obama#ER, DA: 7-7-2015) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)