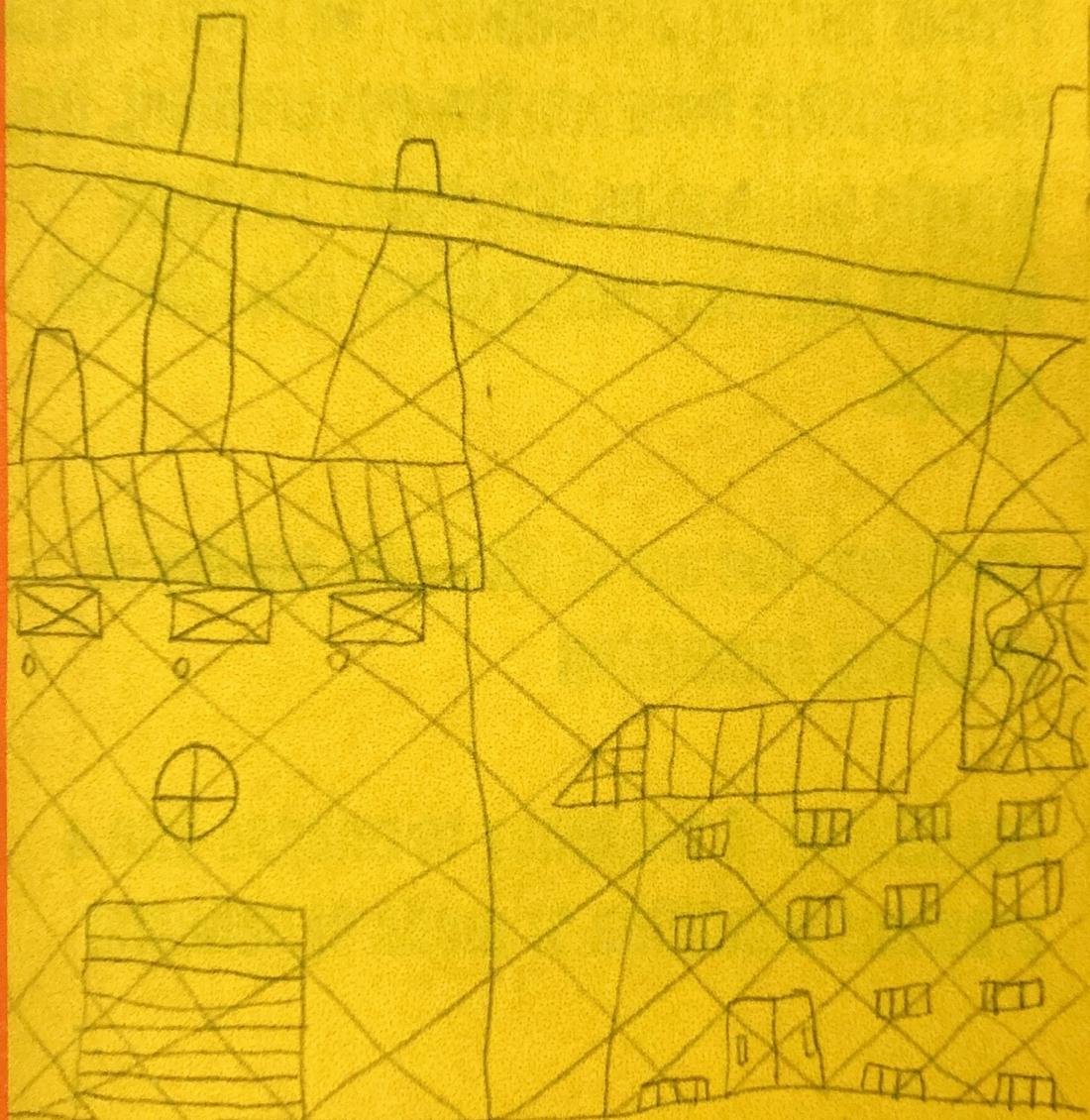


Front cover

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The Prisons Industrial
Complex

By: Sean
Preston

Terms to Know

Defined by Marriam Webster

Prison Industrial Complex: The profit-driven relationship between the government, the private companies that build, manage, supply, and service prisons, and related groups

Abolition: The act of officially ending or stopping something

Recidivism: A tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior

Introduction

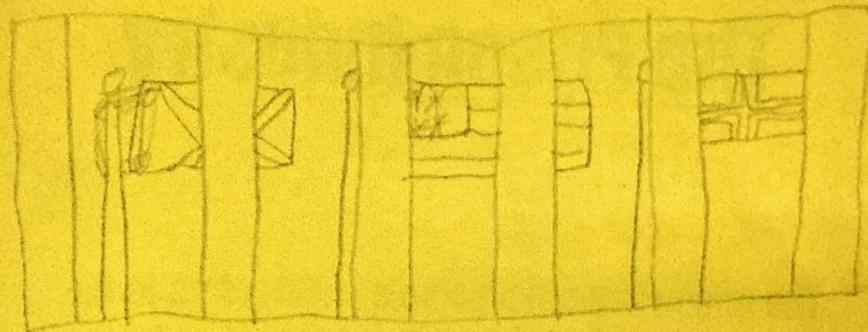
Tonight, I'll be showing you the Prison Industrial Complex. With just some drawings and words, I'll show you how prisons use its unlimited potential for labor to make most thing you use in your daily life's.



Prisons in the U.S.

The United States places notable emphasis on incarceration compared to other countries.

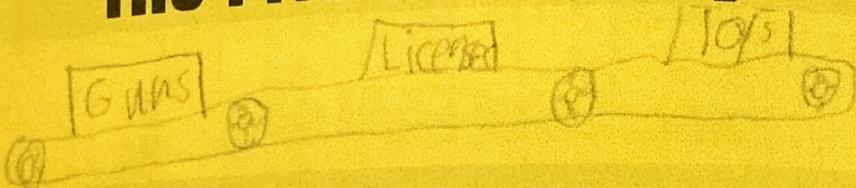
The current incarceration rate in the United States is 565 per 100,000 individuals, while countries such as Norway report rates as low as 54 per 100,000. The United States has a higher incarceration rate than both Canada and the UK combined. Although the country comprises approximately 5% of the global population, it accounts for around 20% of the world's incarcerated individuals.



Speaking of incarceration, one policy approach in the United States prioritizes the use of imprisonment in response to crime. The war on drugs during the 1980s has been identified as one factor influencing this trend, contributing to a greater focus on punitive measures rather than rehabilitative ones.

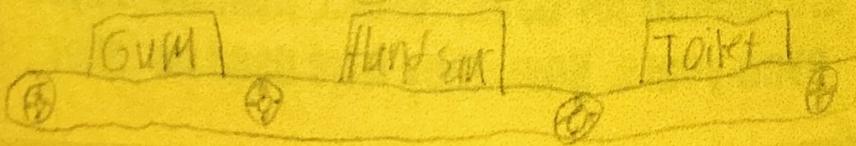
Thanks to all of these harsh policies for punishment rather than rehabilitation, many are locked for days, weeks, months, maybe even years. Now, they'll be used for labor.

The Prison Industry



The prison industrial complex (PIC) refers to the intersection of governmental and corporate interests that promote surveillance, law enforcement, and incarceration as approaches to address economic, social, and political challenges.

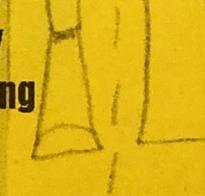
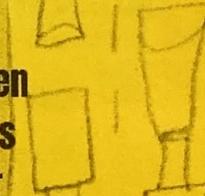
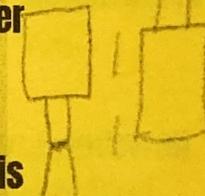
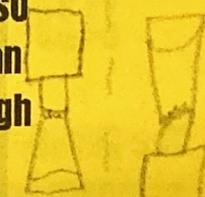
Thanks to this, corporations utilize prisons as sources of labor, employing inmates for the production of various goods such as toys, license plates, and other commercial items. This access to low-cost labor incentivizes companies to invest in private prisons, thereby benefiting from these labor opportunities. Thankfully, this hasn't happened yet as most prison are owned by the government, just make sure to keep them in check.



Looking further, politicians may also use prison to gain support. This can help them being perceived as "tough on crime," which can be advantageous during elections or re-elections. While we're here, let's talk about collaborations, as the governments may collaborate with prisons to create all sorts of goods. Sometimes there are for good, other times, not so much.

However, there's a cost to all of this labor, literally, as the cost to incarcerate someone costs between \$28,000 to \$45,000 per year. That's not even to mention the costs for running a prison, costing roughly \$300 billion a year, with this covering the all the costs for food, water, electricity, heat, ect.

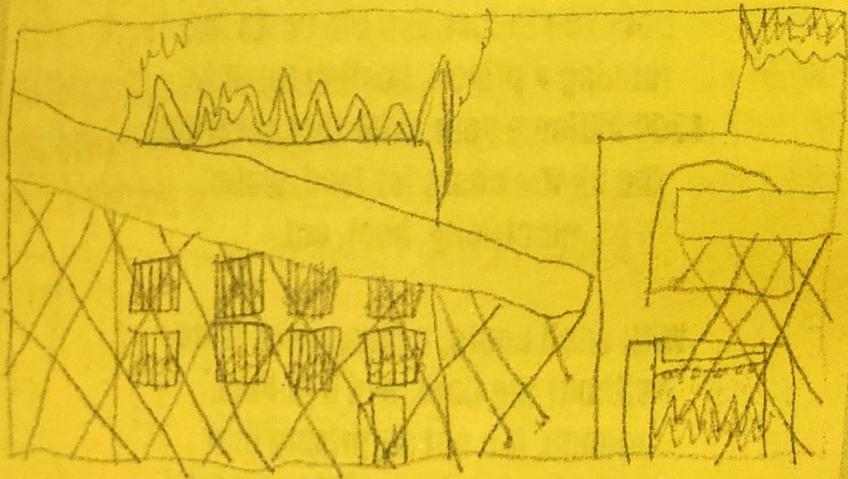
With such costs, a manpower force without the cost, and a political agenda, it's not surprising that abolitionist would want this system gone.



Abolition Movement

The Abolition Movement is about the abolishment of the standard prison system for alternative punishments. The movement is led by a scholar named Ruth Wilson Gilmore. She hopes that once prisons are gone, that the government will create new jobs, education, housing, healthcare, and other public works. Her hope is that once it's been constructed, violence and crimes will drop as more people can afford to live.

However, problems arise from this revision, as the entire justice system would need to be revised for alternative punishments to work.



In addition to Ruth Willson, another scholar named Angela Davis says that the PIC is a threat to democracy. The movement also doesn't believe that reform could work, calling it as trading one cruelty for another.

With all that being said, there are clear benefits to alternative punishments as will be discussed later. For now, if you want to, feel free write down how you feel about the movement, you don't need to share it with anyone else, it can just be a present for yourself.

Education & Training

With reform, there's always the fear of reoffending. A primary concern for correctional institutions is the high rate of reoffending among released convicts, with approximately 40% reoffending after their release.

Thankfully, education programs and training can help to mitigate re-offence. Studies indicate that participation in such educational programs reduces recidivism, with results showing a 43% re-offense rate among program participants—a decline of 13 percentage points from the overall 40% rate, effectively lowering it to 27%.



In addition to the lower reoffence rates, inmates also receive a 13% higher rate of employment after release.

With such positives, there must be a high cost? Nope, according to RAND estimates, the three-year cost to imprison one individual is \$325,000. In contrast, the cost of incarceration coupled with educational programming is \$225,000, resulting in a savings of \$100,000 per inmate.

But there is one big cost, that being stigma, as having a criminal record is a hard thing to let go of. As such, inmates don't take education due to them seeing it as unhelpful.

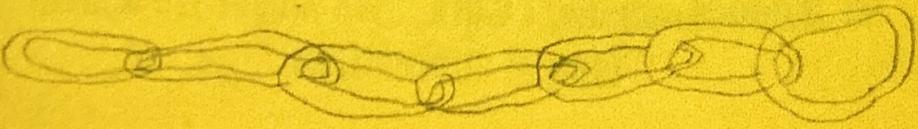
So, if education don't work, then maybe we should look at alternatives.



Alternatives

Alternatives to incarceration refer to various measures aimed at reducing incarceration rates. Examples include reviewing sentencing guidelines, decriminalizing certain actions, expanding alternatives to incarceration, and implementing other strategies to decrease the prison population.

To put one of these examples to use, a significant proportion of incarcerations result from drug use (20%) and technical violations (27%). Using decriminalizing certain actions, we can legalize specific substances under controlled restrictions. If that don't suit you, we can review cases to determine whether actual violations occurred and considering the severity of the offense can provide insight. Just think of the many possibilities of alternatives, but what could possibly be the benefits?



Well, these upsides include, but not limited to, preserving contact with family and friends, supporting continued employment and income generation, and reducing costs compared to incarceration. These approaches may also help alleviate overcrowding in prisons.

However, despite all of these wonderful benefits, there's still the main problem we faced all the way back in abolition, that being reforming the justice system. As such, problems could arise when dealing with minor and major crimes. Nonetheless, I'm sure we'll figure out that evenly.



Conclusion

To wrap this all up, it's up to you how to feel about what I've told you. Although I have already come to my conclusion, I don't want to tell you, as to not force you to choose.

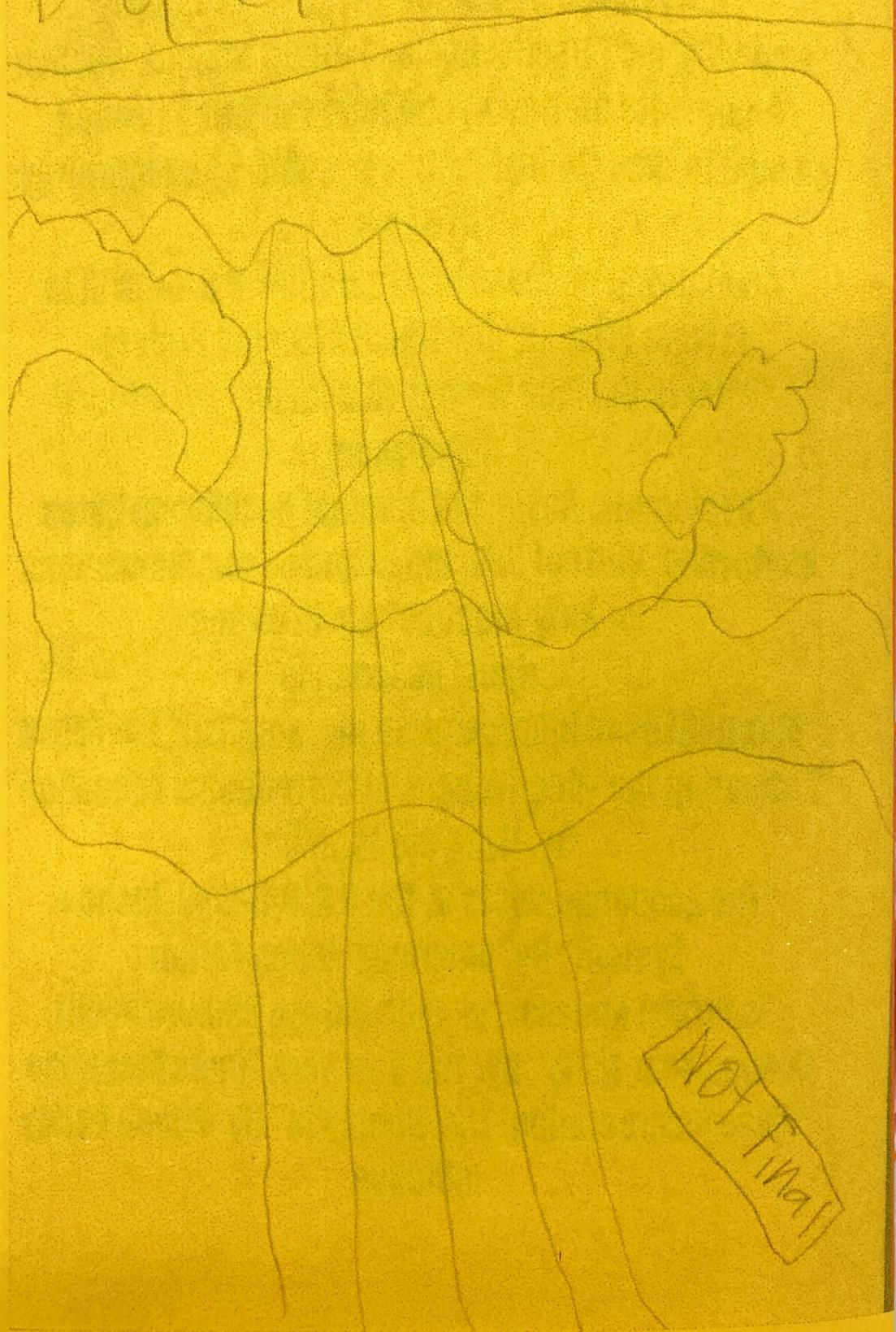
Just like last time, you may choose to write down how you feel about everything I've told you, or just throw it away, your choice!!

All I'll say is that I hope you found something interesting, have a nice day/evening/night!

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Back cover



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