

Rehabilitation in the U.S. Prisons System

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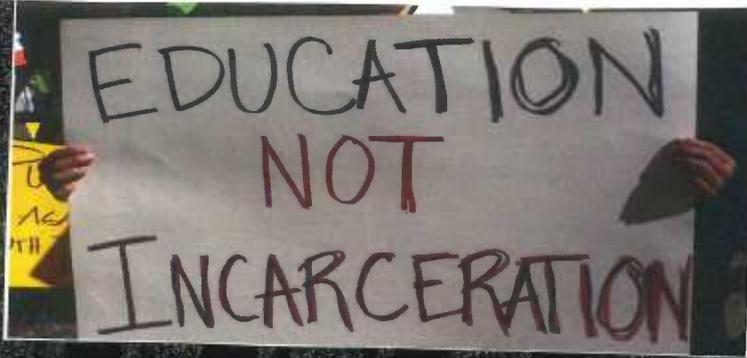
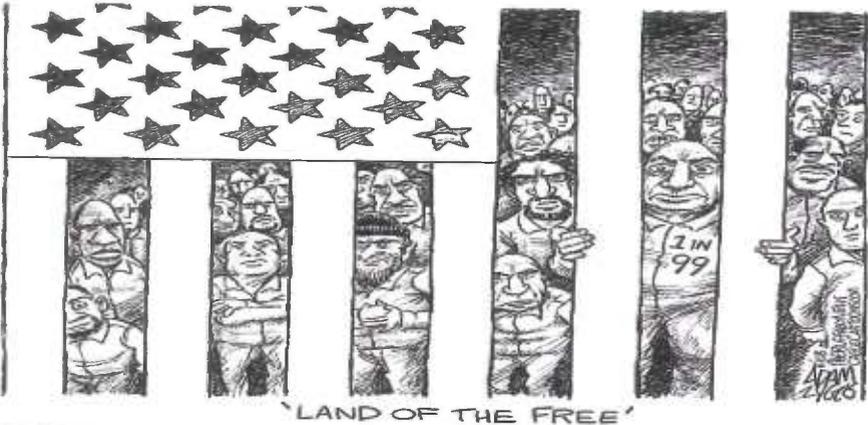


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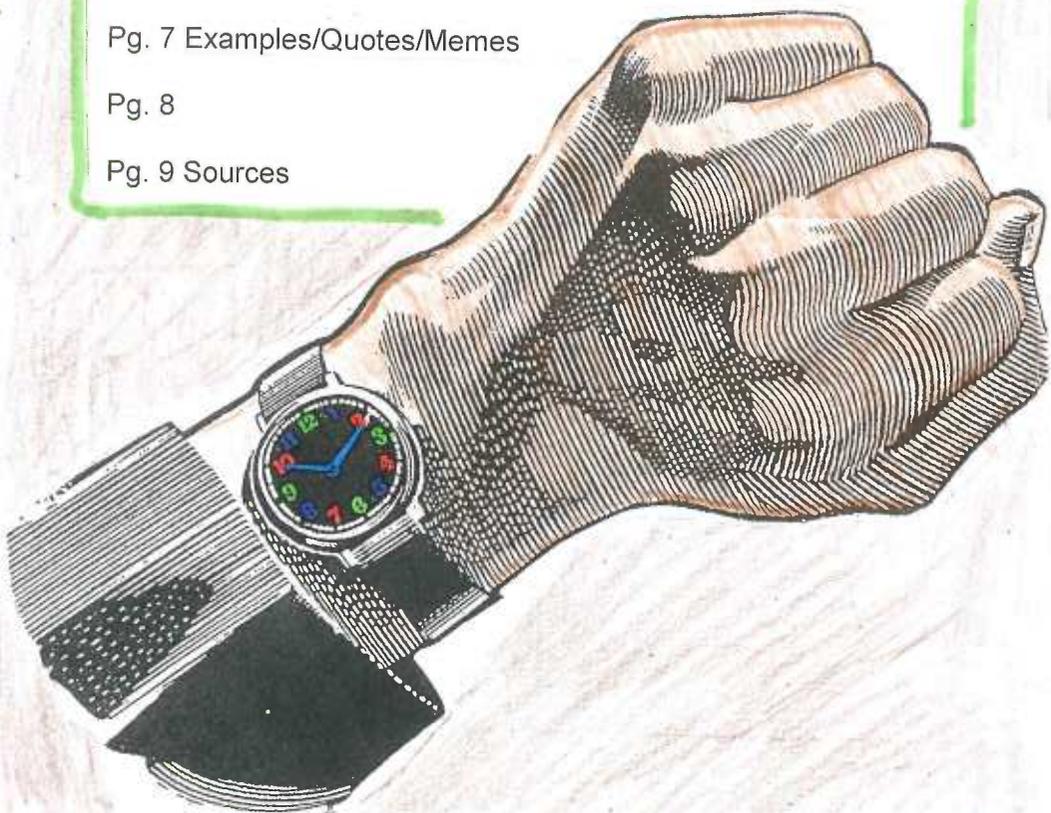
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{History of U.S. Prisons}

- U.S is the biggest jailer in the world with 5% of the global population but 25% of it is prisoners.
- Close to 7 million Americans are under adult correction supervision.
- This "prison" system was first established in 1790 when Pennsylvania became the first state to first have a prison.
- Early 1800's the punishments of people who were convicted were whipped, branded and mutilated (basically cut into pieces)
- During this time the people being convicted were politicians, religious offenders and debaters.
- At the end of 2007 research shows that there were 592,900 inmates that were black and 499,800 white inmates. A difference of 93,100 people
- At the end of 2017 U.S prisons overall held 4755,900 inmates that were black, 435,550 who were white. A difference of 39,400 people.
- Clearly over the span of 10 years the number of black inmates went down a lot but still until this day black inmates still take over a large population of prisons in the U.S.A



When comparing prison reform to other countries around the world, America falls short and there are several reasons why

The first problem: The American prison population has increased by 700 percent in the last 40 years and it has cost the state corrections expenditures about \$53.5 billion

The Second: Mass incarceration and increased investment in corrections in the US have been found not bring better safety in return. In other words, there is only about a 20 percent reduction in crime since the early 1990s. This is why rehabilitation programs should be a key factor in reducing crime and furthermore reduce crimes committed by individuals that have been in prison and are returning to society.



More Americans are being sent to prison, but the crime rate has not lowered drastically. There are several reasons for this; the first being that Americans are being sentenced for "petty" crimes such as drug offenses or theft. They can even get imprisoned for life for such crimes, whereas German and Dutch systems use a different approach.

American prisons use dehumanizing methods and focus more on punishment rather than rehabilitation. American prisons focus less on reform but rather on punishment, American prisoners have to follow strict rules such as daily schedule—when to wake up, what and when they eat, what they wear, which is usually a uniform.

It has been found that these factors lead American prisoners to not function in society after being released; they found that simple things like daily decision making is harder for them and making it hard for them to adjust to society.

The differences in rehabilitation across the globe

The United States can learn a lot from some European prisons that focus more on reforming and rehabilitating their prisoners than punishing them. There is a prison on Bastoy island in Norway that has a very different approach when handling its prisoners than any American prison.

The prisoners there are also allowed to have real jobs to develop skills for when they are released. The ferry from the mainland to the island is completely run by prisoners, even the ferry boat captain. This allows the prisoners to feel that they have some amount of freedom and that they are working towards something instead of sitting and rotting.



All of these reasons and more are why Norway has the least amount of recurring offenders while the United States have one of the highest and most offenders will return to prison within 3 years in the United States.

The Netherlands has much more relaxed sentences for non-violent crimes such as drugs and petty theft. It focuses on quickly rehabilitating these offenders to keep them out of jail and get them out fast.

Germany does much of the same but the only problem is the maximum prison sentence a lot of the time in these three countries is 21 years but can be extended if they have not been deemed "rehabilitated".

Rehabilitation Facts

- the process of returning to a healthy or good way of life, or the process of helping someone to do this after they have been in prison, been very ill, etc
- However, a rehab program helps you address the cause of your addiction and teaches you skills to manage it. It involves identifying the triggers that make you want to use and shows you how to avoid them
- Therapy offered are individual therapy, group therapy, and family therapy
- The plight of the mentally ill in prisons was virtually ignored for many years, but in the past decade many prison systems have realized--sometimes with prodding from the courts--that providing mental health care is a necessity, not a luxury,
- Today, somewhere between 15 and 20 percent of people in prison are mentally ill, according to U.S. Department of Justice estimates.

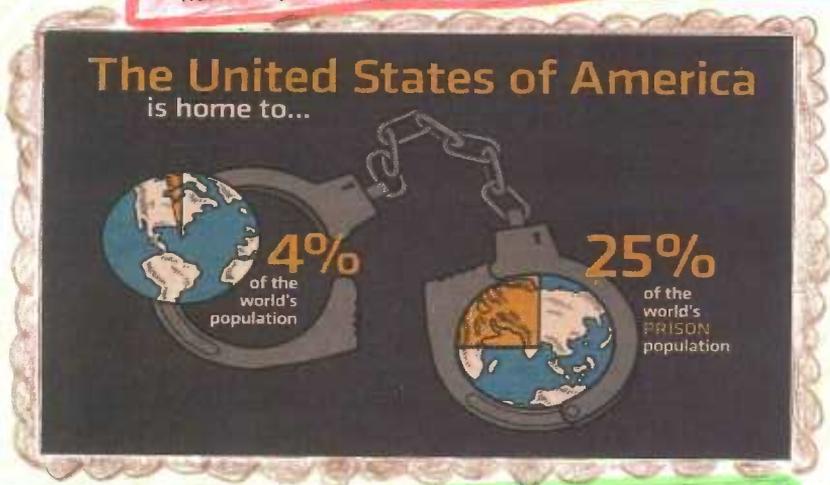


Rehabilitation programs should be available for all inmates and inmates who are expecting or eligible for release.

The United States is entirely different from Europe demographically and in terms of crime, but they can take a few pointers from some Western European prisons. Making prison a place to learn from your mistakes is a start.

To increase the success rate of American rehabilitation prison programs, we might want to take some notes from countries that are successful. First, we should revisit our system, such as which crimes should be a life sentence.

Furthermore, we need to revisit our approach to how we treat prisoners humanely and how we can assist them in becoming better citizens.



U.S. prisons are dark and depressing with little to do. Prisoners are wasting away in their cells with nothing to look forward to and no clear path ahead of them.

Rehabilitation starts by giving inmates simple jobs to do so they can gain some necessary work skills. Acquiring these skills will support employment after incarceration, which helps deter them from going back into a life of crime when they are released.

Providing inmates with the opportunity to complete their education goals supports their growth when they are released. When prisoners are released, they usually return to a life of crime because they had gained nothing more during their prison sentence than before being were arrested, so they see no other option.

15-year-old honor roll student with no prior record steals sneakers. TRIED AS AN ADULT, GETS 5 YEARS IN PRISON.

Wealthy 79-year-old white man rapes 5-year-old girl. GETS 90 DAYS HOUSE ARREST.

THIS IS AMERICA.

WE'RE EXPANDING PRISONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

VERY GOOD, PRIME MINISTER! AND WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT HOUSING FOR THE POOR AND MENTALLY ILL?

I JUST TOLD YOU.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:
A CRIMINAL RECORD, A DECENT JOB, A FAIR SHARE.

PREFERENTIAL INCARCERATION:
OPEN 24/7. HERE TO SERVE YOU.

OUT TO LUNCH

WELCOME

NEXT WINDOW PLEASE

YOUNG BLACK MALES

WWW.BLACKWITNESS.COM

“Our Criminal Justice System treats you Better if you are Rich & Guilty than If you are Poor & Innocent”



U.S. PRISON SYSTEM

IN

OUT

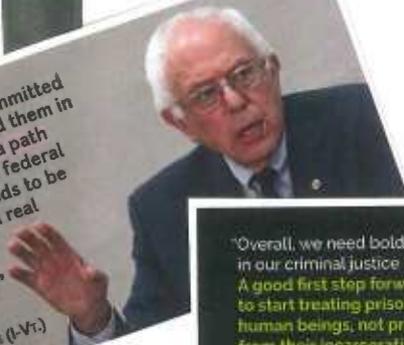
This man sold three pounds of weed in 1994 in Michigan, a state where it is now legal. HE'S STILL IN PRISON TO THIS DAY.

This man kidnapped and raped an 11-year-old girl in Missouri. HE WAS SENTENCED TO PROBATION.

AMERICA IS BROKEN.

"For people who have committed crimes that have landed them in jail, there needs to be a path back from prison. The federal system of parole needs to be reinstated. We need real education and real skills training for the incarcerated."

- SEN. BEAUCHE SANDERS (I-Vt.)



"Overall, we need bold change in our criminal justice system. A good first step forward is to start treating prisoners as human beings, not profiting from their incarceration. Our emphasis must be on rehabilitation, not incarceration and longer prison sentences."

- SEN. BEAUCHE SANDERS (I-Vt.)



"In fact, there are now more people in prison than there are farmers, which is to say that you are more likely to find an American being kept in a cage than you are to find one who is raising corn or cattle."
Sam Smith

PRISON:
EVERYONE IS TREATED EQUALLY
FREE FOOD
FREE HEALTHCARE
ONLY THE GUARDS HAVE GUNS
...SOUNDS A LOT LIKE SOCIALISM

A photograph of a prison yard with several inmates in orange jumpsuits walking and exercising behind a chain-link fence.

HOW DID PORTUGAL CUT DRUG ADDICTION IN HALF?

- DECriminalized DRUG USE
- BUILT FREE REHAB CLINICS
- DOUBLED SPENDING ON PREVENTION
- TREATS USERS AS PATIENTS INSTEAD OF CRIMINALS

A collage of four images: a prison cell, a modern building, a person in a rehab clinic, and a smiling man.

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Sources

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