

DOWNLOAD PDF THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Chapter 1 : Download [PDF] The Prison Industrial Complex The Global Economy Free Online | New Books

The Prison-Industrial Complex & the Global Economy and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more Enter your mobile number or email address below and we'll send you a link to download the free Kindle App.

This represents the highest per capita incarceration rate in the history of the world. In alone, new U. This monumental commitment to lock up a sizeable percentage of the population is an integral part of the globalization of capital. Several strands converge the end of the Cold War, changing relations between labor and capital on an international scale, domestic economic decline, racism, the U. Its twofold purpose is profit and social control. Its public rationale is the fight against crime. Now, fear of crime and the demonization of criminals serve a similar ideological purpose: In California, the top three charges for those entering prison are possession of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance for sale, and robbery. Like fear of communism during the Cold War, fear of crime is a great selling tool for a dubious product. As with the building and maintenance of weapons and armies, the building and maintenance of prisons are big business. Investment houses, construction companies, architects, and support services such as food, medical, transportation, and furniture, all stand to profit by prison expansion. As the Cold War winds down and the Crime War heats up, defense industry giants like Westinghouse are re-tooling and lobbying Washington for their share of the domestic law enforcement market. Smaller firms like Correctional Communications Corp. These companies are reaping huge profits at the expense of prisoners and their families; prisoners are often effectively cut off from communication due to the excessive cost of phone calls. Investment firm Smith Barney is a part owner of a prison in Florida. American Express and General Electric have invested in private prison construction in Oklahoma and Tennessee. Correctional Corporation Of America, one of the largest private prison owners, already operates internationally, with 48 facilities in 11 states, Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Under contract by the government to run jails and prisons, and paid a fixed sum per prisoner, the profit motive mandates that these firms operate as cheaply and efficiently as possible. This means lower wages for staff, no unions, and fewer services for prisoners. Private contracts also mean less public scrutiny. Prison owners are raking in billions by cutting corners which harm prisoners. Substandard diets, extreme overcrowding, and abuses by poorly trained personnel have all been documented and can be expected in these institutions which are unabashedly about making money. Prisons are also a leading rural growth industry. With traditional agriculture being pushed aside by agribusiness, many rural American communities are facing hard times. Economically depressed areas are falling over each other to secure a prison facility of their own. Prisons are seen as a source of jobs " in construction, local vendors and prison staff as well as a source of tax revenues. An average prison has a staff of several hundred employees and an annual payroll of several million dollars. Like any industry, the prison economy needs raw materials. In this case, the raw materials are prisoners. Ever since the onset of the Reagan-Bush years in , workers in the United States have been under siege. Aggressive union busting, corporate deregulation, and especially the flight of capital in search of cheaper labor markets, have been crucial factors in the downward plight of American workers. One wave of capital flight occurred in the s. Manufacturing such as textiles in the Northeast moved south to South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama non-union states where wages were low. During the s, many more industries steel, auto, etc. Most seriously hurt by these plant closures and layoffs were African-Americans and other semiskilled workers in urban centers who lost their decent paying industrial jobs. Into the gaping economic hole left by the exodus of jobs from U. At the international level, the war on drugs has been both a cynical cover-up of U. Over the last 50 years, the primary goal of U. To this end, the U. In return for cooperation with the U. Nor is it an accident that cocaine began to proliferate in the United States during the s. Central America is the strategic halfway point for air travel between Colombia and the United States. The Contra War against Sandinista Nicaragua, as well as the war against the national liberation forces in El Salvador, was largely about control of this critical area. When Congress cut off support for the Contras, Oliver North and friends

DOWNLOAD PDF THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

found other ways to fund the Contra re-supply operations in part through drug dealing. Planes loaded with arms for the Contras took-off from the southern United States, offloaded their weapons on private landing strips in Honduras, then loaded up with cocaine for the return trip. But it has influenced aspects of the drug trade and is a powerful force of social control in the region. The drug trade, however production, transfer, and distribution points is all in the north. In the Colombian jungles of Cartagena de Chaira, coca has become the only viable commercial crop. In , 30, farmers blocked roads and airstrips to prevent crop spraying from aircraft. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia FARC one of the oldest guerrilla organizations in Latin America, held 60 government soldiers hostage for nine months demanding that the military leave the jungle, that social services be increased, and that alternative crops be made available to farmers. One result of the international war on drugs has been the internationalization of the U. Here at home, the war on drugs has been a war on poor people. Particularly poor, urban, African-American men and women. Arrests of African-Americans have been about five times higher than arrests of whites, although whites and African-Americans use drugs at about the same rate. And, African-Americans have been imprisoned in numbers even more disproportionate than their relative arrest rates. It is estimated that in , on any given day, one out of every U. The differential in sentencing for powder and crack cocaine is one glaring example of institutionalized racism. Under federal law, it takes only five grams of crack cocaine to trigger a five-year mandatory minimum sentence. But it takes grams of powder cocaine times as much to trigger this same sentence. This flagrant injustice was highlighted by a nationwide federal prison rebellion when Congress refused to enact changes in sentencing laws that would equalize penalties. Statistics show that police repression and mass incarceration are not curbing the drug trade. Dealers are forced to move, turf is reshuffled, already vulnerable families are broken up. But the demand for drugs still exists, as do huge profits for high-level dealers in this fifty billion-dollar international industry. Put poor people away before they get angry. Incarcerate those at the bottom, the helpless, the hopeless, before they demand change. The crackdown on drugs has not stopped drug use. But it has taken thousands of unemployed and potentially angry and rebellious young men and women off the streets. And it has created a mushrooming prison population. Unemployed, and alienated from a society indifferent to his needs, he becomes involved in the drug economy or some other outlawed means of survival. He is arrested, put in prison, and put to work. And the only victor is big business. For private business, prison labor is like a pot of gold. No language problem, as in a foreign country. New leviathan prisons are being built with thousands of eerie acres of factories inside the walls. Even the 14th Amendment to the Constitution which abolished slavery excludes prisoners from its protections. And, more and more, prisons are charging inmates for basic necessities from medical care, to toilet paper, to use of the law library. California has similar legislation pending. So, while government cannot yet actually require inmates to work at private industry jobs for less than minimum wage, they are forced to by necessity. Some prison enterprises are state-run. In another case, U. Technologies sold its electronics plant in Austin, Texas, leaving its workers unemployed. Six weeks later, the electronics plant reopened in a nearby prison. Welcome to the New World Order The proliferation of prisons in the United States is one piece of a puzzle called the globalization of capital. Since the end of the Cold War, capitalism has gone on an international business offensive. No longer impeded by an alternative socialist economy or the threat of national liberation movements supported by the Soviet Union or China, transnational corporations see the world as their oyster. The primary mechanism of control is debt. For decades, developing countries have depended on foreign loans, resulting in increased vulnerability to the transnational corporate strategy for the global economy. Under structural adjustment, police and military expenditures are the only government spending that is encouraged. The sovereignty of nations is compromised when, as in the case of Vietnam, trade sanctions are threatened unless the government allows Camel cigarettes to litter the countryside with billboards, or promises to spend millions in the U. The basic transnational corporate philosophy is this: The results of this philosophy in action are that while economies are growing, so is poverty, so is ecological destruction, so are sweatshops and child labor. Across the globe, wages are plummeting, indigenous people are being forced off their lands, rivers are becoming industrial dumping

DOWNLOAD PDF THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

grounds, and forests are being obliterated. All over the world, more and more people are being forced into illegal activity for their own survival as traditional cultures and social structures are destroyed. Inevitably, crime and imprisonment rates are on the rise. And the United States law enforcement establishment is in the forefront, domestically and internationally, in providing state-of-the-art repression. Within the United States, structural adjustment sometimes known as Contract With America takes the form of welfare and social service cuts, continued massive military spending, and skyrocketing prison spending. Walk through any poor urban neighborhood: But you will see more police stations and more cops. The dismantling of social programs and the growing dominance of the right-wing agenda in U.

Chapter 2 : The Prison-Industrial Complex and the Global Economy

And the prison/industrial complex is rapidly becoming an essential component of the U.S. economy. Prisons are Big Business Like the military/industrial complex, the prison/industrial complex is an interweaving of private business and government interests.

History[edit] Following the War on Drugs and the passing of harsher sentencing legislation, private sector prisons began to emerge to keep up with the rapidly expanding prison population. For private prisons, labor is the biggest expense at 70 percent of overall costs, and as a result, CCA and other private prisons have become motivated to cut labor costs by understaffing its prisons. Corrections and Detention division manages 70 correctional and detention facilities. To develop innovative public-private partnerships with government agencies around the globe that deliver high quality, cost-efficient correctional, detention, community reentry, and electronic monitoring services while providing industry leading rehabilitation and community reintegration programs to the men and women entrusted to our care. Nationwide, this is 7 percent and 13 percent of inmates, respectively. The Trump Administration has so far increased immigration enforcement and instituted harsher criminal sentences. Whitehead , constitutional attorney and founder of the Rutherford Institute asserts "Prison privatization simply encourages incarceration for the sake of profits, while causing millions of Americans, most of them minor, nonviolent criminals, to be handed over to corporations for lengthy prison sentences which do nothing to protect society or prevent recidivism" [7] and argues that it characterizes an increasingly inverted justice system dependent upon an advancement in power and wealth of the corporate state. Injury and illness as a result were not reported to appropriate authorities. When investigated, they found that UNICOR , a prison labor program for inmates within the Federal Bureau of Prisons , had attempted to conceal evidence of working conditions from inspectors by cleaning up the production lines before they arrived. Please improve it by verifying the claims made and adding inline citations. Statements consisting only of original research should be removed. January Learn how and when to remove this template message The War on Drugs has significantly influenced the development of the prison-industrial complex. The policy measures taken to categorize drug abuse as a criminal issue rather than a health issue as many experts advocate have directly sustained the existence of the prison-industrial complex. For any illegal-drug dealer, even a juvenile, he advocated a life-sentence in prison exempt from parole and plea-bargaining. These laws led to overcrowding in New York prisons. The mayor succeeding Rockefeller was Mario Cuomo ; he was forced to support prison expansion because he was unable to generate enough support to dismantle the drug laws. In order to receive funding for these prisons, Cuomo financed this project to the Urban Development Corporation a public state agency which, to the benefit of the state government, could issue state bonds without voter support. Even if a drug seller is prosecuted , the drug industry still exists and other sellers take the place of the imprisoned seller. This is described as the "replacement effect". The War on Drugs has initiated a perpetual cycle of drug dealing and imprisonment. As a result of these events, in many ways, a domino effect has occurred: Collected data illustrates that "Although the prevalence of illegal drug use among white men is approximately the same as that among black men, black men are five times as likely to be arrested for a drug offense. Effects[edit] Eric Schlosser wrote an article published in Atlantic Monthly in December stating that: Schlosser also defined the prison industrial complex as "a set of bureaucratic, political, and economic interests that encourage increased spending on imprisonment, regardless of the actual need". While Aviram shares their concerns that "private enterprises designed to directly benefit from human confinement and misery is profoundly unethical and problematic", she claims that "the profit incentives that brought private incarceration into existence, rather than private incarceration itself, are to blame for the PIC and its evils". The use of prisoners for cheap labor while they are serving time ensures that some corporations benefit economically. Prison activists who dispute the existence of a prison industrial complex have argued that these parties have a great interest in the expansion of the prison system since their

development and prosperity directly depends on the number of inmates. Reflections on the Prison Industrial Complex by Angela Davis that "For private business, prison labor is like a pot of gold. No language barriers, as in foreign countries. New leviathan prisons are being built on thousands of eerie acres of factories inside the walls. The prison system is easily manipulated and geared toward help support the most economically advantageous situation. When having larger privatized prisons makes it cheaper to incarcerate each individual and the only side effect is having more free labor, it is extremely beneficial for companies to essentially rent out their facilities to the state and the government. One method for this is using prison inmates as a labor force to perform production work. The transition in the last five years has been away from producing a product to producing a successful offender as our product. He states that inmates are kept in inhumane conditions and that the need to preserve the economic advantage of a full prison leads prison leaders to thwart any effort or reforms that might reduce recidivism and incarcerations. Because the privatized prisons are so much larger than the public-run prisons, they were subject to economies of scale. Their reports showed that most states had additional costs ranging from one percent to thirty-four percent outside of what their original budget was for that year. For some small communities in the Southwestern United States, these facilities serve as an integral part of the economy. The male incarceration rate top line is 15 times the female rate bottom line. In , UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women was released which stated that "Among many other abuses women prisoners have identified, are pat searches male guards pat searching and groping women , illegal strip searches male guards observing strip searches of women , constant lewd comments and gestures, violations of their right to privacy male guards watching women in showers and toilets , and in some instances, sexual assault and rape. Considering the fact that as many as half of all women are assaulted by their husbands or partners combined with dramatically rising numbers of women sentenced to prison, it may be argued that women in general are subjected to a far greater magnitude of punishment than men. Women prisoners represent one of the most disenfranchised and invisible adult populations in our society. The absolute power and control the state exercises over their lives both stems from and perpetuates the patriarchal and racist structures that, for centuries, have resulted in the social domination of women. Many women report that when requesting counseling, they are offered psychotropic medications instead. As technologies of imprisonment become increasingly repressive and practices of isolation become increasingly routine, mentally ill women often are placed in solitary confinement, which can only exacerbate their condition. In terms of percentage of ethnic populations, in descending order, the U. Heitzeg and activist Kay Whitlock claim that contemporary bipartisan reforms being proposed "are predicated on privatization schemes, dominated by the anti-government right and neoliberal interests that more completely merge for-profit medical treatment and other human needs supports with the prison-industrial complex". However Bernard Harcourt , Professor of Law at Columbia University , considers the term useful insofar as "it highlights the profitability of prison building and the employment boom associated with prison guard labor. There is no question that the prison expansion served the financial interests of large sectors of the economy. Prisons in the U. The institutionalization of mentally ill people, historically, has been used more often against women than against men. They propose increasing funding of social programs in order to lower the rate of crimes, and therefore eventually end the need for police and prisons. Alternatives to detention[edit] Due to the overcrowding in prisons and detention centers by for-profit corporations, organizations such as Amnesty International, propose using alternatives such as reporting requirements, bonds, or the use of monitoring technologies. This argument lies in the fact that major corporations such as the GEO Group and Corrections Corporations of America will still be profiting by simply re-branding and moving towards rehabilitation services and monitoring technologies. According to Ezzat Fattah, opposition towards prison alternatives and correctional facilities is due to the public fearing having that having these facilities in their neighborhoods will threaten the security and integrity of their communities and children. The conference, Critical Resistance to the prison-industrial complex, was held in September at the University of California, Berkeley and was attended by over 3, people of diverse academic, socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. Two years after the conference, a political

DOWNLOAD PDF THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

grassroots organization was founded bearing the same name with the mission to challenge and dismantle the prison-industrial complex. Social Forum , committed activists joined together to discuss prison justice and stated that "Because we share a vision of justice and solidarity against confinement, control, and all forms of political repression, the prison industrial complex must be abolished. Suspension, expulsion, and being held back during middle school years are the largest predictors of arrest for adolescent women. Blasio also spearheaded a leadership team on school climate and discipline to take recommendations and craft the foundations for more substantive policy.

Chapter 3 : Masked Racism: Reflections on the Prison Industrial Complex

The prison-industrial complex & the global economy By Eve Goldberg and Linda Evans, Thursday 18 December Over million people are currently behind bars in the United States.

Reflections on the Prison Industrial Complex by Angela Davis Imprisonment has become the response of first resort to far too many of the social problems that burden people who are ensconced in poverty. These problems often are veiled by being conveniently grouped together under the category "crime" and by the automatic attribution of criminal behavior to people of color. Homelessness, unemployment, drug addiction, mental illness, and illiteracy are only a few of the problems that disappear from public view when the human beings contending with them are relegated to cages. Prisons thus perform a feat of magic. Or rather the people who continually vote in new prison bonds and tacitly assent to a proliferating network of prisons and jails have been tricked into believing in the magic of imprisonment. But prisons do not disappear problems, they disappear human beings. And the practice of disappearing vast numbers of people from poor, immigrant, and racially marginalized communities has literally become big business. The seeming effortlessness of magic always conceals an enormous amount of behind-the-scenes work. When prisons disappear human beings in order to convey the illusion of solving social problems, penal infrastructures must be created to accommodate a rapidly swelling population of caged people. Goods and services must be provided to keep imprisoned populations alive. Sometimes these populations must be kept busy and at other times -- particularly in repressive super-maximum prisons and in INS detention centers -- they must be deprived of virtually all meaningful activity. Vast numbers of handcuffed and shackled people are moved across state borders as they are transferred from one state or federal prison to another. All this work, which used to be the primary province of government, is now also performed by private corporations, whose links to government in the field of what is euphemistically called "corrections" resonate dangerously with the military industrial complex. The dividends that accrue from investment in the punishment industry, like those that accrue from investment in weapons production, only amount to social destruction. Taking into account the structural similarities and profitability of business-government linkages in the realms of military production and public punishment, the expanding penal system can now be characterized as a "prison industrial complex. More than 70 percent of the imprisoned population are people of color. It is rarely acknowledged that the fastest growing group of prisoners are black women and that Native American prisoners are the largest group per capita. Approximately five million people -- including those on probation and parole -- are directly under the surveillance of the criminal justice system. Three decades ago, the imprisoned population was approximately one-eighth its current size. According to Elliott Currie, "[t]he prison has become a looming presence in our society to an extent unparalleled in our history -- or that of any other industrial democracy. Short of major wars, mass incarceration has been the most thoroughly implemented government social program of our time. Colored bodies constitute the main human raw material in this vast experiment to disappear the major social problems of our time. Once the aura of magic is stripped away from the imprisonment solution, what is revealed is racism, class bias, and the parasitic seduction of capitalist profit. The prison industrial system materially and morally impoverishes its inhabitants and devours the social wealth needed to address the very problems that have led to spiraling numbers of prisoners. As prisons take up more and more space on the social landscape, other government programs that have previously sought to respond to social needs -- such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families -- are being squeezed out of existence. The deterioration of public education, including prioritizing discipline and security over learning in public schools located in poor communities, is directly related to the prison "solution. And precisely because of their profit potential, prisons are becoming increasingly important to the U. If the notion of punishment as a source of potentially stupendous profits is disturbing by itself, then the strategic dependence on racist structures and ideologies to render mass punishment palatable and profitable is even more troubling. While government-run prisons are often in gross

DOWNLOAD PDF THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

violation of international human rights standards, private prisons are even less accountable. The company recently identified California as its "new frontier. It boasts a total of 30, beds as well as contracts for prisoner health care services, transportation, and security. Unlike public correctional facilities, the vast profits of these private facilities rely on the employment of non-union labor. The Prison Industrial Complex But private prison companies are only the most visible component of the increasing corporatization of punishment. Government contracts to build prisons have bolstered the construction industry. The architectural community has identified prison design as a major new niche. Technology developed for the military by companies like Westinghouse is being marketed for use in law enforcement and punishment. Moreover, corporations that appear to be far removed from the business of punishment are intimately involved in the expansion of the prison industrial complex. Prison construction bonds are one of the many sources of profitable investment for leading financiers such as Merrill Lynch. MCI charges prisoners and their families outrageous prices for the precious telephone calls which are often the only contact prisoners have with the free world. Many corporations whose products we consume on a daily basis have learned that prison labor power can be as profitable as third world labor power exploited by U. Both relegate formerly unionized workers to joblessness and many even wind up in prison. But it is not only the hi-tech industries that reap the profits of prison labor. Nordstrom department stores sell jeans that are marketed as "Prison Blues," as well as t-shirts and jackets made in Oregon prisons. The advertising slogan for these clothes is "made on the inside to be worn on the outside. No language barriers, as in foreign countries. New leviathan prisons are being built on thousands of eerie acres of factories inside the walls. It devours the social wealth that could be used to subsidize housing for the homeless, to ameliorate public education for poor and racially marginalized communities, to open free drug rehabilitation programs for people who wish to kick their habits, to create a national health care system, to expand programs to combat HIV, to eradicate domestic abuse -- and, in the process, to create well-paying jobs for the unemployed. Since more than twenty new prisons have opened in California, while only one new campus was added to the California State University system and none to the University of California system. In , higher education received only 8. Now that affirmative action has been declared illegal in California, it is obvious that education is increasingly reserved for certain people, while prisons are reserved for others. Five times as many black men are presently in prison as in four-year colleges and universities. This new segregation has dangerous implications for the entire country. By segregating people labeled as criminals, prison simultaneously fortifies and conceals the structural racism of the U. Claims of low unemployment rates -- even in black communities -- make sense only if one assumes that the vast numbers of people in prison have really disappeared and thus have no legitimate claims to jobs. The numbers of black and Latino men currently incarcerated amount to two percent of the male labor force. According to criminologist David Downes, "[t]reating incarceration as a type of hidden unemployment may raise the jobless rate for men by about one-third, to 8 percent. The effect on the black labor force is greater still, raising the [black] male unemployment rate from 11 percent to 19 percent. However, the great majority of people have been tricked into believing in the efficacy of imprisonment, even though the historical record clearly demonstrates that prisons do not work. Racism has undermined our ability to create a popular critical discourse to contest the ideological trickery that posits imprisonment as key to public safety. The focus of state policy is rapidly shifting from social welfare to social control. Black, Latino, Native American, and many Asian youth are portrayed as the purveyors of violence, traffickers of drugs, and as envious of commodities that they have no right to possess. Young black and Latina women are represented as sexually promiscuous and as indiscriminately propagating babies and poverty. Criminality and deviance are racialized. Surveillance is thus focused on communities of color, immigrants, the unemployed, the undereducated, the homeless, and in general on those who have a diminishing claim to social resources. Their claim to social resources continues to diminish in large part because law enforcement and penal measures increasingly devour these resources. The prison industrial complex has thus created a vicious cycle of punishment which only further impoverishes those whose impoverishment is supposedly "solved" by imprisonment. Therefore, as the emphasis of

DOWNLOAD PDF THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

government policy shifts from social welfare to crime control, racism sinks more deeply into the economic and ideological structures of U. But conversations about "race relations" will hardly dismantle a prison industrial complex that thrives on and nourishes the racism hidden within the deep structures of our society. The emergence of a U. But so are its opportunities. Considering the impressive number of grassroots projects that continue to resist the expansion of the punishment industry, it ought to be possible to bring these efforts together to create radical and nationally visible movements that can legitimize anti-capitalist critiques of the prison industrial complex. To safeguard a democratic future, it is possible and necessary to weave together the many and increasing strands of resistance to the prison industrial complex into a powerful movement for social transformation.

Chapter 4 : What is the Prison Industrial Complex? | Empty Cages Collective

the prison-industrial complex & the global economy Over million people are currently behind bars in the United States. This represents the highest per capita incarceration rate in the history of the world.

This represents the highest per capita incarceration rate in the history of the world. In alone, new U. This monumental commitment to lock up a sizeable percentage of the population is an integral part of the globalization of capital. Several strands converged at the end of the Cold War, changing relations between labor and capital on an international scale: And the prison industrial complex is rapidly becoming an essential component of the U. Its twofold purpose is profit and social control. Its public rationale is the fight against crime. Not so long ago, communism was "the enemy" and communists were demonized as a way of justifying gargantuan military expenditures. Now, fear of crime and the demonization of criminals serve a similar ideological purpose: The omnipresent media blitz about serial killers, missing children, and "random violence" feeds our fear. In reality, however, most of the "criminals" we lock up are poor people who commit nonviolent crimes out of economic need. In California, the top three charges for those entering prison are: Violent crimes like murder, rape, manslaughter and kidnaping dont even make the top ten. Like fear of communism during the Cold War, fear of crime is a great selling tool for a dubious product. As with the building and maintenance of weapons and armies, the building and maintenance of prisons are big business. Investment houses, construction companies, architects, and support services such as food, medical, transportation and furniture, all stand to profit by prison expansion. A burgeoning "specialty item" industry sells fencing, handcuffs, drug detectors, protective vests, and other security devices to prisons. As the Cold War winds down and the Crime War heats up, defense industry giants like Westinghouse are retooling and lobbying Washington for their share of the domestic law enforcement market. Smaller firms like Correctional Communications Corp. They win government contracts by offering to "kick back" some of the profits to the government agency awarding the contract. These companies are reaping huge profits at the expense of prisoners and their families; prisoners are often effectively cut off from communication due to the excessive cost of phone calls. One of the fastest growing sectors of the prison industrial complex is private corrections companies. Investment firm Smith Barney is a part owner of a prison in Florida. American Express and General Electric have invested in private prison construction in Oklahoma and Tennessee. Correctional Corporation Of America, one of the largest private prison owners, already operates internationally, with more than 48 facilities in 11 states, Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Under contract by government to run jails and prisons, and paid a fixed sum per prisoner, the profit motive mandates that these firms operate as cheaply and efficiently as possible. This means lower wages for staff, no unions, and fewer services for prisoners. Private contracts also mean less public scrutiny. Prison owners are raking in billions by cutting corners which harm prisoners. Substandard diets, extreme overcrowding, and abuses by poorly trained personnel have all been documented and can be expected in these institutions which are unabashedly about making money. Prisons are also a leading rural growth industry. With traditional agriculture being pushed aside by agribusiness, many rural American communities are facing hard times. Economically depressed areas are falling over each other to secure a prison facility of their own. Prisons are seen as a source of jobs in construction, local vendors and prison staff as well as a source of tax revenues. An average prison has a staff of several hundred employees and an annual payroll of several million dollars. Like any industry, the prison economy needs raw materials. In this case the raw materials are prisoners. The prison industrial complex can grow only if more and more people are incarcerated even if crime rates drop. Ever since the onset of the Reagan-Bush years in , workers in the United States have been under siege. Aggressive union busting, corporate deregulation, and especially the flight of capital in search of cheaper labor markets, have been crucial factors in the downward plight of American workers. One wave of capital flight occurred in the s. Manufacturing such as textiles in the Northeast moved south to South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, non-union states where wages were low. During the s, many more industries

DOWNLOAD PDF THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

steel, auto, etc. Most seriously hurt by these plant closures and layoffs were African-Americans and other semiskilled workers in urban centers who lost their decent paying industrial jobs. Into the gaping economic hole left by the exodus of jobs from U. At the international level, the war on drugs has been both a cynical cover-up of U. Over the last 50 years, the primary goal of U. To this end, the U. In return for cooperation with the U. Its no accident that heroin addiction in the U. Nor is it an accident that cocaine began to proliferate in the United States during the s. Central America is the strategic halfway point for air travel between Colombia and the United States. The Contra War against Sandinista Nicaragua, as well as the war against the national liberation forces in El Salvador, was largely about control of this critical area. When Congress cut off support for the Contras, Oliver North and friends found other ways to fund the Contra re-supply operations, in part through drug dealing. Planes loaded with arms for the Contras took off from the southern United States, off loaded their weapons on private landing strips in Honduras, then loaded up with cocaine for the return trip. But it has influenced aspects of the drug trade, and is a powerful force of social control in the region. The drug trade, however production, transfer, and distribution points is all in the north. The "drug war money" is being used primarily to fight against the Zapatista rebels in the southern state of Chiapas who are demanding land reform and economic policy changes which are diametrically opposed to the transnational corporate agenda. In the Colombian jungles of Cartagena de Chaira, coca has become the only viable commercial crop. In , 30, farmers blocked roads and airstrips to prevent crop spraying from aircraft. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia FARC one of the oldest guerrilla organizations in Latin America, held 60 government soldiers hostage for nine months, demanding that the military leave the jungle, that social services be increased, and that alternative crops be made available to farmers. And given the notorious involvement of Colombias highest officials with the powerful drug cartels, it is not surprising that most U. One result of the international war on drugs has been the internationalization of the U. For the most part, it is the low level "mules" carrying drugs into this country who are captured and incarcerated in ever increasing numbers. Here at home, the war on drugs has been a war on poor people. Particularly poor, urban, African American men and women. Its well documented that police enforcement of the new, harsh drug laws have been focused on low-level dealers in communities of color. Arrests of African-Americans have been about five times higher than arrests of whites, although whites and African-Americans use drugs at about the same rate. And, African-Americans have been imprisoned in numbers even more disproportionate than their relative arrest rates. It is estimated that in , on any given day, one out of every U. The differential in sentencing for powder and crack cocaine is one glaring example of institutionalized racism. Under federal law, it takes only five grams of crack cocaine to trigger a five year mandatory minimum sentence. But it takes grams of powder cocaine, times as much, to trigger this same sentence. This flagrant injustice was highlighted by a nationwide federal prison rebellion when Congress refused to enact changes in sentencing laws that would equalize penalties. Statistics show that police repression and mass incarceration are not curbing the drug trade. Dealers are forced to move, turf is reshuffled, already vulnerable families are broken up. But the demand for drugs still exists, as do huge profits for high-level dealers in this fifty billion dollar international industry. The states repressive apparatus working overtime. Put poor people away before they get angry. Incarcerate those at the bottom, the helpless, the hopeless, before they demand change. What drugs dont damage in terms of intact communities, the ability to take action, to organize the war on drugs and mass imprisonment will surely destroy. The crackdown on drugs has not stopped drug use. But it has taken thousands of unemployed and potentially angry and rebellious young men and women off the streets. And it has created a mushrooming prison population. Unemployed, and alienated from a society indifferent to his needs, he becomes involved in the drug economy or some other outlawed means of survival. He is arrested, put in prison, and put to work. From worker, to unemployed, to criminal, to convict laborer, the cycle has come full circle. And the only victor is big business. For private business, prison labor is like a pot of gold. No unemployment insurance or workers compensation to pay. No language problem, as in a foreign country. New leviathan prisons are being built with thousands of eerie acres of factories inside the walls. Prisoners do data entry for Chevron, make telephone reservations for TWA, raise

DOWNLOAD PDF THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

hogs, shovel manure, make circuit boards, limousines, waterbeds, and lingerie for Victorias Secret. All at a fraction of the cost of "free labor. Even the 14th Amendment to the Constitution which abolished slavery, excludes prisoners from its protections. And, more and more, prisons are charging inmates for basic necessities from medical care, to toilet paper, to use of the law library. Many states are now charging "room and board. California has similar legislation pending. So, while government cannot yet actually require inmates to work at private industry jobs for less than minimum wage, they are forced to by necessity.

DOWNLOAD PDF THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Chapter 5 : The Prison-industrial Complex And The Global Economy | Online bibliotek

The prison business in the US is not based on locking up, punishing, or rehabilitating dangerous hoodlums. Follow the money and find how the prison-industrial complex fits into the New World Order of free trade and imprisoned people, the war on drugs, and capital flight. To ask other readers.

This represents the highest per capita incarceration rate in the history of the world. In alone, new U. This monumental commitment to lock up a sizeable percentage of the population is an integral part of the globalization of capital. Its twofold purpose is profit and social control. Its public rationale is the fight against crime. Now, fear of crime and the demonization of criminals serve a similar ideological purpose: In California, the top three charges for those entering prison are: Like fear of communism during the Cold War, fear of crime is a great selling tool for a dubious product. As with the building and maintenance of weapons and armies, the building and maintenance of prisons are big business. Investment houses, construction companies, architects, and support services such as food, medical, transportation and furniture, all stand to profit by prison expansion. As the Cold War winds down and the Crime War heats up, defense industry giants like Westinghouse are re-tooling and lobbying Washington for their share of the domestic law enforcement market. Smaller firms like Correctional Communications Corp. These companies are reaping huge profits at the expense of prisoners and their families; prisoners are often effectively cut off from communication due to the excessive cost of phone calls. Investment firm Smith Barney is a part owner of a prison in Florida. American Express and General Electric have invested in private prison construction in Oklahoma and Tennessee. Correctional Corporation Of America, one of the largest private prison owners, already operates internationally, with 48 facilities in 11 states, Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Under contract by government to run jails and prisons, and paid a fixed sum per prisoner, the profit motive mandates that these firms operate as cheaply and efficiently as possible. This means lower wages for staff, no unions, and fewer services for prisoners. Private contracts also mean less public scrutiny. Prison owners are raking in billions by cutting corners which harm prisoners. Substandard diets, extreme overcrowding, and abuses by poorly trained personnel have all been documented and can be expected in these institutions which are unabashedly about making money. Prisons are also a leading rural growth industry. With traditional agriculture being pushed aside by agribusiness, many rural American communities are facing hard times. Economically depressed areas are falling over each other to secure a prison facility of their own. An average prison has a staff of several hundred employees and an annual payroll of several million dollars.

Chapter 6 : The Prison-Industrial Complex And The Global Economy

The Prison-Industrial Complex and the Global Economy.

What is the Prison Industrial Complex? The Prison Industrial Complex PIC is a term used to describe the overlapping interests of government and industry that use surveillance, policing and imprisonment as solutions to economic, social and political problems. Over half have suffered domestic violence and one in three has experienced sexual abuse. Over a quarter of the UK prison population is also from a minority ethnic group. The rates of self-harmers being women is approximately 11 times higher than for males. Its web of violent interrelationships entangle prisoners, their families, lovers, friends and communities the world over. As a collective we oppose both state and private prisons and we would like to illustrate how these are connected, and how prisons are used as a tool worldwide for social control and repression. Profiting from caging people: Privatisation The UK has the most privatised prison system in Europe, with Privatisation means that multinational companies profit from the prison system in nearly all ways, from electronic tagging to running prison themselves. Profit is priority above harm reduction and when a company is paid for how full their prison is, the investment in rehabilitation is clearly running opposite to business goals. Thousands of prisoners are also employed producing goods for private sector companies through mainly menial labour such as packing headphones and boxes. Read more about that here. Women from foreign countries are one of the fastest growing groups in the female prison population and represent one in seven of all the women held in custody in England and Wales 4. Criminalising Communities Criminalisation is the process through which actions become illegal. Actions become crimes only after they have been culturally or legally defined as crimes 1. In the past fifteen years, more than 3, new offences were created meaning people who would not have been criminalised previously are now swept into the criminal justice net 7. Machines, factories, land and the ways of distributing and making money off those goods. Two essential needs of capitalism are growth and expansion 6. e. New markets, new products, new colonial frontiers, land to exploit and so forth, as well as a surplus of labour. The prison industrial complex has effectively created a whole new industry to make the rich richer and profit from the caging of human beings. Real people with real lives and needs of working class peoples. Prisons perpetuate and enable violence 8 putting someone in a cage is violent in itself. Prisoners experience violence in prisons themselves through physical and psycho-emotional assault, sexual assault and rape, harassment and neglect of many needs, especially health needs. Families, lovers and friends of those subjected to the prison industrial complex are also harmed through our culture of locking people up. Thousands of relationships are daily affected as people are separated from their communities. Individuals can lose their jobs, homes and possessions, as well as lose or deeply affect their relationships with children, parents and other family, lovers, friends and social ties. Our current system does not meet the needs of individuals who have experienced harm either. Individuals and communities fail to feel safer with the growth of prisons and the prison industrial complex. How can we support their healing? How can we prevent such harm in the future? As a collective we are not blind to the fact that crimes committed by many people who end up in prison can and do harm other people, for example we would never minimise the harm of being raped, the feeling of violation through experiencing a robbery, the life-long memory of assault and so on. However we also recognise that the state is also responsible for harm, for example imprisoning people, enacting policy that creates and perpetuates poverty, war and more, and these two aspects 9 interpersonal harm and state harm are interlinked. We do not believe, nor is there evidence, that policing and imprisonment reduces harm. Caging people does not solve the social spirals of erosion in our societies that lead to harm such as drug abuse, poverty, violence, psycho-emotional health, or other aspects of oppression in our cultures which perpetuate harm. Therefore as abolitionists we commit to designing and working for safe communities that genuinely reduce harm.

DOWNLOAD PDF THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Chapter 7 : Prison’s industrial complex - Wikipedia

the prison industrial complex the global economy Download The Prison Industrial Complex The Global Economy ebook PDF or Read Online books in PDF, EPUB, and Mobi Format. Click Download or Read Online button to THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX THE GLOBAL ECONOMY book pdf for free now.

Chapter 8 : calendrierdelascience.com | The Prison Industrial Complex and the Global Economy

View Test Prep - The Prison Industrial Complex and the Global Economy from LAW CRIJ at University of California, Los Angeles. The Prison Industrial Complex and the Global Economy by Eve Goldberg and.

Chapter 9 : The Prison-Industrial Complex & the Global Economy by Linda Evans

The Prison-Industrial Complex & the Global Economy (PM Pamphlet) - Kindle edition by Linda Evans, Eve Goldberg. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets. Use features like bookmarks, note taking and highlighting while reading The Prison-Industrial Complex & the Global Economy (PM Pamphlet).