

### Chapter 1 : Indigenous imprisonment in Australia: a crisis of mass incarceration | Don Perlgut's Blog

*This is an ambitious and weighty study of prisons, prison labour and penology from the early Republican period through the Depression years which McLennan argues has been characterised by 'a long continuum of episodic instability, conflict, and political crisis' (p. 2). The defining or.*

Indigenous imprisonment in Australia: I am taking the liberty of re-printing it here, and adding an addendum at the end of this post. Although some indicators saw improvement health , in others “ especially in education and employment “ there was almost no improvement at all. In other words, Indigenous imprisonment has been steadily rising and is worse than any time in recent memory. For anyone paying attention to the statistics on Indigenous disadvantage, this comes as no surprise. Key Indicators , made this point clearly pp. Although Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults make up only 2. But it gets worse. The report also states that: Between and , the rate of imprisonment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults increased by You can track the inexorable year by year growth of Indigenous imprisonment through the Australian Bureau of Statistics figures. Although there are some state variations Tasmania is the best, Western Australia is the worst , this is a systemic national problem which demands a national solution. He also noted that almost half of Australians in juvenile detention are Indigenous “ so the trend does not look like reversing any time soon. The Creative Spirits website summarises a number of inter-related factors for these high rates: One common theme in these offenses is poverty: These results are terrible in themselves, but three factors arise that underline their significance: First, this increase in Indigenous imprisonment could have been avoided through a careful analysis of why, where and how Indigenous people are put in prison or into the juvenile justice system where they now represent up to one-half of participants , and crafting appropriate responses. Secondly, as the Productivity Commission report drily states page 4. Although the comparison is not complete, rates of imprisonment of African-Americans in the USA run six times those of whites in that country. We can do better and improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rates of imprisonment. For the sake of creating an equal and just Australia, we must. Stevenson points out that great literature helps to change the narrative of issues so that we can see them in new ways. When people are afraid and angry, they will tolerate abuse and violations of rights. A Story of Justice and Redemption published , is also available here in Australia. But complacency has no place in the lack of progress on incarceration of Indigenous Australians. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.

**Chapter 2 : Xinjiang Uyghur crisis: China launches fierce defense of human rights crackdown - CNN**

*Arizona's imprisonment crisis comes at a high price " to those directly impacted by the system, as well as the economy as a whole. The next section will examine how Arizona reached this crisis point, and why the state is so out-of-step with the rest of the nation.*

Penology Drawing on available evidence is it true to say that there is a crisis in the British prison system? If by crisis one means that the prison system is teetering on the brink of collapse then the evidence available would suggest that there is no crisis at all. However the more likely interpretation is that there are actually very serious problems that either cannot or will not be alleviated. Presenting such an argument inevitably leads one to explore the role of the prison system within contemporary society, and whether it is still fulfilling the purpose it set out to achieve. According to Michael Foucault in Garland In order to understand a crisis we need to further look at who this system benefits, it is not enough to simply state that it has been a success in political climbs. Cording to him the reason as to why prisons persist are primarily due the fact that it is rooted in the very fabric of society, and secondly it carries out specific functions to great effect. Effectively what may be deemed failure on an overt level, could be assessed as success on a covert level. The creation, by the ruling class, of crime and delinquency enhances the fear of prison and guarantees the authority and power of the police. Prisons ensure that criminals are known to the authorities, and once the threats have been identified the system keeps control over them for a specified amount of time So let us continue to analyse the term crisis. It would seem that the public see a crisis of containment, for example through the media coverage on the escapes from Whitemoore dispersal unit in In the following year three lifers escaped from Parkhurst prison, which again received an unprecedented amount of media analysis. The Government responds to such issues by setting up investigations into the incidents, with the Learmont report being one such example. Indeed it is the media that adopts the approach of the first theory I will discuss, which acknowledges the fact that there is a crisis, but it is exclusively located within the prison system rather than the penal system as a whole. This is known as the orthodox account, which identifies several different, interwoven components that lead to a crisis mainly in the form of riots, demonstrations and unrest. Today the number of inmates in our prisons approximates to 65, yet only ten years earlier the population stood at 45, The second factor is that of overcrowding, which in turn contributes to bad conditions within the prison. It is not the fact that the system as a whole cannot deal with the number of inmates, but rather the prisoners themselves are not spread evenly through the system, most are concentrated in local prisons. For example in Leicester prison had the capacity to hold prisoners, yet had an actual population of The third factor is understaffing, which was initially raised through the production of a report in , which revealed prison officers to be working excessive hours. Both prison officers and the Home Office refused to back down over issues of pay and hours, with a prime example being protest action and the banning of overtime by officers in Indeed in events took a further turn for the worse when police officers were drafted in to Wandsworth prison to replace vacant prison officers who were on strike. The fifth symptom of the crisis according to this approach is that of security, of which lapses in this area are pounced upon by the media and fed to the public through sensationalised stories. Amongst other things this achieves a greater public awareness in relation the a crisis of the prison system. Perhaps the two most publicised incidents occurred in Whitemoor and Parkhurst in the mid s, both created by a catalogue of errors at the prison level. Despite the fact that escapes are neither many not increasing, the fact is that if procedures were followed properly there would be no escapes. The mixing of Irish republican prisoners is a potential example in highlighting the dangers of a toxic mix, yet the extent to which they caused trouble as a unified mix is not actually known. However it was April which has seen the worst ever spate of prison riots, including a 25 day siege at Strangeways. When looking at the bigger picture prison riots have rocketed over the past 25 years, with a total of 38 riots in to in From the above approach one could argue with confidence that all of the ingredients for a crisis have, in one way or another, been evident within the British prison system. An alternative approach, which I have explored within a text written by Fitzgerald and Sim, is that of the Radical approach. As with the previous account they see the crisis to be located purely within the prison

system, but identify a whole series of crises rather than just one riots. The first of these two crises are that of containment and conditions, which have been discussed throughout this essay. The third is the crisis of authority. With the introduction of welfare reforms and the s movement of prisoners rights, this seemed to act to underestimate the authority of the prison officers, which in turn would lead to staff unrest and dissolusionment. The fourth crisis identified was that of visibility, which is linked to the concept of secrecy that surrounds all of our prisons. According to Fitzgerald and Sim the existence of secrecy alone does not constitute a crisis. An example of this aspect of a crisis occurred at Wormwood Scrubs in when a demonstration was broken up by what can only be described as the equivalent to a SWAT team. The then Home Secretary stated that as a result there were no injuries, yet he later admitted that there were actually 54 injured, and that more alarmingly there was evidence that some prisoners had been assaulted. This issue is neatly summed up by Garland The final crisis this approach identifies is the idea of legitimacy. In essence the whole of the penal system wields power over those within it, that is those who have broken the law, yet its moral justification for doing so has been strongly attacked. When used in the context of, say overcrowding or poor conditions within prisons, is it morally right for human beings to be subjected to this? The media again plays a pivotal role by appealing to the conscience of the public if it is required. Whilst there are pressure groups such as NACRO, they have limited funds and only a relatively small following. Okay so I have identified two different approaches which aim to highlight the existence of a prison crisis. However the evidence to strengthen each of the two theories is lacking. Following prison riots in the early s the government commissioned Lord Woolf to investigate the disturbances, of which his report suggested that there were three requirements for stability The first two were referred to in the previous theories described, but the addition of justice added a new dimension to the argument. For Woolf the problem lay in the inability of the prison service to do just that, and furthermore he highlighted the areas of grievance procedures and physical conditions as major areas of concern. Most of the prisoners he spoke to felt that what was happening to them was unjust, which would lead to contempt, unrest and riots. In many ways I feel that this is a more developed approach to that of the orthodox theory, but at the same time a rejection of the positivistic methods adopted by them. Woolf recommended change in areas such as grievance procedures, as prisoners who could not air their views legitimately would do so by other means. His findings proved to be very influential, and has dramatically changed penal policies and procedures. I would conclude by primarily asking the question as to whether the Woolf report was enough to halt the crisis. There have been many changes within the system since his findings were published, but only time will tell. The facts presented in this essay add strength to the argument that there has indeed been a crisis within the prison system, and the two approaches discussed in this essay both offer valid points in identifying the crisis. I would assert that the role of the prison and its success in terms of containing the criminals who pose a threat to our capitalist society will remain intact for many years to come. Copyright C -

*The Crisis of Imprisonment: Protest, Politics, and the Making of the American Penal State, (Cambridge Historical Studies in American Law and Society) - Kindle edition by Rebecca M. McLennan.*

The recent book, by Berkeley historian Rebecca McLennan, is a walk through the creation and evolution of the distinctly American penal state. A few additional things: It was thought to be good for workers, and it allowed the prison industry to grow as the profits made by contracting out production of goods inside the prison to third parties, where businesses paid the state for use of the labor, almost paid for the prison itself. Take The 13th Amendment: Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. One problem proto-industrialists in the 19th century had to deal with was that it was difficult to keep workers in place, consistently productive, on a timed schedule. The prison certainly took care of that: Under the conditions of labor scarcity and mobility that characterized Gilded Age economies, the industrialist worked his free laborers harder and longer, and disciplined them more stringently, at his own peril: His workers might simply move on. That dilemma was significantly relieved [in the prison] where the labor force was composed of a mass of perpetually confined, rightless, convicts. Wholly dependent upon the state for the bare necessities of life, and socially and physically confined, prisoners were not merely a steady source of cheap labor, but also an unorganized and highly exploitable body of workers – unlike their increasingly assertive counterparts in the free world. How much is firm organization about creating a docile mass of bodies to manipulate, particularly when it comes to using an option of exit? Because of the specific times I live in, I always pay close attention to when an agent of the U. Sometimes that thing is signing a confession or revealing information. Sometimes it is something else: Such extreme forms of chastisement were not as commonly resorted to as others; they appeared to have been reserved for prisoners who repeatedly, and flat-out, refused to work. One thing about this prison labor is that the prison wage rate is being set well below the standard free labor rate in local areas. This is my new favorite thing: The prohibition by law of any contract for convict labor at lower rates per day than the average paid for outside labor of the same kind. To secure legislation to this end petitions have been extensively circulated and signed – The socialist would hail such legislation with delight; for it would be in the direction of his demands that the state shall establish prices of labor and goods. Seems like a sweet deal for businesses. All in all, a highly recommended book.

**Chapter 4 : The Crisis of Imprisonment | Rortybomb**

*The Crisis of Imprisonment: Protest, Politics, and the Making of the American Penal State, (Cambridge Historical Studies in American Law and Society).*

The Crisis of Imprisonment: University of Nottingham Citation: Rothman, whose study *The Discovery of the Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic* has dominated the historiography. Divided loosely but not formally into three parts, the ten chapters trace the origins of rise of the US system of penal servitude from c. The analysis rests on four main themes: The early republican penitentiary in Pennsylvania and New York was plagued by crises of discipline, finance and legitimacy which produced widespread public disillusionment. In an effort to counter these problems, from the s, New York lawmakers, jurists, and keepers crafted a new penal order with distinctive characteristics: Forced hard labour and the contract prison labour system underscored its fiscal and disciplinary foundations at Auburn. As more and more states adopted the Auburn system, the practice of selling the labour of convicts to private enterprise gradually became widely and deeply entrenched in penal ideology. At the same time, ideas about race, ethnicity, patriarchy and respectability as well as class and economic status clearly structured public and political discussions of prisons and prisoners in this period, and not just in the South. The New York stonecutters and mechanics in particular offered robust opposition in the s and s that gained national support. Some legislative restrictions followed but a crisis was averted by the manufacturing needs of the Civil War effort and the willingness of manufacturers to utilise convict labourers to meet those demands. It was generally accepted in the s and s that prisoners should be put to productive labour for large-scale, highly-organized, profit-seeking enterprises. States were required to maintain a steady stream of able-bodied prisoners but contractors had no incentive to offer paternalist treatment as each inmate was replaceable. McLennan observes that the push for profit was given freest reign in the redeemed states of the South where thousands of freedmen and women were convicted on non-existent or flimsy grounds and compelled to labour in coal, turpentine, lumber and railroad industries. Native-born Southerners were of course no less adept at exploiting African American and lower-class whites and in seeking functional replacements for slavery. Prison labour was cheaper, steadier and more easily disciplined than free labour, and for many contractors these were all attractive in light of the unionisation of free workers and their increasingly vocal demands for higher wages and shorter hours. The key systems of contractual prison labour emerged after McLennan underlines the scale of this system: Two-thirds of these prisoners worked exclusively for private enterprise. More prisoners laboured under the prison factory variant than either the piece-price or lease variants or the contract system: Prison factories saw relationships between inmates and civilian contractors and employees develop sometimes in opposition to or conflict with those with the guards and wardens. With its large numbers of prison labourers and history of labour activism, New York was the crucial battleground in a national conflict over penal servitude. Penal reform also became enmeshed in the bitter wider political struggles, over machine politics, patronage, social justice and so on of the early 20th century. Auburn, Sing Sing and Clinton. The production of goods for state agencies also required a unified, centralised, and bureaucratically administered prison system. While compulsory productive labour remained firmly entrenched in penal law, discourse, and ideology, and was a central preoccupation of the early progressive reformers, the period also saw various innovations, including introduction of new inmate classification systems, upgraded accommodation and cells, abolition of the silent rule, the use of privileges and incentives in a new disciplinary system, and the extension of literacy and vocational provision for inmates. Similarly, adult male prisoners were divided into three hierarchical grades of labourer. This is not to say that McLennan lacks awareness of this, rather that she must have more to say on these issues. By the s it was clear that state prison industries could not deliver either self-sustaining prisons or a full work day for the majority of adult male inmates, but prison system administrators and penologists had still to find lasting solutions to the financial, disciplinary and ideological problems that had emerged from the abolition of contract labour. The major unrest at Sing Sing in summer underlined the continued need for fundamental reforms in the physical conditions of the old stone Bastille-prison and to the disciplinary and labour regimes. The last three chapters

explore its origins, development and impact. Osborne envisioned a new mode of penal discipline whereby the prisoners would take responsibility for policing the prison yard as well as the daily order in the workshops, mess hall, and marching lines. He viewed prisoner police powers as essential to prisoner self-discipline. This was prisoner self-government imposed from the top down but inmates were willing to embrace and utilise aspects of the new penology and disciplinary apparatus on their own terms. Clearly, the League was a crucial provider of organised sporting, musical, and other recreational activities including movie screenings from early , all of which radically altered everyday life at the prison. The League was established also at Sing Sing even before Osborne became warden. Like their Auburn counterparts, inmates enjoyed for the first time organised athletic events, baseball games, screening of motion pictures, music and other entertainments. However, Sing Sing remained an overcrowded, dingy and depressing prison. Sing Sing inmates whose English was deficient or non-existent were excluded from MWL membership and franchise. Further, the restructuring of labour and training and the establishment of job placement programmes for paroled or discharged inmates were underpinned by racial ideas about manly worker-citizens in an industrialised economy. Programmes designed to socialise prisoners as citizens were implicitly aimed at white native-born Americans and European immigrants. Black inmates did not enjoy the same access to prison education provision or to post-release employment. Racial segregation within the prisons was also formalised and more rigorously enforced. However, the reasons for this are not clear. But, were there increasing numbers of non-white prisoners as a result of black migration out of the South? Obviously, disfranchisement and segregation were already firmly entrenched in the South. Nevertheless, Sing Sing became a laboratory for new penal ideas and a demonstration of the new penology in action. McLennan notes that while the Sing Sing MWL is often referred to in prison historiography, she provides the first scholarly account of this particular experiment and its political context. In many ways, chapter nine provides the most compelling critique and persuasive arguments. McLennan underlines that the innovations were all without formal funding from the state but with financial support from the National Committee on Prisons and Prison Labor NCPPL , philanthropic reform groups, and American corporations. This enabled Osborne to bypass Albany politicians and bureaucrats, and the leaders of organised labour. While war mobilization 8 revived temporarily the dream of full-time, waged, productive prison labour, it also generated the first federal efforts to shape state penal systems. Federal laws in the s and s effectively abolished the market for convict-made goods and pushed all states toward state-use even though it was clear that state-use could not deliver full employment. Recreation, education, athletics, music, the privilege system, and even the welfare leagues remained important features of prison life and discipline during the first third of the 20th century, in New York and beyond. Key to these developments were Sing Sing and the administration of Lewis E. McLennan offers a compelling reworking of the history of US prisons during the long 19th and into the early 20th century and a detailed examination of New York. There is much to commend and to reflect upon. However, at plus pages, it requires significant commitment from the reader. One would like to think that students and colleagues in History, Law, and Criminology would recognise the quality of the work here and be willing to make that commitment. Nevertheless, an abridged version for undergraduates might be a project worth considering. Yet, it also exposes worrying gaps in our historical knowledge and understanding of US prisons and prisoners, particularly in relation to Western state prison systems and penal ideology There are of course several excellent studies of California, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. Similarly, the growing body of southern prison history in recent years has reshaped our understanding of the connections between race, labour subordination and disciplinary punishment but clearly we know more about some southern states e. Rothman, *The Discovery of the Asylum: Back to 1* Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: Back to 2* See Mark E. Kann, *Punishment, Prisons and Patriarchy: Back to 3* See L. Back to 4 August Related reviews.

## Chapter 5 : The Crisis of Imprisonment | Erika R. Rendón-Ramos

*"Crisis of unjust imprisonment is a human rights nightmare. According to Leonhardt, while President Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions are attempting to worsen the problem by incarcerating even more people, today's movement for*

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*criminal justice reform has only been gaining momentum.*

### Chapter 6 : NYTimes Op-Ed Highlights the Curtis Flowers Case in Crisis of Unjust Imprisonment

*Rebecca McLennan, The Crisis of Imprisonment: Protest, Politics, and the making of the American Penal State, From the American Revolution to World War II the United States penal system underwent vast transformations, specifically in regards to prison-based punishment.*

### Chapter 7 : "Law's Violence, the Strong State, and the Crisis of Mass Imprisonment " by Jonathan Simon

*the crisis of imprisonment In the Age of Jackson, private enterprise set up shop in the American penal system. Working hand in glove with state government, by contractors.*

### Chapter 8 : BA Hons Criminology: Essay - Penology 'The British Penal System'

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### Chapter 9 : The crisis of imprisonment

*The crisis of imprisonment was not i-nished when the contractors re-moved their machinery from behind prison walls. It took a new form.*