



# Incarcerations in Black and White

*Christi Griffin*

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## **Incarcerations in Black and White** Christi Griffin

*Incarcerations in Black and White: The Subjugation of Black America* explores the economic continuum of slavery from the emancipation of slaves, through convict leasing and peonage to the U.S. prison system in the 21st Century. The author identifies key players in a system that has grossed billions of dollars by trafficking human beings through a corrupt and broken system. It discloses the use of lobbying and other influence to garner contracts from state and federal governments.

Startling in the brazenness in which the prison system has evolved, *Incarcerations in Black and White* unveils glaring statistics that prove prisons do little more than shatter the lives of millions of Americans and set countless children on paths of trauma, violence, addiction and crime. Once the number one country in education and a world leader in space and technology, the United States has fallen substantially in educational ranking in the world. In stark contrast, the United States has garnered the number one position in incarcerating its citizens. Representing only 5% of the world population, the United States incarcerates 25% of the world's prison population, one in every one hundred of its citizens, outpacing every other country including China, Russia and Germany.

Observing that the war on drugs has not only failed to eliminate drugs in the general population, Griffin brings to light that private prison corporations have failed to control drugs within the controlled prison environments they are paid billions to run. The raw numbers show that a grossly disproportionate number of African Americans and Hispanics are incarcerated and given longer sentences than whites, despite the fact that whites use drugs five times more frequently and commit more property crimes as well. While prison stock is being traded on the New York stock exchange, millionaire prison CEO's have allowed prison conditions to decline to inhumane levels in order to increase the value of their stock. Suicides, gang violence, drug use, murders, poor sanitation condition and lack of proper nutrition have all been cited in facilities owned or managed by the top two private prison corporations. Despite these harsh realities, billions in revenue allow these corporations to continue to persuade state and federal legislators and agencies to convert to private prisons. Even in the wake of their investigations for fraud and abuse and even in light of termination of several government contracts, private prisons continue to thrive.

*Incarcerations in Black and White* provides disturbing correlations between the fraudulent practice of convict leasing and peonage in the late 1800s and the use of prisoners today to manufacture billions of dollars in goods and services while paying them as little as 40 cents an hour. It reveals that as the labor pool decrease, policies change to convict individuals for non-violent offenses and to give them longer sentences. As profits decrease, the incarceration of women and mothers now outpace that of men. The effect on society has been staggering. Schools are closed while billions are directed into a system that has increased incarcerations by 800% since 1963. Children are being placed in foster care, often permanently separated from parents as they were during slavery.

Far from being an exhaustive exploration into a broken system of over incarceration, Griffin examined data, scholarly articles, books and research to give insight into the billions of dollars spent for ineffective solutions. It explores the impact of incarcerations on children, families and the community and provides numerous links, resources and contacts to strength collaborations. Convinced that prison corporations are driving this country toward disaster, *Incarcerations in Black and White* names those behind a destructive, unquenchable system that has convicted thousands of innocent people, created new crimes to fill prison beds and placed an entire nation behind locked do

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