

A Stark Look at the Death Penalty

By [Global Research News](#)

Global Research, December 10, 2013
criminaljusticedegreehub.com

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

A STARK LOOK AT THE DEATH PENALTY

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT THROUGH THE AGES

19TH CENTURY B.C.
King Hammurabi of Babylonia codifies the death penalty in 23 centuries before.
Murder is NOT one of them.

15TH CENTURY B.C.
The first death sentences recorded in Egypt.

7TH CENTURY B.C.
The Roman Code of Draco makes death the penalty for every crime committed.

1609-1740
King James II of England sends 22,000 convicts to the gallows during his reign.

1609
The first American conviction to result in the death penalty. Randall of the Jamestown Colony is executed for treason.

1790 A.D.
Jean-Baptiste Lavoisier and Laplace invent the guillotine.

1972
The Supreme Court nullifies the death penalty in all states. It is later overturned in 1976.

1976
The Supreme Court nullifies the death penalty in all states. It is later overturned in 1976.

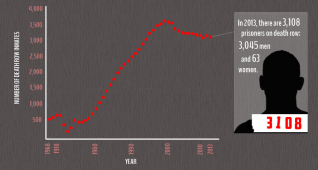
1976
The Supreme Court nullifies the death penalty in all states. It is later overturned in 1976.

IN 2013, 32 STATES ALLOW THE DEATH PENALTY

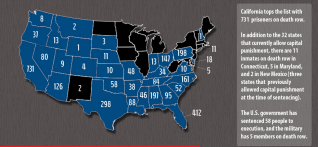
Alabama **Arkansas** **California** **Florida** **Georgia** **Indiana** **Iowa** **Kansas** **Kentucky** **Louisiana** **Mississippi** **Missouri** **Nebraska** **North Carolina** **Ohio** **Oklahoma** **South Carolina** **South Dakota** **Texas** **Tennessee** **Virginia** **Washington** **West Virginia** **Wisconsin**

and the U.S. government and the District of Columbia

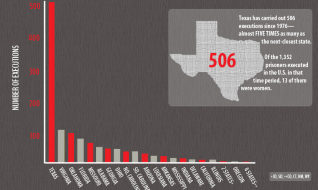
THE NUMBER OF DEATH ROW INMATES HAS SKYROCKETED



DEATH ROW INMATES PER STATE



SINCE 1976, THE U.S. HAS EXECUTED 1,352 PEOPLE



METHODS OF EXECUTION

Lethal Injection Electrocution Gas Chamber Hanging Firing Squad

THE COSTS OF EXECUTION ARE ASTRONOMICAL

Take California, for example, where death penalty costs have totaled **\$4.9 billion** since 1978.

- \$1.94 billion in trial and trial costs
- \$255 million in appeals and state supreme court
- \$175 million in state habeas corpus appeals
- \$1 billion in incarceration costs

\$171 million The amount spent by the State of California each year on the death penalty and death row inmates.

\$11.5 million The estimated cost of the state death row inmate's maintenance, hospital care, and other costs.

\$90,000 The amount of cost of a single inmate's death row.

\$25.6 million Since 1976, the average cost has been over that per year. The cost for a single inmate is over \$25.6 million.

SOMETIMES, THE INNOCENT ARE CONVICTED

130 WRONGLY CONVICTED DEATH ROW PRISONERS HAVE BEEN SET FREE IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1976.

BUT HOW CAN THE WRONG PERSON END UP BEHIND BARS?

- Coincidental or political pressure to solve the case
- Inadequate legal representation
- Police and jailhouse "snitches"
- Racial prejudice
- Mistaken identification
- Suppression of the misrepresentation of mitigating evidence
- Police and prosecutorial misconduct

THERE ARE SERIOUS MORAL, SOCIAL, AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO THE DEATH PENALTY, AND NO EASY ANSWERS

- Is the purpose of the death penalty to restore from society someone who would cause no more harm?
- Is a death-row inmate or condemned because they are incapable of rehabilitation?
- Will the death penalty deter others from committing a murder?
- Is the purpose of the death penalty to provide commensurate punishment for a criminal's actions?
- Is the death penalty to serve as retribution for victims' families?

LOTS TO CONSIDER, AND THESE DEATH PENALTY MOVIES PROVIDE EVEN MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Share this infographic on your site!

```
<a  
href="http://www.criminaljusticedegreehub.com/death-penalty/"></a><br
```

```
/>Source: <a
```

```
href="http://www.criminaljusticedegreehub.com/">CriminalJusticeDegreeHub.com</a>Tim  
eline
```

18th Century, BC: the Code of King Hammurabi of Babylon codified the death penalty for 25 different crimes.

FACT: Murder was not one of them.

16th Century, B.C.: first death sentence historically recorded in Egypt.

The 7th Century BC: Draconian Code of Athens made death the penalty for every crime committed. Since then, draconian has come to refer to similarly unforgiving rules or laws.

399 BC: Greek philosopher Socrates was found guilty of "refusing to recognize the gods recognized by the state" and "corrupting the youth." and was sentenced to drink poison.

29 A.D. Jesus was crucified outside of Jerusalem.

FACT: [You think Texas is tough?] Under Henry VIII of England, as many as 72,000 people were executed, mostly by hanging, the standard method of execution at the time.

#1: The first recorded execution in America took place in 1608, and was that of Captain George Kendall in the Jamestown colony of Virginia, who was convicted of treason.

1930s: The Depression era in the U.S. saw a peak in executions (an average of 160 per year), was followed by a dramatic decrease in the 1950s and 1960s. No executions occurred in the US between 1967 and 1976.

1972: the Supreme Court effectively nullified the death penalty, and converted the death sentences of hundreds of death row inmates to life in prison.

1976: another Supreme Court ruling found capital punishment to be Constitutional.

U.S. Statistics

DEATH PENALTY STATES (32)

Alabama

Arizona

Arkansas

California
Colorado
Delaware
Florida
Georgia

Idaho
Indiana
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Virginia

Washington

Wyoming

U.S. Gov't: the Military

13 women have been executed in the U.S. since 1976.

Executions since 1976 by Method Used

Lethal Injection - 1177

Electrocution - 158

Gas Chamber - 11

Hanging - 3

Firing Squad - 3

Costs:

Cost of the death penalty in California has totaled over \$4 billion since 1978:

\$1.94 billion-Pre-Trial and Trial Costs

\$925 million-Automatic Appeals and State Habeas Corpus Petitions

\$775 million-Federal Habeas Corpus Appeals

\$1 billion-Costs of Incarceration

\$186 million: Estimation of the extra costs to taxpayers in the state of Maryland alone, for death penalty cases prosecuted between 1978 and 1999. Based on the 5 executions carried out in the state, this translates to a cost of \$37 million per execution.

California was spending \$137 million per year on the death penalty, whereas they were reported to only spend \$90 million annually in 1988. It was estimated that a system that sentenced the same inmates to a punishment of life without parole would cost only \$11.5 million per year.

\$90,000: annual cost of confining an inmate to death row in California. With 700 inmates currently on death row in California, that comes to \$63 million a year.

WOW: Since the number of executions in California has averaged less than one every two years since the death penalty was reinstated in 1977, the cost for each execution is over \$250 million.

In 1988, it was estimated that the costs of the death penalty in Florida were \$3.2 million per execution. Based on the 44 executions carried out in Florida from 1976 to 2000, that comes to \$24 million per execution.

Sometimes the innocent are set free:

130: Since 1973, the number of people that have been released from death rows throughout the country due to evidence of their wrongful convictions.

Factors leading to wrongful convictions include:

Inadequate legal representation

Police and prosecutorial misconduct

Perjured testimony and mistaken eyewitness testimony

Racial prejudice

Jailhouse "snitch" testimony

Suppression and/or misinterpretation of mitigating evidence

Community/political pressure to solve a case

What is the purpose of a death penalty (thoughts to ponder)

Is the purpose of the death penalty to remove from society someone who would cause more harm?

Is the purpose to remove from society someone who is incapable of rehabilitation?

Is the purpose of the death penalty to deter others from committing murder?

Is the purpose of the death penalty to punish the criminal?

Is the purpose of the death penalty to take retribution on behalf of the victim?

10 Best Death Penalty Movies

"Paths of Glory" (1957)

"The Thin Blue Line" (1988)

"The Green Mile" (1999)

"Pierrepont: The Last Hangman" (2005)

"Capote" (2005)

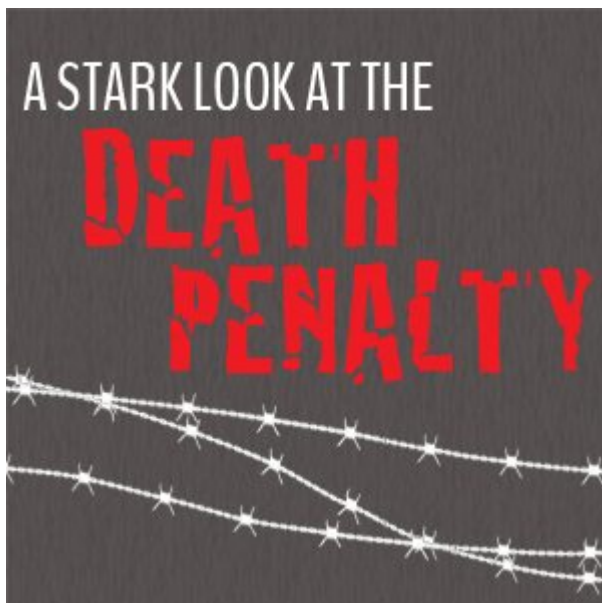
"Dead Man Walking" (1995)

"The Star Chamber" (1983)

"Shocker" (1989)

"True Crime" (1999)

"The Life of David Gale" (2003)



Sources:

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/socrates.htm>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/execution/readings/history.html>

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/part-i-history-death-penalty#intro>

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/costs-death-penalty>

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/death-row-inmates-state-and-size-death-row-year#state>

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/NebraskaTestimony.pdf>

The original source of this article is criminaljusticedegreehub.com
Copyright © Global Research News, criminaljusticedegreehub.com, 2013

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Global Research](#)
[News](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca