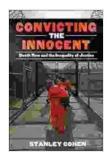
# Death Row and America's Broken System of Justice

#### A Comprehensive Examination of the Flaws and Biases in the American Criminal Justice System

The death penalty is the ultimate form of punishment, and it is one that is reserved for the most heinous crimes. However, the American criminal justice system is far from perfect, and there are serious flaws in the way that the death penalty is applied.



### Convicting the Innocent: Death Row and America's Broken System of Justice by Stanley Cohen

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.1 out of 5 Language : English : 4005 KB File size : Enabled Text-to-Speech Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 314 pages Lending : Enabled



In this book, we will take a comprehensive look at the death penalty in America. We will examine the history of the death penalty, the arguments for and against it, and the ways in which it is applied. We will also look at the specific cases of individuals who have been sentenced to death, and we will explore the systemic racism and arbitrary application that have plagued the death penalty for decades.

This book is a must-read for anyone concerned about the state of justice in America. It is a powerful indictment of the death penalty, and it will challenge you to think about the true meaning of justice.

#### The History of the Death Penalty in America

The death penalty has a long and controversial history in America. The first recorded execution in the colonies was in 1608, and the death penalty has been used ever since to punish a wide range of crimes, from murder to treason.

The use of the death penalty declined in the early 20th century, but it began to increase again in the 1970s. This increase was due in part to the rise of the "tough on crime" movement, which led to the passage of laws that made it easier to impose the death penalty.

Today, the death penalty is legal in 27 states. However, its use has declined in recent years, due to concerns about its fairness and effectiveness.

#### The Arguments for and Against the Death Penalty

There are a number of arguments for and against the death penalty. Supporters of the death penalty argue that it is a just punishment for certain crimes, that it deters crime, and that it protects society from dangerous criminals.

Opponents of the death penalty argue that it is cruel and unusual punishment, that it is not a deterrent to crime, and that it is applied in a racially biased manner.

The debate over the death penalty is a complex one, and there are no easy answers. However, it is important to be aware of the arguments for and against the death penalty before forming an opinion.

#### The Application of the Death Penalty

The death penalty is applied in a very uneven manner in the United States. Some states execute far more people than others, and there is a significant racial disparity in who is sentenced to death.

For example, in 2020, Texas executed more people than any other state, with 5 executions. California, on the other hand, has not executed anyone since 2006.

There is also a clear racial disparity in who is sentenced to death. Black people are more likely to be sentenced to death than white people, even for the same crimes.

For example, a study by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund found that in the 11 states that have executed the most people since 1976, black people are more than three times as likely to be sentenced to death for murder than white people.

#### The Systemic Racism of the Death Penalty

The racial disparity in the application of the death penalty is due to a number of factors, including systemic racism in the criminal justice system.

For example, black people are more likely to be arrested and charged with crimes than white people. They are also more likely to be convicted of crimes, and they are more likely to receive longer sentences.

This systemic racism has a direct impact on the death penalty. Black people are more likely to be sentenced to death because they are more likely to be arrested, charged, convicted, and given long sentences for crimes.

#### The Arbitrary Application of the Death Penalty

The death penalty is also applied in an arbitrary manner. There is no clear standard for who should be sentenced to death, and the decision of whether or not to impose the death penalty is often based on factors that have nothing to do with the crime itself.

For example, a study by the Death Penalty Information Center found that people who are sentenced to death are more likely to have mental illness, intellectual disabilities, or a history of childhood trauma.

They are also more likely to be poor and to have inadequate legal representation.

The arbitrary application of the death penalty means that some people who are sentenced to death may not deserve to die. This is a serious problem, and it is one that needs to be addressed.

#### The Lack of Due Process in Death Penalty Cases

The death penalty is a unique form of punishment in that it is irreversible. Once someone is executed, there is no going back. This means that it is essential that the death penalty is only applied to those who are truly guilty of the crimes they are accused of.

However, there is a serious lack of due process in death penalty cases. This means that innocent people may be sentenced to death and executed.

For example, a study by the National Registry of Exonerations found that 160 people have been exonerated from death row since 1973. This means that these people were innocent of the crimes they were accused of, and they could have been executed if they had not been exonerated.

The lack of due process in death penalty cases is a serious problem, and it is one that needs to be addressed.

#### The

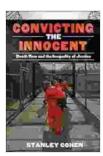
The death penalty is a complex and controversial issue. There are a number of arguments for and against it, and it is important to be aware of all of these arguments before forming an opinion.

However, it is clear that the death penalty is applied in a very uneven manner in the United States. There is a significant racial disparity in who is sentenced to death, and the death penalty is often applied in an arbitrary manner.

There is also a serious lack of due process in death penalty cases. This means that innocent people may be sentenced to death and executed.

For all of these reasons, I believe that the death penalty should be abolished. It is a cruel and unusual punishment, it is not a deterrent to crime, and it is applied in a racially biased manner.

It is time for America to move beyond the death penalty and embrace a more just and humane system of justice.

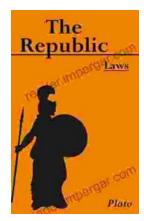


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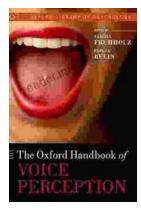
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