

Policing by Consent

Criminal Justice

The principle that police authority rests on approval, not force.

The nine principles, in the form usually taught.

Principles

The purpose of police is to prevent crime

Power depends on public approval

Cooperation falls as force is used

The police are the public, the public the police

Success is absence of crime, not visible action

In practice

Consent is uneven across communities

A normative standard, not a description

Used to test practice, not to record it

Legitimacy has to be earned repeatedly

Attributed to Peel, but written later

Educational reference. Historians dispute the attribution of the nine principles to Peel himself; the standard still functions.