

URBANIZATION, POLICING, and SECURITY

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES



Edited by
Gary Cordner
AnnMarie Cordner
Dilip K. Das



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Policing Multiethnic Societies

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Policing in multiethnic and multidiverse societies all over the world has a long history of problems, nonacceptance, violation, disrespect of human rights, and other difficulties. Today, a great deal of policing research is being conducted and published in western literature on diverse societies (multirace, multiethnic, etc.). The results show that tensions between minority communities and the police are a widespread problem in many states (Brunson & Miller, 2006).

For example, many research studies show that drivers from minority communities are stopped and searched at proportionally higher rates than they are represented in the community (Withrow, 2004). Home Office figures from 1998 for the United Kingdom suggest that blacks are five times as likely to be stopped by the police as whites (Body-Gendort, 2004, p. 137). A degree of disproportionality of police use of stop powers based on ethnicity is a real problem in many countries (Wild, Hallsworth, Higwan, & McGuire, 2006). Many critics of policing consider this *prima facie* evidence of institutional racism.

The problem in relationships between police and race (ethnic) minorities is complicated with respect to security questions. The war on drugs, gangs, and

