

## Death Penalty Essay Papers

Seminar paper from the year 2013 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2,3, University of Cologne, course: Human Rights, language: English, abstract: „Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.“ (The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 3). Nowadays, practices such as ritual sacrifice, slavery, physical torture and death penalty can no longer be tolerated (Dieter: 1). The Human Rights Declaration bespeaks that human rights are universal and made for everyone. However, there are nations that do not respect that and still use death penalty as a form of punishment. According to the Amnesty International organization about 97 states all over the world have abolished death penalty, eight states do not use death penalty for ordinary crimes anymore but for special crimes like war crimes or offence against military justice. Furthermore, 35 states have abolished death penalty in practice but not in their constitution and 58 states still use death penalty, including the USA (Amnesty International, “Hinrichtungen und Todesurteile 2011”). Death penalty is still a controversial topic, which intervenes in human rights, namely “the right to life, liberty and security of person” (The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 3). Due to that, this term paper will deal with the question if death penalty can be justified and if people can sentence other people to death regarding article three of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights mentioned above and if human rights are universal actually. Firstly, the history of the U.S. death penalty and its development will be stated. Secondly, potential advantages as well as disadvantages of death penalty will be pointed out and if necessary the disputable issues of it will be discussed. Regarding the results of this term paper a brief conclusion will follow, answering the question if death penalty can be justified or not.

Two distinguished social and political philosophers take opposing positions in this highly engaging work. Louis P. Pojman justifies the practice of execution by appealing to the principle of retribution: we deserve to be rewarded and punished according to the virtue or viciousness of our actions. He asserts that the death penalty does deter some potential murderers and that we risk the lives of innocent people who might otherwise live if we refuse to execute those deserving that punishment. Jeffrey Reiman argues that although the death penalty is a just punishment for murder, we are not morally obliged to execute murderers. Since we lack conclusive evidence that executing murderers is an effective deterrent and because we can foster the advance of civilization by demonstrating our intolerance for cruelty in our unwillingness to kill those who kill others, Reiman concludes that it is good in principle to avoid the death penalty, and bad in practice to impose it.

Pre-University Paper from the year 2012 in the subject English - Discussion and Essays, grade: 15, , language: English, abstract: In the following term paper the author is going to compare the German and American attitude toward the death penalty. At first she wants to clarify the definition. This paper will give a brief overview of the recent history of capital punishment in both states. The emphasis is on the comparison between these different attitudes. Providing to the findings of the German attitude the author intends to carry out a survey. Finally, she would like to express her own opinion on the topic.

This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1890 edition. Excerpt: ...said Mr. Fogg. "Well, your honor," replied the pilot, " I can risk neither my men, nor myself, nor yourself, in so long a voyage on a boat of scarcely twenty tons, at this time of the year. Besides, we would not arrive in time, for it is sixteen hundred and fifty miles from Hong Kong to Yokohama." "Only sixteen hundred," said Mr. Fogg. "It is the same thing." Fix took a good long breath. " But," added the pilot, " there might perhaps be a means to arrange it otherwise." Fix did not breathe any more. "How?" asked Phileas Fogg. " By going to Nagasaki, the southern extremity of Japan, eleven hundred miles, or only to Shanghai, eight hundred miles from Hong Kong. In this last journey, we would not be at any distance from the Chinese coast, which would be a great advantage, all the more so that the currents run to the north." "Pilot," replied Phileas Fogg, "I must take the American mail steamer at Yokohama, and not at Shanghai or Nagasaki." "Why not?" replied the pilot " The San Francisco steamer does not start from Yokohama. She stops there and at Nagasaki, but her port of departure is Shanghai." You are certain of what you are saying? " "Certain." "And when does the steamer leave Shanghai?" "On the 11th, at seven o'clock in the evening. We have then four days before us. Four days, that is ninety-six hours, and with an average of eight knots an hour, if we have good luck, if the wind keeps to the southeast, if the sea is calm, we can make the eight hundred miles which separate us from Shanghai." "And you can leave--" " In an hour, time enough to buy my provisions and hoist sail." " It is a bargain--you are the master of the boat? " " Yes, John Bunsby, master of the Tankadere." " Do you wish some earnest money? " " If it does not inconvenience...

The Rise and Fall of the Death Penalty

Jewish Eugenics

Let the Lord Sort Them

Contemporary Moral Arguments

Justice and Legal Issues

Capital Punishment

*America's leading writer about the law takes a close, incisive look at one of society's most vexing legal issues Scott Turow is known to millions as the author of peerless novels about the troubling regions of experience where law and reality intersect. In "real life," as a respected criminal lawyer, he has been involved with the death penalty for more than a decade, including successfully representing two different men convicted in death-penalty prosecutions. In this vivid account of how his views on the death penalty have evolved, Turow describes his own experiences with capital punishment from his days as an impassioned young prosecutor to his recent service on the Illinois commission which investigated the administration of the death penalty and influenced Governor George Ryan's unprecedented commutation of the sentences of 164 death row inmates on his last day in office. Along the way, he provides a brief history of America's ambivalent relationship with the ultimate punishment, analyzes the potent reasons for and against it, including the role of the victims' survivors, and tells the powerful stories behind the statistics, as he moves from the Governor's Mansion to Illinois' state-of-the-art 'super-max' prison and the execution chamber. Ultimate Punishment, this gripping,*

*clear-sighted, necessary examination of the principles, the personalities, and the politics of a fundamental dilemma of our democracy has all the drama and intellectual substance of Turow's celebrated fiction.*

*Essay from the year 2012 in the subject Philosophy - Practical (Ethics, Aesthetics, Culture, Nature, Right, ...), grade: 12, , language: English, abstract: Throughout ancient history, Capital Punishment has been a common form of justice and continues in worldwide nations and in some states of the U.S. even today. However now that the times have changed, Capital Punishment (or often called: The Death Penalty) has become an extremely controversial topic and people are questioning whether or not the Death Penalty is a proper way of judging criminals. The meaning of Capital Punishment is defined as a form of punishment in which a criminal is executed based upon the crime they have committed. And at certain times in history, criminals that were sentenced to execution were the ones that were guilty for acts that included: murder, rape, treason and even theft where the executioning methods would vary from time to time and nation. During the medieval times, the executions would involve the criminal be burned alive. Later on in 18th Century, the French took a more humane approach by inventing the guillotine, where the criminal would be laying down a platform and a humongous blade would come down at the pull of a lever and have the criminal be beheaded. Eventually the more common executioning method was being hanged in different countries. Finally the United States invented both the electric chair and lethal injection as methods of punishment (WiseGeek). Granted, methods of the death penalty have taken more humane approaches as time has taken its course, however there is still a huge controversy in regards to the death penalty, and the question for those that are for the death penalty will still ask "Why? After we have made so many safer ways to execute criminals" Even after these changes, some argue that the death penalty is unethical because of the possibility of a wrongful execution; there is a fear that the condemned criminal is actually innocent. In contrast, others argue that this kind of punishment provides a good example to other criminals, and it will discourage the crime and murder rate from increasing. Yet these arguments still don't hinder other states in the U.S. from proceeding with the executions. The death penalty is contested across modern social, political, academic, and legal institutions, and this interdisciplinary text helps readers analyze that debate. It begins with Furman v. Georgia, which doubles as the Supreme Court's only decision striking down the death penalty and as the origin of the modern American death penalty. The text explores the legal rules and moral reasoning behind the principle that the death penalty be reserved for the worst offenders, as well as the most uncomfortable realities of American capital punishment--the likelihood of wrongful executions and the undeniable influence of race on death penalty practice. Discussion of law and theory is always supplemented with appropriate empirical studies, and is connected to the practice of lawyers on the ground. The text concludes with a glimpse to the future of the death penalty, and situates the increasingly exceptional American experience in an international context. This legal material is carefully presented so as to remain accessible to non-lawyers, and it is intended for anyone with an interest in capital punishment.*

*Presents the arguments of two social and political philosophers with opposing views on the topic*

*The Great Divergence*

*The Death Penalty as Cruel Treatment and Torture*

*Abolition and Alternatives to Capital Punishment*

*Is capital punishment a double-edged sword?*

### ***Death Penalty in the U.S.: A Discussion***

A landmark dissenting opinion arguing against the death penalty Does the death penalty violate the Constitution? In Against the Death Penalty, Justice Stephen G. Breyer argues that it does: that it is carried out unfairly and inconsistently, and thus violates the ban on "cruel and unusual punishments" specified by the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution.

"Today's administration of the death penalty," Breyer writes, "involves three fundamental constitutional defects: (1) serious unreliability, (2) arbitrariness in application, and (3) unconscionably long delays that undermine the death penalty's penological purpose. Perhaps as a result, (4) most places within the United States have abandoned its use." This volume contains Breyer's dissent in the case of Glossip v. Gross, which involved an unsuccessful challenge to Oklahoma's use of a lethal-injection drug because it might cause severe pain. Justice Breyer's legal citations have been edited to make them understandable to a general audience, but the text retains the full force of his powerful argument that the time has come for the Supreme Court to revisit the constitutionality of the death penalty. Breyer was joined in his dissent from the bench by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Their passionate argument has been cited by many legal experts — including fellow Justice Antonin Scalia — as signaling an eventual Court ruling striking down the death penalty. A similar dissent in 1963 by Breyer's mentor, Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, helped set the stage for a later ruling, imposing what turned out to be a four-year moratorium on executions.

NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS' CHOICE • A deeply reported, searingly honest portrait of the death penalty in Texas—and what it tells us about crime and punishment in America "If you're one of those people who despair that nothing changes, and dream that something can, this is a story of how it does."—Anand Giridharadas, The New York Times Book Review WINNER OF THE J. ANTHONY LUKAS AWARD In 1972, the United States Supreme Court made a surprising ruling: the country's death penalty system violated the Constitution. The backlash was swift, especially in Texas, where executions were considered part of the cultural fabric, and a dark history of lynching was masked by gauzy visions of a tough-on-crime frontier. When executions resumed, Texas quickly became the nationwide leader in carrying out the punishment. Then, amid a larger wave of criminal justice reform, came the death penalty's decline, a trend so durable that even in Texas the punishment appears again close to extinction. In Let the Lord Sort Them, Maurice Chammah charts the rise and fall of

capital punishment through the eyes of those it touched. We meet Elsa Alcala, the orphaned daughter of a Mexican American family who found her calling as a prosecutor in the nation's death penalty capital, before becoming a judge on the state's highest court. We meet Danalynn Recer, a lawyer who became obsessively devoted to unearthing the life stories of men who committed terrible crimes, and fought for mercy in courtrooms across the state. We meet death row prisoners—many of them once-famous figures like Henry Lee Lucas, Gary Graham, and Karla Faye Tucker—along with their families and the families of their victims. And we meet the executioners, who struggle openly with what society has asked them to do. In tracing these interconnected lives against the rise of mass incarceration in Texas and the country as a whole, Chammah explores what the persistence of the death penalty tells us about forgiveness and retribution, fairness and justice, history and myth. Written with intimacy and grace, *Let the Lord Sort Them* is the definitive portrait of a particularly American institution.

Discusses the controversial issue of whether the death penalty is a fair punishment, debating both sides of the argument.

Crime in Africa is fast growing like African cities, African poverty, African indebtedness, African brain-drain and African dependence; everything in Africa appears to be growing very fast; population too has been fast growing except that it is being reduced by violence as we have witnessed in Rwanda, Burundi and Somalia and AIDS pandemic that is first spreading in Africa, claiming thousands of lives every year. This book is a collection of essays and papers not based on empirical research on crime in East Africa but general observations arising out of the authors experience as a criminologist in East Africa.

Death Penalty. A Comparison Between Germany and American Attitudes Towards Capital Punishment

TCR Singles 26-3 Capital Punishment

Retributivism

Policy and Governance

And Other Essays; Three Papers Read Before the New York Board of Jewish Ministers, 1915. I. Jewish Eugenics by Rabbi Max Reichler. II. The Defective in Jewish Law and Literature, by Rabbi Joel Blau. III. Capital Punishment Among the Jews, by Rev. Dr. D. de Sola Pool

Hidden Victims

*"This book explores the various trends in public opinion that influence crime prevention efforts, create public policy, and reform criminal law. It discusses three core issues: the role of free will and determination; the search for the root cause or causes of crime; and the effects of studying crimes versus studying criminals"--Provided by publisher.*

*Essay from the year 2002 in the subject American Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, grade: 1-, University of Potsdam (Institut für Anglistik/Amerikanistik), 6 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Various attitudes and passions like racism, revenge, religion and political power have supported the imposition of the death penalty. The aim of this paper is answer the question whether the media, Christian religion and the policy of the United States of America bear full responsibility for the existence and the ongoing justification of the death penalty. These three institutions possess huge influence on the peoples ? opinions and form the three pillars of US pride. I will try to find my personal answer through isolating these pillars and explaining their efforts to evade the often required abolition of the death penalty. There is no execution in the USA that is not accompanied by demonstrators - opponents as well as proponents. So it was only a matter of time until the popular press recognized the controversial topic "death penalty" as their new pecuniary resource. "When citizens are confronted with the issue of capital punishment, be they jury members or other by - standers, they decide if death as punishment is applicable in that single case, or, more broadly, if it is in the interest of society at all. By - standers are not, in fact, neutral or impartial. As human beings they are shaped by their world outlook." As we all know the media plays a major role in this outlook and it is easy for them to indoctrinate peoples ? minds with their conviction of right and wrong. The media tells us, sometimes subtly, sometimes directly, what clothes to wear, what car to drive, what music to like and maybe also what "monster" to send to death row. Taking a unique approach that emphasizes careful reasoning, this cutting-edge reader is structured around twenty-seven landmark arguments that have provoked heated debates on current ethical issues.*

*Capital Punishment: The Defining Issues for the Next Generation, comprised of original chapters authored by nationally distinguished scholars, is an ambitious effort to identify the most critical issues confronting the future of capital punishment in the United States and the steps that must be taken to gather and analyze the information that will be necessary for informed policy judgments. Contributors will articulate the most pressing issues of administration, litigation, legislation, and executive action confronting the future of capital punishment, and identify research strategies designed to supply answers to those questions. The book represents a valuable academic contribution, particularly within criminal justice and law, and promises to be of interest as well to policymakers and practitioners. It will be published a generation after the Supreme Court's landmark decision in Gregg v. Georgia (1976) heralded the ?modern era? of capital punishment, and at a time when the efficacy and operation of the death penalty are under intensive scrutiny by governmental study commissions throughout the country. The book is organized into six sections: (A) Institutional and Disciplinary Perspectives on the Death Penalty; (B) Capital Punishment: Public Policy Perspectives; (C) The Death Penalty as Applied; (D) Participants in the Capital Punishment Process; (E) The Punishment of Death; and (F) Interdisciplinary Perspectives: Toward a Research Agenda for the Future.*

*Capital Punishment Challenged in the World's Courts*

*Death Penalty in the USA*

*Five Exploratory Essays*

*The Effects of the Death Penalty on Families of the Accused*

### ***Essays on a Cruel and Unusual Punishment***

#### ***The Death Penalty in Democratic and Republican States and its Effects on a State's Murder Rate***

This volume provides analyses of a range of subjects and issues in the death penalty debate, from medicine to the media. The essays address in particular the personal complexities of those involved, a fundamental part of the subject usually overridden by the theoretical and legal aspects of the debate. The unique personal vantage offered by this volume makes it essential reading for anyone interested in going beyond the removed theoretical understanding of the death penalty, to better comprehending its fundamental humanity. Additionally, the international range of the analysis, enabling disaggregation of country specific motivations, ensures the complexities of the death penalty are also considered from a global perspective.

Annotation In the US, murderers, particularly those sentenced to death, are usually considered as entirely different from the rest of us. Sociologist Susan F. Sharp challenges perspective by reminding us that those facing a death sentence, in addition to being murderers, are brothers or sisters, mothers or fathers, daughters or sons.

Reprint of the fourth edition, which contains an additional text attributed to Voltaire. Originally published anonymously in 1764, *Dei Delitti e Delle Pene* was the first systematic study of the principles of crime and punishment. Infused with the spirit of the Enlightenment, its advocacy of crime prevention and the abolition of torture and capital punishment marked a significant advance in criminological thought, which had changed little since the Middle Ages. It had a profound influence on the development of criminal law in Europe and the United States.

Many studies during the past few decades have sought to determine whether the death penalty has any deterrent effect on homicide rates. Researchers have reached widely varying, even contradictory, conclusions. Some studies have concluded that the threat of capital punishment deters murders, saving large numbers of lives; other studies have concluded that executions actually increase homicides; still others, that executions have no effect on murder rates. Commentary among researchers, advocates, and policymakers on the scientific validity of the findings has sometimes been acrimonious. Against this backdrop, the National Research Council report *Deterrence and the Death Penalty* assesses whether the available evidence provides a scientific basis for answering questions of if and how the death penalty affects homicide rates. This new report from the Committee on Law and Justice concludes that research to date on the effect of capital punishment on homicide rates is not useful in determining whether the death penalty increases, decreases, or has no effect on these rates. The key question is whether capital punishment is less or more effective as a deterrent than alternative punishments, such as a life sentence without the possibility of parole. Yet none of the research that has been done accounted for the possible effect of noncapital punishments on homicide rates. The report recommends new avenues of research that may provide broader insight into any deterrent effects from both capital and noncapital punishments.

The Death Penalty

Essays on Theory and Policy

For and Against

A Life for a Life

The Death Penalty in the Mosaic Law

An Agenda for the Next Generation of Capital Punishment Research

Research Paper (undergraduate) from the year 2015 in the subject Law - Criminal process, Criminology, Law Enforcement, grade: A, University of Alaska Fairbanks, language: English, abstract: This is an investigation into the death penalty and how it is applied across political lines in America. With a focus on the differences in Democratic run states and Republican run states. The death penalty and its effects on a state's murder rate have long been a point of controversy. It has been debated whether the death penalty is a deterrent to crime. There is an ongoing need to understand the deterrence effect of the death penalty, in order to understand how to properly lower the murder rates in a given area. Further, in order to understand if the death penalty is applied in a given state, it is important to look at the political orientation of a particular state. Political orientation can have a strong affect on the punishment type chosen by a particular state. This study seeks to clarify the debate by looking at the statistical facts, and formulating hypothesis. (1) the death penalty is a deterrent for the crime of murder. (2) Conservative states are more likely to employ the death penalty. Null hypothesis, (1) the death penalty has no effect on the murder rate. (2) political leanings of a state do not determine if they have the death penalty.

Powerful, wry, witty essays offering modern takes on a primitive practice, from one of our most widely read death penalty abolitionists As Ruth Bader Ginsburg has noted, people who are well represented at trial do not get the death penalty. But as Marc Bookman's shows in a dozen witty, brilliant essays on cases involving drunken lawyering, prosecutorial misconduct, racist judges and jurors, and executing the innocent and the mentally ill, precious few people on trial for their lives get the kind of representation they need. Today, death penalty cases continue to capture the hearts, minds, and eblasts of progressives of all stripes--including the rich and famous (see Kim Kardashian's advocacy), but few people with firsthand knowledge of America's "injustice system" have the literary chops to bring death-penalty stories to life. Enter Marc Bookman. With a voice that is both literary and journalistic, the veteran capital defense lawyer and seven-time Best American Essays "notable" author exposes the dark absurdities and fatal inanities that undermine the logic of the death penalty wherever it still exists. In essays that cover seemingly "ordinary" capital cases over the last thirty years, Bookman shows how violent crime brings out our worst human instincts--revenge, fear, retribution, prejudice. Combining these emotions with the criminal legal system's weaknesses--purposely ineffective, arbitrary, or widely infected with racism and misogyny--is a recipe for injustice. Bookman has been charming and educating readers in the pages of *The Atlantic*, *Mother Jones*, and *Slate* for years. His wit and wisdom are now collected and preserved in *A Descending Spiral*.

The essays selected for this volume develop conventional abolition discourse and explore the conceptual framework through which abolition is understood and posited. Of particular interest is the attention given to an integral but often forgotten element of the abolition debate: alternatives to capital punishment. The volume also provides an account of strategies employed by the abolition community which challenges tired methodologies and offers a level of transparency previously unseen. This collection tackles complex but fundamental components of the capital punishment debate using empirical data and expert observations and is essential reading for those wishing to comprehend the fundamental issues which underpin capital punishment discourse.

An in-depth examination of what life under a sentence of death is like.

Cesare Beccaria Against Capital Punishment. Presenting and Evaluating his Argument

INTRODUCTION TO COLLEGE PHILOSOPHY TEACHER SUPPLEMENT

United States Code

The International Library of Essays on Capital Punishment, Volume 1

The Case Against the Death Penalty

An Essay on Crimes and Punishments

**TCR Singles Contains one featured essay from a previous issue of The Concord Review (TCR). TCR contains essays from a unique international journal of exemplary history research papers by secondary students of history. This issue features: "Capital Punishment" was written by Benjamin Patrick Chiacchia while attending Lincoln High School in Lincoln, Rhode Island. Abstract: Capital punishment has served a unique function in the American penal system, and its 400-year history in the United States has been surrounded by controversy. While the death penalty has a complicated history of influence, including religious norms, social sentiments, and political fervor, its exercise has often fallen to the will of the people. Activism on both sides, coupled with the normal political processes that influence this contentious facet of criminal justice, has led to a nationwide struggle over the continuation and methods used to carry out capital punishment. In the absence of a constitutional provision regarding the death penalty, debate has and continues to revolve around how and if this form of punishment will continue to be employed by the United States. This paper explores the relationship between the people and the death penalty, as well as the general history of capital punishment and the arguments posed by both sides of the debate.**

**Essay from the year 2008 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: 1, University of Marburg (Fremdsprachliche Philologien), course: Academic Writing, language: English, abstract: The question whether capital punishment should be practiced as a penalty for criminals has for a long time been a controversial topic because it concerns people worldwide. It is debatable whether methods of punishment such as the death penalty are an ethical solution to crime.**

**This volume provides up-to-date and nuanced analysis across a wide spectrum of capital punishment issues. The essays move beyond the conventional legal approach and propose fresh perspectives, including a unique critique of the abolition sector. Written by a range of leading experts with diverse geographical, methodological and conceptual approaches, the essays in this volume challenge received wisdom and embrace a holistic understanding of capital punishment based on practical experience and empirical data. This collection is indispensable reading for anyone seeking a comprehensive and detailed understanding of the complexity of the death penalty discourse.**

**The contributors offer analysis and explanations of new developments in retributivism, the philosophical account of punishment that holds that wrongdoers must be punished as a matter of right, duty, or justice, rather than deterrence, rehabilitation, or vengeance.**

**Essays in Criminology**

**The Death Penalty in the United States and the Failure of Abolition in Transatlantic Perspective**

**Death Penalty - Essay**

**The International Library of Essays on Capital Punishment, Volume 3**

**The International Library of Essays on Capital Punishment, Volume 2**

**The Death Penalty Debate**

Powerful, wry essays offering modern takes on a primitive practice, from one of our most widely read death penalty abolitionists As Ruth Bader Ginsburg has noted, people who are well represented at trial rarely get the death penalty. But as Marc Bookman shows in a dozen brilliant essays, the problems with capital punishment run far deeper than just bad representation. Exploring prosecutorial misconduct, racist judges and jurors, drunken lawyering, and executing the innocent and the mentally ill, these essays demonstrate that precious few people on trial for their lives get the fair trial the Constitution demands. Today, death penalty cases continue to capture the hearts, minds, and eblasts of progressives of all stripes—including the rich and famous (see Kim Kardashian's advocacy)—but few people with firsthand knowledge of America's "injustice system" have the literary chops to bring death penalty stories to life. Enter Marc Bookman. With a voice that is both literary and journalistic, the veteran capital defense lawyer and seven-time Best American Essays "notable" author exposes the dark absurdities and fatal inanities that undermine the logic of the death penalty wherever it still exists. In essays that cover seemingly "ordinary" capital cases over the last thirty years, Bookman shows how violent crime brings out our worst human instincts—revenge, fear, retribution, and prejudice. Combining these emotions with the criminal legal system's weaknesses—purposely ineffective, arbitrary, or widely infected with racism and misogyny—is a recipe for injustice. Bookman has been charming and educating readers in the pages of The Atlantic, Mother Jones, and Slate for years. His wit and wisdom are now collected and preserved in A Descending Spiral.

A Descending Spiral Exposing the Death Penalty in 12 Essays The New Press

From 1965 until 1980, there was a virtual moratorium on executions for capital offenses in the United States. This was due primarily to protracted legal proceedings challenging the death penalty on constitutional grounds. After much Sturm und Drang, the Supreme Court of the United States, by a divided vote, finally decided that "the death penalty does not invariably violate the Cruel and Unusual Punishment Clause of the Eighth Amendment." The Court's decisions, however, do not moot the controversy about the death penalty or render this excellent book irrelevant. The ball is now in the court of the Legislature and the Executive. Legislatures, federal and state, can

impose or abolish the death penalty, within the guidelines prescribed by the Supreme Court. A Chief Executive can commute a death sentence. And even the Supreme Court can change its mind, as it has done on many occasions and did, with respect to various aspects of the death penalty itself, durlog the moratorium period. Also, the people can change their minds. Some time ago, a majority, according to reliable polls, favored abolition. Today, a substantial majority favors imposition of the death penalty. The pendulum can swing again, as it has done in the past.

Seminar paper from the year 2013 in the subject English - Discussion and Essays, grade: 2-, , language: English, abstract: Great Britain is an important country in the world. Everyone knows it and has already heard about it. But it has a very extensive history, which is not acquainted to everybody. In this work I can not explain the entire historical development of Great Britain, I have to restrict it to the history of death penalty, but there will be some connections to historical events. Today, the death penalty is no longer practiced in Great Britain. But in former times it was usual that the death was set to a normal punishment for different kinds of crime. Until the 1950s it was a tradition to kill the law-breakers. The peak of the death penalty in Great Britain was the 18th century. At this time, there were over 200 offenses which were punishable by death. Often the judge decided if the offender is guilty or not. Since 1861 the offenses were limited to slayer, high treason, piracy and arson. Additional since 1868 the executions were no longer for public. A commission, which was selected by the government, wrote a report about the pro and contra of the death penalty. Because of this report, death penalty was now only punished for a heavier murder, for example when a police officer was killed in service.

The American Debate Over the Death Penalty

Facing the Death Penalty

Death Penalty in GB and the USA

Against the Death Penalty

A Debate

Exposing the Death Penalty in 12 Essays

Essay from the year 2015 in the subject Law - Philosophy, History and Sociology of Law, grade: 4.00, Indiana University (College of Arts and Sciences - Political Science Department), course: POLS-Y210 Rule of Law, language: English, abstract: This paper hopes to establish the continued forcefulness of Cesare Beccaria's argument against torture and the death penalty by reconciling its reasoning with the societal and legal context of the modern day. Cesare Beccaria, considered one of the founding fathers of Enlightenment penology and legal theory, is perhaps most well known for his treatise On Crime and Punishment in which he argues against punitive administration of torture and capital punishment. This paper analyzes the arguments proposed by Beccaria and reasserts their modern relevance to contemporary legal conversation on the death penalty and government-administered torture. Weaknesses in Beccaria's argument such as his questionably justified causal claims on human behavior are examined, but ultimately found to not render his argument less sound insofar as it seeks to discredit capital punishment.

Beccaria's own model of social contract theory is also examined and used as a basis by which to evaluate his legal claims.

Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject History - America, University of North Florida, 12 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: According to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Fall 2006 report, the total number of death row inmates amounts to 3,344. There are roughly 41 percent black and 45 percent white prisoners awaiting their execution. Since the reinstatement of capital punishment in 1976, 1047 people have been executed. (Death Row 1, 5). Among all U.S. states allowing the death penalty, California, Texas and Florida have the most criminals on death row (Death Row 29). Normally, major reasons in favor of capital punishments are retribution, deterrence, and the general protection of society. Many people experience poetic justice and indemnification when murderers receive their death sentences. They disregard the unproportional, high cost of the capital punishment process which evolves due to repeated appeals and prisoners spending years or even decades on death row (Banner 295).

Ultimate Punishment

A Lawyer's Reflections on Dealing with the Death Penalty

Deterrence and the Death Penalty

A Descending Spiral

The Future of America's Death Penalty

Readings in Ethical Issues