

Chapter 1 : The rich get richer and the poor get poorer - Wikipedia

In addition to The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison, Dr. Leighton is the co-author of Punishment for Sale (with Donna Selman,) and Class, Race, Gender and Crime (with Gregg Barak and Allison Cotton, 4th edition,).

Firstly, we have to ask how the criminal justice system operates and how it relates to power and inequality. It argues that the justice system does not function by identifying and pursuing the most harmful and threatening criminal behavior within society, but instead maintains a laser-like focus on punishing the harmful acts of the poor while allowing and enabling the overwhelmingly more harmful acts of the rich to continue, things like companies that release toxic chemicals into the air and workers who get killed because of dishonest regulatory practices, or, for instance, when Wall Street destroys the economy and millions of people lose their homes, jobs, and savingsâ€ that little thing. Instead of reflecting the actual threats to society our institutions act as a sort of carnival mirror which magnifies the threat of street crime while minimizing that of the much more dangerous corporate crime. At the same time in a vastly disproportionate way they incarcerate the impoverished and disenfranchised for things that all classes engage in, like non-violent drug use. Instead it maintains power relations and supports the interests of one class against the others. The Pyrrhic defeat theory holds that the failure of the justice system yields such benefits to those in positions of power that it amounts to a success. In order to maintain this situation, those in power and the dominant media institutions propagate a narrative that the real threat to Americans comes from law-breaking poor minorities, not those at the top. Instead of mitigating crime rates, this kind of system instead maintains a continual criminal underclass while as well even aiding the proliferation of crime. Reiman describes a study in which students were asked to devise a system from scratch that would further crime rather than reduce it. The characteristics they described, things like arbitrary arrests for non-violent recreational activities â€ marijuana use â€ and making it virtually impossible to reenter society after conviction, were almost exact replicas of the way our system currently functions. The inability of the criminal justice system to adequately address the problem of crime was understood decades ago. For instance, a study found a strong correlation between unemployment and crime. At that time financialization began to take hold and the US industrial sector was gutted as corporations began extensively outsourcing production to factories akin to sweat-shops in places like China and Vietnam. This created an entire class of mostly poor and unemployed people without opportunities for work, and it effected the black and Hispanic populations the worst. The police resembled an occupying force utilized against the poor that served as a tool of social control and repression. This all was mainly targeted against blacks, who on the whole have been kept to the bottom rungs of the socioeconomic ladder due to a historical pattern of discrimination. The cops largely adopted a racist ideology and targeted people based on their skin color, even though this kind of criminal behavior, mainly 1-on-1 offenses like theft and assaults, are related to deprivation and poverty, not race. Impoverished white communities have the same persistence of crime that impoverished black communities have. The mechanism for accomplishing all of this was drugs. The key is to devise a system that recognizes this while not appearing to. African-Americans use and sell drugs at about the same rates as whites. Those who filled the massive prison population boom were mainly drug offenders from poor, minority backgrounds. Recently another Nixon insider, John Ehrlichman, explained the reasoning behind all of this: The Nixon campaign in , and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did. In *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison* , Reiman describes that when predominately poor and minority children get caught by police for a petty offense, they are more likely to be treated as though they need to be punished and taught a lesson. When children at the top of the socioeconomic ladder get caught for similar offenses, they are more likely to be treated as though they made a mistake and deserve a second chance. In our society we treat poor minorities as though they are criminals who need to be punished while we treat the rich as though they are people with problems that are in need of help. Alexander describes in one of her lectures how she was approached by a young black man who presented her with evidence of systematic police brutality in his community. Alexander,

who had dedicated her career to social justice cases, thought the evidence highly convincing, but once she learned that the man was a convicted criminal she turned him down. They can also, largely with impunity, murder them. The problem is that we are faced with an institutional system set up to protect the powerful and punish the poor, one which enacts policies and economic restructuring that massively redistributes wealth to a privileged minority and then responds to the problems which arise from those brutalized by these policies with mass incarceration and police repression. Criminal law brandishes a whole class of people into a status of second-class citizenship, and social problems which necessitate education and opportunities are dealt with through violence. All while the major criminals in corporate boardrooms are free to continue harming society as they please while generating massive profits. Highly centralized economic power then translates into political power, and the society is further constructed in the interests of the few against the wellbeing of the majority. If we do not fundamentally change the justice system into one that handles crime based on its relative threat to society irrespective of class and ethnicity, while as well democratizing the political and economic systems away from rule by plutocracy, police will continue killing black people and the poor, and they will continue to get away with it. Steven Chovanec is an independent geopolitical analyst and writer based in Chicago, IL. He is a student of International Studies and Sociology at Roosevelt University and conducts independent, open-source research into geopolitics and social issues. This article originally appeared at his blog, Reports from Underground. Find him on Twitter [stevechovanec](#). Read other articles by Steven. This article was posted on Wednesday, August 10th, at

Chapter 2 : Rich get richer poor get prison essay

The Rich (Still) Get Richer: Understanding Ideology, Outrage and Economic Bias - a talk by Jeffrey Reiman Additional relevant content is in the companion website for Leighton and Reiman, Criminal Justice Ethics.

Sun, 14 Aug Firstly, we have to ask how the criminal justice system operates and how it relates to power and inequality. It argues that the justice system does not function by identifying and pursuing the most harmful and threatening criminal behavior within society, but instead maintains a laser-like focus on punishing the harmful acts of the poor while allowing and enabling the overwhelmingly more harmful acts of the rich to continue, things such as companies that release toxic chemicals into the air and workers who get killed because of dishonest regulatory practices, or, for instance, when Wall Street destroys the economy and millions of people lose their homes, jobs, and savings. Instead of reflecting the actual threats to society our system acts as a sort of carnival mirror which magnifies the threat of street crime while minimizing that of the much more dangerous corporate crime. At the same time in a vastly disproportionate way it incarcerate the impoverished and disenfranchised for things that all classes engage in, like non-violent drug use. Instead it maintains power relations and supports the interests of one class against the others. Reiman describes this as what he calls a "Pyrrhic defeat. The Pyrrhic defeat theory holds that the failure of the justice system yields such positive benefits to those in positions of power that it amounts to a success. In order to maintain this situation, those in power and the dominant media institutions propagate a narrative that the real threat to Americans comes from law-breaking poor minorities, not those at the top. This unrealistic picture of the world then leads Americans to demand harsher "tough on crime" policies aimed primarily at the lower classes. Instead of mitigating crime rates, this kind of system instead maintains a continual criminal underclass while as well even aiding the proliferation of crime. Reiman describes a study in which students were asked to devise a system from scratch that would further crime rather than reduce it. The characteristics they described, things like arbitrary arrests for non-violent recreational activities - marijuana use - and making it virtually impossible to reenter society after conviction, were almost exact replicas of the way our system currently functions. The inability of the criminal justice system to adequately address the problem of crime was understood decades ago. For instance, a study found a strong correlation between unemployment and crime. At that time financialization began to take hold and the US industrial sector was gutted as corporations began extensively outsourcing production to factories akin to sweat-shops in places like China and Vietnam. This created an entire class of mostly poor and unemployed people without opportunities for work, and it affected the black and Hispanic populations the worst. Instead of dealing with the "conditions in which crime breeds" decision-makers decided to use police and to build prisons. This "superfluous population" of people that capitalism had no use for this was how those at the top of the establishment viewed them were dealt with through mass incarceration. The police resembled an occupying force utilized against the poor that served as a tool of social control and repression. This all was mainly targeted against black people, who on the whole have been kept to the bottom rungs of the socioeconomic ladder due to a historical pattern of discrimination. The cops largely adopted a racist ideology and targeted people based on their skin color, even though this kind of criminal behavior, mainly 1-on-1 offenses like theft and assaults, are related to deprivation and poverty, not race. Impoverished white communities have the same persistence of crime that impoverished black communities have. The mechanism for accomplishing all of this was drugs. The key is to devise a system that recognizes this while not appearing to. African-Americans use and sell drugs at about the same rates as whites. Those who filled the massive prison population boom were mainly drug offenders from poor, minority backgrounds. Recently another Nixon insider, John Ehrlichman, explained the reasoning behind all of this: The Nixon campaign in , and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did. The initial stage of this process usually begins at an extremely young age, children are arrested in grade school for things like "insubordination" or talking back to teachers. In *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison* , Reiman describes that when predominately poor and minority children get caught by

police for a petty offense, they are more likely to be treated as though they need to be punished and taught a lesson. When children at the top of the socioeconomic ladder get caught for similar offenses, they are more likely to be treated as though they made a mistake and deserve a second chance. In our society we treat poor minorities as though they are criminals who need to be punished while we treat the privileged as though they are people with problems that are in need of help. Alexander describes in one of her lectures how she was approached by a young black man who presented her with evidence of systematic police brutality in his community. Alexander, who had dedicated her career to social justice cases, thought the evidence highly convincing, but once she learned that the man was a convicted criminal she turned him down. The result of all of this, as Chris Hedges points out, is that police officers are now continually carrying out "random acts of legalized murder against poor people of color not because they are racist, although they may be, or even because they are rogue cops, but because impoverished urban communities have evolved into miniature police states. They can also, largely with impunity, murder them. Certainly things like firing this or that individual or advocating that what needs to be done is to appoint "the good cops" will fail as well. The problem is that we are faced with an institutional system set up to protect the powerful and punish the poor, one which enacts policies and economic restructuring that massively redistributes wealth to a privileged minority and then responds to the problems which arise from those brutalized by these policies with mass incarceration and police repression. Criminal law banishes a whole class of people into a status of second-class citizenship, and social problems which necessitate education and opportunities are dealt with through violence. All while the major criminals in corporate boardrooms are free to continue harming society as they please while generating massive profits. Highly centralized economic power then translates into political power, and the society is further constructed in the interests of the few against the well being of the majority. If we do not fundamentally change the justice system into one that handles crime based on its relative threat to society irrespective of class and ethnicity, while as well democratizing the political and economic systems away from rule by plutocracy, police will continue killing black people and the poor, and they will continue to get away with it.

Chapter 3 : The rich get richer and the poor get prison

*Jeffrey Reiman, in his book *The Rich Get Richer* introduces his "Pyrrhic Defeat Theory," which is an amalgam of various Western Ideologies that seek to explain the nature and origin of crime in America. He adapts ideas from notable sociological philosophers, Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, Michel.*

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Chapter 4 : Why The Rich Get Richer And The Poor Go To Prison

The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison by Jeffrey Reiman Jeffrey Reiman, author of The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison, first published his book in ; it is now in its sixth edition, and he has continued to revise it as he keeps up on criminal justice statistics and other trends in the system.

In the meanwhile, click here to go to the current home page. This country has two laws The rich get richer and the poor get prison August 30, Pages 6 and 7 IN THE last few months, a string of business scandals has put the issue of corporate crime on the front pages. This left George W. Bush in the uncomfortable position of denouncing his buddies in Corporate America--and pledging to "get tough. Meanwhile, ordinary people who are convicted of petty street crimes or minor drug violations can go to jail for years--even decades. For the rare corporate criminal who does go to trial and gets convicted, "prison" life can be more like an extended rest at a resort. For the roughly 2 million people behind bars in the U. One in four prisoners is mentally ill, and 64 percent never graduated from high school. The criminal justice system is like a spider web, ensnaring the weak and defenseless while the powerful break free. His first two strikes were residential burglaries. One dated back to Rene got his third strike in for stealing a spare tire. I was literally run over by the injustices of the system I agreed to a drug test, which apparently came back clean. And I was not on parole. An hour after my arrest, they rolled in a tire and said I stole it. I immediately knew I was doomed because the victim happened to be a sheriff working at the Huntington Park courthouse who mysteriously found a tire. While African Americans accounted for 13 percent of all drug users in , they represented 35 percent of arrests for drug possession, 55 percent of convictions and 74 percent of those sentenced to prison. The disparities in the treatment of corporate crime and street crime are justified, they say, by the violence and scale of street crime. The statistics tell a different story. About 20, people were murdered last year, and another 1. But the scale of corporate crime is vastly greater. A conservative estimate of the number of deaths from occupational disease--caused by exposure to carcinogens and other toxins on the job--each year is 50, Between and , 95, workers died on the job, and The median penalty paid by an employer following an incident resulting in serious injury or death? Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of poor people found guilty of petty nonviolent offenses are serving prison sentences. The rich get richer, and the poor get prison. But before he headed Chrysler, Iacocca was the Ford executive in charge of the Pinto. The Pinto was rushed onto the market to compete with the Volkswagen Beetle--even though Ford knew that its gas tank could explode in a rear-impact collision. Ultimately, people died unnecessarily in Pintos--and many more suffered painful burns that left them maimed for life. Lee Iacocca deserves the title "serial killer" as much as "CEO. These are much greater threats to public safety than street crime. And if the politicians cared about stopping street crime, they would stop shredding the social safety net--so there would be fewer desperate people in desperate circumstances, the root cause of street crime. But fighting corporate crime would bring politicians into conflict with the corporate honchos who bankroll their campaigns. IN , I had a family and was self-employed with a radio alarm installation business in the Bronx. I was part of a bowling league, and this guy asks, "Why do you keep coming late? He says, "Do you want to make some money? I brought the envelope to Westchester and walked into a police sting operation undercover narcotics officers came out of nowhere, and I was arrested. I was thrown into the very violent world of prison. Even though I had no criminal record, I was sent to Sing Sing, which is a maximum security prison. I lost my family. I was married and had a child, and three months later, my wife left. While I was in prison, I acquired three college degrees and learned how to paint. Seven years later, my self-portrait wound up at the Whitney Museum of American Art, and at that point, I got a lot of exposure to my case. Two years later, in , I was granted clemency by Gov. I basically painted my way out of prison. My greatest asset in prison was my discovery of my political awareness about where I sat in society. When the Rockefeller laws were passed in , the legislative intent was to curb the drug epidemic and capture drug kingpins. Going into the 30th year, the prisons are bursting at the seams--from a population of 12, in to about 69, today. About 20, are there for drug crimes. And of those, 94 percent are Black and Latino. So these are racist laws. HOW DO you feel about the way that the criminal justice system deals with corporate crime? It makes me wonder: I look at the papers

and think about it, and I get angry. It makes me think about how the system is run. One of my paintings is called "Godly Arbitration. You see a quote from Plato on the tombstone. And it says, "Justice is the advantage of the stronger. More information about Anthony Papa and his art is available on the Web at 15yearstolife.

Chapter 5 : The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison - free PDF, FB2, FB3, TXT

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Chapter 6 : The Rich Get Rich While the Poor go to Prison | Dissident Voice

Regardless of fluctuations in the crime rate, the Rich Get Richer's thesis has been validated through nine editions of the book and more than 30 year in print: the rich continue to get richer and there is an expanding number of poor people in prison.

Chapter 7 : Why the rich get richer and the poor go to prison -- Society's Child -- www.nxgvision.com

The rich get richer, and the poor get prison. The CEO serial killer LEE IACOCCA is known as the dedicated CEO who rescued Chrysler from the brink of bankruptcy in the early s.