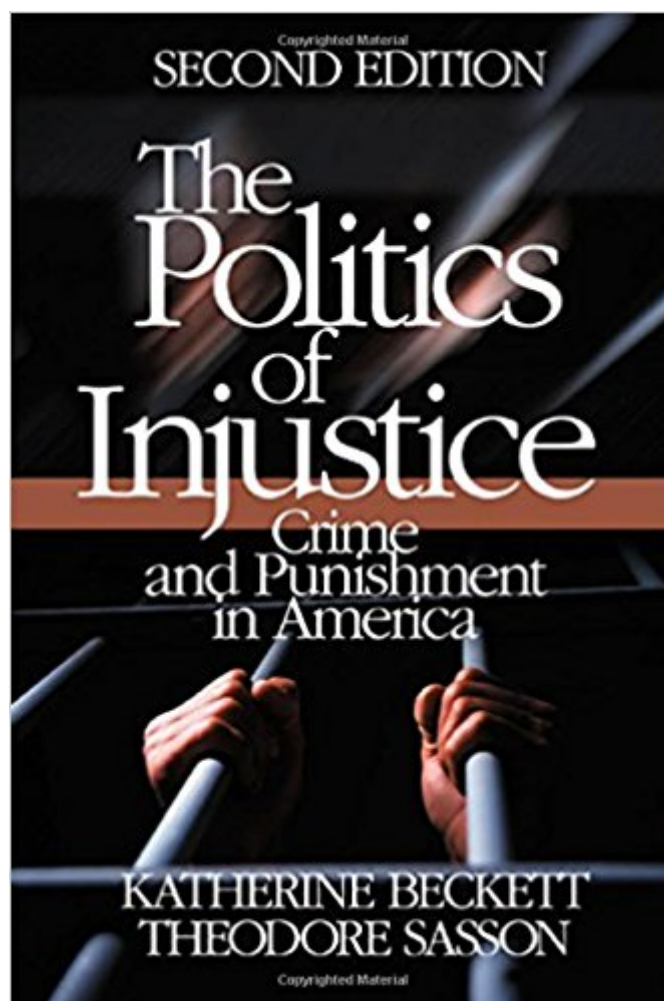


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# The Politics Of Injustice: Crime And Punishment In America



## Synopsis

The U.S. crime rate has dropped steadily for more than a decade, yet the rate of incarceration continues to skyrocket. Today, more than 2 million Americans are locked in prisons and jails with devastating consequences for poor families and communities, overcrowded institutions and overburdened taxpayers. How did the U.S. become the world's leader in incarceration? Why have the numbers of women, juveniles, and people of color increased especially rapidly among the imprisoned? *The Politics of Injustice: Crime and Punishment in America, Second Edition* is the first book to make widely accessible the new research on crime as a political and cultural issue. Katherine Beckett and Theodore Sasson provide readers with a robust analysis of the roles of crime, politics, media imagery and citizen activism in the making of criminal justice policy in the age of mass incarceration. is the first book to make widely accessible the new research on crime as a political and cultural issue. Katherine Beckett and Theodore Sasson provide readers with a robust analysis of the roles of crime, politics, media imagery and citizen activism in the making of criminal justice policy in the age of mass incarceration.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Katherine Beckett, Ph.D., is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and in the Law, Societies and Justice Program at the University of Washington in Seattle. She teaches courses on law, culture, drugs, social control, and terrorism. She is the author of *Making Crime Pay: Law and Order in Contemporary American Politics* (1997), as well as numerous articles and chapters,

including "How Unregulated Is the U.S. Labor Market? The Dynamics of Jobs and Jails, 1980-1995," with Bruce Western (American Journal of Sociology, 1999). Theodore Sasson, Ph.D., is Chair and Associate Professor of Sociology, Middlebury College, where he teaches courses in criminology, political sociology, social theory, and media studies. He has also taught sociology and criminology at Northeastern University, Boston College, and the University of Southern Maine. He is the author of *Crime Talk: How Citizens Construct a Social Problem* (1995), as well as numerous journal articles and book chapters.

Great

I purchased this book for a college course but I found that it is a great read in general. Beckett and Sasson have created a text book that flows and tells a story. I appreciated that because most texts are dry and boring but these authors have taken it up a level with connecting it to real world events to which I can relate.

I bought this book for a class in college. It was interesting. Had a lot of useful information for the class and really got you thinking.

Just cause of the bad reviews I'm buying this book. I can already tell the type of people who are against this book. They already had there biased opinions against people of color and feel this book is biased towards people of color. Probably those Fox News fans

The book takes on the ambitious (and useful) task of analyzing America's political and legislative responses to crime. Where it is strong is analyzing broad trends and recording the themes, policies, and actors that have impacted federal policy and the national debate on crime. Where it is less strong is in developing its thesis that prevention should play a larger policy role than "tough on crime" enforcement policies. Its constant filtering of the data along these lines detracts from the information provided as the reader never receives the opportunity to come to his/her own conclusions before heavy-handed author commentary in each chapter. Also, the book is weak in its attempt to fully portray recent innovations in policing and corrections. Still, it presents an easy to read outline of the history of criminal justice policy and is sure to educate its readers.

A very comprehensive review of current criminal justice system policies. Details what has worked

and what has not worked, in a moderately fair manner, in general. The book's main fault is that in several instances, conclusions are drawn as to the reasons why certain programs or certain policies succeeded (or failed), and politics often are brought into the discussion. There are some moments in which some of the authors' statements, presented without any cited studies or lacking footnotes, may appear somewhat speculative or even biased to the reader. On the whole, a decent overview of the many directions the criminal justice system has taken as well as a decent look at some of the policies foisted onto the CJS by the politics of the last fifty or so years.

I LOVED the book myself! Wish I had written it! Got straight to the point, AND made a lot of sense.

"In democracies, the...arbitrary denial of opportunities is experienced as most painful. The fact that violence tends to get acted out among family members, acquaintances and neighbors rather than against the rich and powerful does not challenge this argument. Rather, it suggests that people close at hand are simply "convenient targets" for pent-up anger". Get the point? "...arbitrary denial of opportunities"? If you've got eyes to see it, you can find it anywhere. This book constitutes yet another liberal's whining about the same old crap. I know, I know, capitalism's responsible for everything. People murder because of income gaps...and on, and on.

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