Mass Incarceration and Prison Studies

This curated database provides a rare breadth of study for students to investigate both crucial global trends in mass incarceration, and the detailed prison infrastructure of specific countries.

The rise of academic programs in Carceral and Prison Studies underscores the importance of this collection. Statistically, the U.S. incarcerates more people than other countries around the world. Part of the Global Issues Library, Mass Incarceration and Prison Studies is organized around a selection of key historical and contemporary events and themes, bringing together archival and reference materials, court cases, first-hand accounts, videos, Supreme Court audio files, research on rehabilitation, training materials and artistic works.

The collection examines prison populations and their relationship to major prison labor systems; and how correctional facilities may serve as central service providers for those with mental health issues. Other events include: the use of the death penalty; the history of correctional institutions for juvenile offenders; internment camps; prison gangs and riots; the loss of rights for prisoners.

Materials focus on specific prisons such as Alcatraz, Sing Sing, Rikers, Norway's prison, Halden fengsel, and rehabilitation within the prison system. Students will have the opportunity to survey the topic of DNA for prisoner exoneration; the U.S. War on Drugs; prison culture and identity; and the prison industrial complex.

ABOUT THE GLOBAL ISSUES LIBRARY

This interdisciplinary and multiformat database presents key issues and events impacting today's world: through a variety of perspectives—personal, governmental, legal, contemporary and retrospective—it demonstrates the interactions and interconnectedness of global issues, opening avenues for students and scholars to consider their world in new ways.

Mass Incarceration and Prison Studies complements other collections in the Global Issues Library for comprehensive research and learning with historical perspectives on such critical topics as:

- Border and Migration Studies Online
- Engineering Case Studies Online
- Environmental Issues Online
- Human Rights Studies Online
- Revolution and Protest Online
- Security Issues Online

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CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS IN 2020 RELEASES

• Marina Parker’s BBC Worldwide film “Execution,” the story of capital punishment through the eyes of young people.

• The award-winning playwright/novelist Kia Corthron’s play “Megastasis” about the War on Drugs.

• “The women political prisoners and their situation in the female wing of the ‘Tres Alamos’ detention camp,” describing the camp operated from 1974 to 1976 during Augusto Pinochet’s dictatorship in Chile.

• Prisonnier de Hissène Habré - L’expérience d’un survivant des geôles tchadiennes et sa quête de justice: Souleymane’s Guengueng’s first-hand account of his time in prison and his fight to bring Hissène Habré to justice.

• An exclusive, in-depth interview with Katherine Vockins, the founder of Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA) at Sing Sing prison.

ARCHIVES, FOUNDATIONS, AND RARE BOOKS

• Senate House, University of London
  Selections on the history of prisons and incarceration from the Bromhead Library Special Collections; Family Welfare Association Library Special Collections

• National Archives Records Administration

• Russell Sage Foundation
  Imprisoning America: The Social Effects of Mass Incarceration; Why Are So Many Americans in Prison?


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Upon completion, Mass Incarceration and Prison Studies will include:

100,000 pages text | 150 hours video | Documentaries | Government Documents | Weblinks | Letters | Essays | Ephemera | Interviews | News Stories | Photo-essays |

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