

Corrections

Prison History

Penitentiaries- 1820s

Reformatories- 1870s

The Big House- 1950s

Correctional Facilities- 1970s

Deterrence- 1980s

Today- ?

Penitentiary

- Latin word for “remorse”
- Quakers of Philadelphia came up with the concept of penitentiary
- Purpose was to have criminals reflect on their crime and become truly sorry

Eastern Penitentiary System

- Took down a cherry orchard to build it, so located in Cherry Hill PA
- Opened in 1829 (not finished until 1835)
- Promoted EXTREME isolation

Two Competing Models:

1. The Pennsylvania Model

- “Segregate” system
- Solitary confinement- must remain in cell at all times
- Emphasis on inmate ability to reflect on criminal past and gain spiritual insight
- No talking to other inmates
- Hooded while walking through prison
- Reduced contact
- Read the Bible and repent
- Reform through personal conversion

Auburn Prison (in NY)

- 1821- new system of prisons called the “Auburn System”
- Inmates worked 10 hours a day, 6 days a week
- Gives a sense of purpose, discipline and order

2. New York’s Auburn Model

- “Congregate” system
- Inmates had no external contact
- Inmates housed in small cells and confined on the Sabbath and during non-working hours
- Inmates labored in factory- like shops during working hours
- Inmates prohibited from talking to other inmates
- Repentance and reform through harsh labor and external discipline

Tocqueville’s critique: terror in the silence

Auburn System

- Three types of prisons:
 1. Always in solitary confinement
 2. Allowed to work and have occasional free time
 3. Largest group- worked and ate together during the day, separate cells at night
- Inmates helped build Sing Sing Prison, NY in 1985 and no one tried to escape
- They slept outside with no supervision

Punishment

- Total control through torture/physical punishment
 - o Punishing the body
 - o Whippings (“flogging post”)
 - o Starvation
- Corporal punishment abolished by legislature in 1848

Q: Which prison system became the model for future prison development?

A: New York’s Auburn System