How Mass Incarceration Matters:
Returning Citizens and Principled Transformations

Townsand Price-Spratlen
Department of Sociology
Ohio State University

This research was supported by a 2003 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) grant, and by 2009 and 2013 CJRC Seed Grants. I thank the CDC and CJRC for making these funds available. This research is also a product of the ongoing support of Reconstruction, Inc. and my research partnership with its Founder and Chair, Mr. William Goldsby. Our Philadelphia Research Team (Hakim Ali, Thomas Ford, Khalifa Shabbazz and Dr. Kristi Bryan) made valuable contributions. Thanks to all members of Reconstruction, Inc. past and present, and their organization and agency collaborators. Without their contributions, this research would not have been completed. Any and all errors rest with the author.
Terence Crutcher, 40, is one of at least 15 African-Americans to die during encounters with police since Kaepernick began protesting before NFL games in late August.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/colin-kaepernick-police-killings_us_57e14414e4b04a1497b69ba6
My Time With You Today

*  
- Introduction; the conference question
- “History is a current event.”
- Where we are now
- Transformations, Reconstruction, Inc.
- A possible future
When Do Inequalities Matter?

In every domain of the complex.

ALL of the time!
Historical Foundations

The Peculiar Institution

The Criminalization of the Black Body
NEGRO COCAINE “FIENDS” ARE A NEW SOUTHERN MENACE

Murder and Insanity Increasing Among Lower Class Blacks Because They Have Taken to “Stuffing” Since Deprived of Whiskey by Prohibition.
Historical Criminalization:

The body and Groups/Peoples of Color
12) Black men receive prison sentences 19.5 percent longer than those of white men who committed similar crimes, a 2013 report by the U.S. Sentencing Commission found.
International Center for Prison Studies (2010)
LAND OF THE FREE*

*The US has 5% of the world population and 25% of the world’s prisoners.
Percentage distribution of illegal drug use and proportion of inmates convicted of drug offenses:

For all users of illegal drugs:
- Non-Hispanic White: 66.3%
- African American: 12.6%

For inmates convicted of drug offenses:
- Non-Hispanic White: 50.5%
- African American: 30.4%

Sources:
- U.S. Department of Justice (2011)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2012)
Now?

In Need of Transformation(s)
Two years ago, the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics announced a small data point marking an inglorious milestone: In 2009, America’s prison population declined for the first time in decades… dating all the way back to 1972, America had been in the business of constantly imprisoning more and more people.
Reconstructing RAGE
Transformative Reentry in the Era of Mass Incarceration

Townsend Price-Spratlen & William Goldsby
Reconstruction, Inc.
Philadelphia, PA

- Founded on the Sacred Circle
  - Of, by, for returning citizens, their families, others
  - Ancient African/First Nation Cultural Traditions
  - Prioritizing shared respect, reciprocity, consensus
## Social Context, Neighborhood Comparisons

### Reconstruction’s Neighborhood

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Three Pillars – Capacity Building Curriculum

“Can specific programs affect levels of social integration among released persons enough to affect the quality of life for them and their family and to reduce their criminal involvement?”

(Lynch 2006:410)

Principled Transformation

- Pillar 1 – Leadership Dev.
- Pillar 2 – Situation Management
- Pillar 3 – Support Group Dev.
Vision Statement

Capacity Building

• “Regardless of one’s past…we value each voice being informed by equal access to education, legal rights, health care, and comprehensive political participation.

• We recognize the excellence in every human being and facilitate a process where our members along with members of allied organizations, value their own potential.

• When this is true, that person is prevented from becoming a commodity to be auctioned off by the Prison Industrial Complex.”
A former felon member

“…It’s truly amazing to me, the selflessness of the participating individuals of Reconstruction. I haven’t run across anything [else] like that, Townsend. The ability to pull together and assist in any way possible. To just give…If Reconstruction put in any time or effort with an individual, they only ask that that individual come back and do something likewise that was given to them…for the next person coming through the doors.”

– Deion Morrison, longtime affiliate
Policies, Possibilities?

*  
  • Decriminalization, drug diversions
  • Closure of private prisons!
  • Reentry begins at entry
  • National HIRE Network
  • Ending school-to-prison pipeline
  • and…
PICTURING A WORLD WITHOUT PRISONS
Now?

Dialogues like this one,
Enriching a more equitable present
Thank You!

Our Ongoing Dialogue…
Within, Transition, Ongoing

- **Within Prison:** Curriculum for transformation
  - Therapeutic community; indivs., families, communities
  - Systemic awareness

- **In Transition:** Embracing tensions; agent of change
  - Former felons as asset
  - Program affiliation, each-one, teach-one

- **Ongoing:** Civic engagements
  - Youth empowerment, prevention
  - Land, skill-building
The Three Programs

- **Community Capacity Building Programs**

  **Alumni Ex-Offenders Association (AEA)**
  - Returning citizens, family, others
  - Fellowship and feedback, emotional intelligence

  **Fight for Lifers (FFL)**
  - Lifers, family, others
  - Advocacy, leadership, mentoring

  **L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Education, Advocacy, Development)**
  - Emotional intelligence
  - Fellowship and feedback, therapeutic community
CORRECTIONS CORPORATION OF AMERICA
Total Profits in 2015: $222 million

GEO GROUP
Total Profits in 2015: $139 million

Source: In the Public Interest analysis of CCA's and GEO Group's 10-K forms.
My Time Today

C
• F

B
• I

F
• C

P
SACRAMENTO — “The priorities have become out of whack over the years,” the governor told lawmakers.

“I mean, think about it, 30 years ago, 10 percent of the general fund went to higher education, and 3 percent went to prisons. Today, almost 11 percent goes to prisons, and only 7.5 percent goes to higher education.”

“What does it say about any state that focuses more on prison uniforms than on caps and gowns?” he continued. “It simply is not healthy.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method Focus</th>
<th>Time Focus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantitative</strong></td>
<td>Historical</td>
<td>Neigh. Disorder and Res. Stability (Columbus neighs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qualitative</strong></td>
<td>Place Utility, Great Migration (U.S. urban system)</td>
<td>Faith, Youth Well-being, Service, Hip Hop (CoCHY)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Social Gospel, Justice Narratives (Historiography)</td>
<td>Faith, Health Disparity (D.O.P.E. Ministries)</td>
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Real Community

“…A real community (is) one that does not forget its past (i.e., retelling its story) embodied in [its] meaning(s)…”
Real Community

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Real Community

“…A real community (is) one that does not forget its past (i.e., retelling its story) embodied in [its] meaning(s)…The communities of memory that tie us to the past also turn us toward the future as communities of hope. They carry a context of meaning that can allow us to connect our aspirations for ourselves and those closest to us with the aspirations of a larger whole and see our own efforts as being, in part, contributions to a common good” (Bellah et al. 1985:153).
A Relationship

Environmental (In)Equity

- Fair distribution of valued assets

- Fair access to resources, incl. "glocal" organizing and decision-making influence
A Relationship

Mass Incarceration

- Large number of persons under criminal justice supervision
- Disproportionate exposure to its primary and collateral consequences
A Relationship Between Them

**Environmental (In)Equity**
- Fair distribution of valued assets
- Fair access to resources, incl. “glocal” organizing and decision-making influence

**Mass Incarceration**
- Large number of persons under criminal justice supervision
- Disproportionate exposure to its primary and collateral consequences
International Center for Prison Studies (2010)
LAND OF THE FREE*

*The US has 5% of the world population and 25% of the world’s prisoners.
Mass incarceration  
• "refers not only to the criminal justice system but also to the larger web of laws, rules, policies, and customs that control those labeled criminals BOTH IN AND OUT OF PRISON."

Why both (in and out)?  
• "Once released, former prisoners enter a hidden underworld of legalized discrimination and permanent social exclusion" (Alexander 2010:13).
Share of All Users of Illegal Drugs

- Non-Hispanic White: 66.3%
- African American: 12.6%

Share of Inmates in State or Federal Prison Convicted of Drug Offenses

- Non-Hispanic White: 50.5%
- African American: 30.4%

Race Disparities Vary by Place

- Closer to Home
  - U.S. – African American rate 7 times White rate

- Considering the Local
  - Considering county and crime/substance

- Racial rate disparities magnified exponentially

Justice Policy Institute, 2007
12) Black men receive prison sentences 19.5 percent longer than those of white men who committed similar crimes, a 2013 report by the U.S. Sentencing Commission found.
Michigan Study Shows Incarceration Can Cause Illness in Loved Ones

Filed under: Crime/Demographics, Statistics/Trends, Location: Michigan.

A study, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and released in December 2008, concludes that "Incarceration may not only affect those individuals incarcerated, but also those family members and friends left behind in the community."

In a unique approach to the study of the disparity of physical illness between blacks and whites, Daniel J. Kruger PhD and E. Hill DeLoney, MA attempted to establish a correlation between the higher incidence of physical illness in the black community and the higher rate of incarceration within the same group.

In their own words, "We hypothesized that the incarceration of individuals close to survey respondents would correspond with greater adversity in physical and mental health outcomes. Differential incarceration rates for Blacks and Whites may be a contributing factor to health disparities."
Flint still tops in nation for violent crime but officials see signs of hope

By Dominic Adams | ddoms5@mlive.com
Follow on Twitter
on September 16, 2013 at 4:30 PM, updated September 16, 2013 at 8:08 PM

FLINT, MI – Final numbers from the FBI show Flint as the most violent city in America for the third consecutive year, but officials said violent crime is down so far this year.

Flint had more than 2,700 violent crimes in 2012, the most per capita in cities with more than 100,000 people, according to statistics.
Social determinants of health

- Education
- Family structure
- Neighborhood and built environment
- Housing
- Incarceration and Criminal Justice
- Economic Opportunity
- Access to health care and social goods
Because...

- Opportunity is a spatial variable
- Variation is (highly) unequal
Environmental Health

“...The same environmental problems that contribute to poor air and water quality and to blight and neighborhood deterioration also contribute to negative mental and physical health outcomes...[and] environmental justice provides one way to examine and discuss the unequal nature of exposures and health outcomes”

(Cohen et al. 2010:236).
A Relationship Between Them

Environmental (In)Equity
- Fair distribution of valued assets
- Fair access to resources, incl. “glocal” organizing and decision-making influence

Mass Incarceration
- Large number of persons under criminal justice supervision
- Disproportionate exposure to its primary and collateral consequences
Reconstructing Rage Themes

#1 – Culture (environment, ways of being)

#2 – Community (interdependence, fellowship)

#3 – Capacity building (maximizing assets)

#4 – Returning citizens as vital to all three above
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- When this is true, that person is prevented from becoming a commodity to be auctioned off by the Prison Industrial Complex.”
Reconstruction, Inc.: History, Structure

Capacity Building Org.
- Founded by former felon William Goldsby
- Began in 1988 (AFSC)
- Incorporated in 1991, 501 (c) 3

Structure
- Family-centered, intergenerational, consensus-driven
- Collaborations; PA-D.o.C., Bread and Roses, Philly D.A., Pew Foundation, Villanova, small donors
- Programs (AEA, FFL, LEAD)
“While engaging [with] others who have been involved with Reconstruction, I have developed a voice I never knew I had. And I took that voice and extended it to my family; some who were incarcerated.

“I didn’t know how to do that in the past…Once I became a part of Reconstruction, it really shaped me, and developed me into a stronger woman. Definitely into an activist. And also, I’m not so quick to judge others. That’s how Reconstruction has helped me” (p. 67).

– Jamilla Vorn, Reconstruction member
What Reconstruction, Inc. Does

Within, Transition, Ongoing

- **Within Prison**: Curriculum for transformation
  - Therapeutic community; indivs., families, communities
  - Systemic awareness

- **In Transition**: Embracing tensions; agent of change
  - Former felons as asset
  - Program affiliation, each-one, teach-one

- **Ongoing**: Civic engagements
  - Youth empowerment, prevention
  - Land, skill-building
• Carl’s comment

“I really got into [AEA]. I really enjoyed coming to the meetings, talking about what was going on. And if I had a struggle, I didn’t have a problem with comin’, sittin’ down with whoever, whatever members was there, and discuss what was going on, and take some suggestions, and get the feedback, and reveal that idea that I was lookin’ for… because it wasn’t nothin’ I had to hide...I don’t feel that [any] problem I have is [too great] to ask for help. You cannot get nowhere in life, thinkin’ you know everything.”
The Three Programs

Community Capacity Building Programs

Alumni Ex-Offenders Association (AEA)
- Returning citizens, family, others
- Fellowship and feedback, emotional intelligence

Fight for Lifers (FFL)
- Lifers, family, others
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“Can specific programs affect levels of social integration among released persons enough to affect the quality of life for them and their family and to reduce their criminal involvement?”

(Lynch 2006:410)

Principled Transformation

- Pillar 1 – Leadership Dev.
- Pillar 2 – Situation Management
- Pillar 3 – Support Group Dev.
Current Initiatives

- Navigating the weight of stigma

  *Fight for Lifers (FFL)*
  - Clemency process
  - Legislation – re: life WITH parole

  *Alumni Ex-Offenders Association (AEA)*
  - Political forums; judges, city council
  - Noble Pillars

  *Leadership, Education, Advocacy, Development (LEAD)*
  - Situation Mngmt.
  - Entrepreneurial collab. w/ Villanova Univ.
“...It’s truly amazing to me, the selflessness of the participating individuals of Reconstruction. I haven’t run across anything [else] like that, Townsand. The ability to pull together and assist in any way possible. To just give...If Reconstruction put in any time or effort with an individual, they only ask that that individual come back and do something likewise that was given to them...for the next person coming through the doors.”

– Deion Morrison, longtime affiliate
“…The mood and temper of the public in regard to the treatment of crime and criminals is one of the most unfailing tests of the civilization of any country…

[extending from] an unfailing faith that there is a treasure if only you can find it, in the heart of every man—

these are the symbols which in the treatment of crime and criminals mark and measure the stored-up strength of a nation, and are the sign and proof of the living virtue in it.”
Reconstructing Rage Themes

#1 – Culture (environment, ways of being)

#2 – Community (interdependence, fellowship)

#3 – Capacity building (maximizing assets)

#4 – Returning citizens as vital to all three above
Thank You!

Questions, Comments
The Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) is a system of penal and reasons that has expanded over time and has significant impacts on society. It involves the incarceration of individuals, the profits made from the system, and the economic and social consequences of mass incarceration. The PIC is driven by political and economic forces that prioritize luxury over security, profitability over justice, and control over liberation. It is a complex system that affects all aspects of society, including education, healthcare, transportation, and political power.
“Crime is a phenomenon of organized social life, and is the open rebellion of an individual against his social environment...Crime comes either in spite of intelligence, or as a result of misdirected intelligence under severe economic and moral strain.”

Is being active in a social movement just a matter of personal choice?
Two years ago, the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics announced a small data point marking an inglorious milestone: In 2009, America’s prison population declined for the first time in decades… dating all the way back to 1972, America had been in the business of constantly imprisoning more and more people.
Voting

Criminal Disenfranchisement Laws Across The U.S.

States vary widely on when voting rights are restored. Maine and Vermont do not withdraw the franchise based on criminal convictions; even prisoners may vote there. Kentucky and Virginia are the last two remaining states that permanently disenfranchise all people with felony convictions, unless they receive individual, discretionary, executive clemency.¹

- Permanent disenfranchisement for all people with felony convictions, unless government approves individual rights restoration: KY, VA
- Permanent disenfranchisement for at least some people with criminal convictions, unless government approves individual rights restoration: AL, AZ, DE, FL, MS, NV, TN, WY
- Voting rights restored upon completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation: AK, AR, GA, ID, IA, KS, LA, MD, MN, MO, NE, NJ, NM, NC, OK, SC, TX, WA, WV, WI
  * Nebraska imposes a two-year waiting period after completion of sentence.
- Voting rights restored automatically after release from prison and discharge from parole (probationers may vote): CA, CO, CT, NY, SD
- Voting rights restored automatically after release from prison: DC, HI, IL, IN, MA, MI, MT, NH, ND, OH, OR, PA, RI, UT
- No disenfranchisement for people with criminal convictions: ME, VT

Disenfranchisement of Black voting age population, 2000

2.6 million former felons are barred from voting because of U.S. felony disenfranch. laws

This, in addition to those currently incarcerated.
Employment

Fig. 9. Racial Impact of a Criminal Record on Interview Callbacks, 2003

Are we flushing children’s futures down the drain?

THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE
Western and Pettit (2010), “Incarceration and Social Inequality”
Networks and Partnerships

Source: Center for Participatory Change (Ashville, NC)
FIRST STATE DECLINE IN 38 YEARS

The number of state inmates grew 705% between 1972 and 2008 before dropping in 2009.

Jan. 1, 2010:
1,403,091 prisoners
-0.4%

1972:
174,379 prisoners
-1.5%

1925:
85,239 prisoners

NOTE: Annual figures prior to 1972 reflect the total number of sentenced prisoners in state custody. Beginning in 1972, all figures reflect the state jurisdictional population as reported in the Bureau of Justice Statistics' "Prisoners" series. Data for both sentenced prisoners in custody and the jurisdictional population are reported for 1972 to illustrate the transition.

Annual percent change in state prison populations

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics; Pew Center on the States, Public Safety Performance Project
The Numbers, Change Over Time
Community Capacity Building in Action

• What is sanctuary? How is it nurtured?
Nurturing Sanctuary Themes

#1 – Community capacity building (CCB.)

#2 – (CCB. and) Pedagogies of faith

#3 – (CCB. and) Tensions of faith

#4 – (CCB. and) Best practices for faith-health
1.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING
IN AN AGE OF FAITH?

Pedagogy and Tensions of Nurturing Sanctuary

Culture comes from the Latin word cultus, which means "to care for." At its heart, it has to do with growth: of crops (as in the word "cultivate"), or of peoples. Culture is a set of [symbolic and material] ideas, practices, and rituals that help human beings develop morally, intellectually, and spiritually.

— Terrance MacMullan

The Negro of America needs an Age of Faith. All great ages are ages of faith. It is absolutely necessary for a new people to begin their career with the religious verities.... Christianity is contrary to the spirit of caste—spiritual kinship transcends all other relations.... No matter what destiny awaits the race, religion is necessary either as a solvent or as a salve.

— W. E. B. Du Bois

One of the most vivid memories of my childhood is being 4 or 5 years old and sitting with a longtime family friend during a December church service. My mother was nearby but occupied with music, playing her guitar at the front of the church. There was an excitement in the chapel. It was the holidays, and Santa Claus was going to make an appearance. The anticipation of gifts was the preoccupation of every child in the church. We were an African American family and were members of an overwhelmingly white Unitarian Church in a small, college town in northwest Washington State. And yes,
Related Tensions

Mass Incarceration and the Militarization of Local Police
A recent New York Times article by Matt Apuzzo reported that in the Obama era, “police departments have received tens of thousands of machine guns; nearly 200,000 ammunition magazines; thousands of pieces of camouflage and night-vision equipment; and hundreds of silencers, armored cars and aircraft.”
The result is that police agencies around the nation possess military-grade equipment, turning officers who are supposed to fight crime and protect communities into what looks like an invading army. And military-style police raids have increased in recent years, with one count putting the number at 80,000 such raids last year.


– Bill Moyers and Company
What Now?  
What Next?

- Crime
  - Types, Statistics

- Incarceration and Crime
  - Uneven rel. at best, global and rates
  - Now, incarceration > education
  - Linked with police militarization

- Where We Are
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUdHIatS36A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUdHIatS36A) (John Oliver)
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_icVWKO4_o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_icVWKO4_o) (resource)
Compared to college students 40 years ago, today's students are less interested in developing a philosophy of life and more interested in making money.

- Women:
  - 1969: 88.1%
  - 2010: 82.0%
  - 1969: 46.1%
  - 2010: 47.9

- Men:
  - 1969: 77.3%
  - 2010: 76.9%
  - 1969: 73.1%
  - 2010: 77.9

1969:
- "Developing a meaningful philosophy of life": 88.1%
- "Raising a family": 77.3%
- "Being very well off financially": 46.1%

2010:
- "Developing a meaningful philosophy of life": 82.0%
- "Raising a family": 76.9%
- "Being very well off financially": 47.9

Defining Sociology
Brief Review

- **Way Society’s Org.**
  - Race, class, gender

- **Theoretical Diffs.**
  - Functionalist – utility
  - Sym. Interaction – responses, labelling
  - Conflict – class diffs. → power inequal.

- **Intersectionality**
  - Multiple at once
Race- / Gender- Conflict View

Questions, etc.

• “What is one’s position in the matrix of domination?”
• Result of: relative power, privilege of diff. categories
• Purpose: Identity empowerment, valuing diffs.

• Race-Conflict – Hate Crimes
  • Matthew Shepard (1998); 30 mrdr.s., 2092 ttl. (2011)

• Gender-Conflict – Cross-culture
  • Sudan, Saudi Arabia; U.S./Western absence...
## Applying Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deviance</th>
<th>Structural-Functional Theory</th>
<th>Symbolic-Interaction Theory</th>
<th>Social-Conflict Theory</th>
<th>Race-Conflict and Feminist Theories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the level of analysis?</td>
<td>Macro-level</td>
<td>Micro-level</td>
<td>Macro-level</td>
<td>Macro-level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is deviance?</td>
<td>Deviance is a basic part of social organization. By defining deviance, society sets its moral boundaries.</td>
<td>Deviance is part of socially constructed reality that emerges in interaction. Deviance comes into being as individuals label something deviant.</td>
<td>Deviance results from social inequality. Norms, including laws, reflect the interests of powerful members of society.</td>
<td>Deviance reflects racial and gender inequality. Deviant labels are more readily applied to women and other minorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What part does it play in society?</td>
<td>Deviance is universal: It exists in all societies.</td>
<td>Deviance is variable: Any act or person may or may not be labeled deviant.</td>
<td>Deviance is political: People with little power are at high risk of being labeled deviant.</td>
<td>Deviance is a means of control: Dominant categories of people discredit others as a means to dominate them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is important about deviance?</td>
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Criminal Statistics

- Victimization surveys: Crime rate is two to four times higher than official reports.
Incarceration and Crime

Figure 2.1  U.S. Unified Crime Report (UCR) crime trends and sentenced prisoners in federal and state institutions, 1931–2004, showing an increasing incarceration rate and a rising and falling crime rate. Rate of crime and rate of incarceration given are per 100,000 resident population.
SACRAMENTO — With his state strapped and his legacy looming, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed on Wednesday to greatly reduce the amount of money California spends on its prisons and to funnel that sum to the state’s higher education system instead.

The governor said he would also push for a constitutional amendment prohibiting the percentage of the state budget earmarked for prisons from exceeding what is set aside for its public university system instead.

“Choosing universities over prisons,” Mr. Schwarzenegger said in his final annual address to the Legislature. “This is a historic and transforming realignment of California’s priorities.”
SACRAMENTO — “The priorities have become out of whack over the years,” the governor told lawmakers.

“I mean, think about it, 30 years ago, 10 percent of the general fund went to higher education, and 3 percent went to prisons. Today, almost 11 percent goes to prisons, and only 7.5 percent goes to higher education.”

“What does it say about any state that focuses more on prison uniforms than on caps and gowns?” he continued. “It simply is not healthy.”
MASS INCARCERATION

WITH ONLY 5% OF THE WORLD’S POPULATION, THE

U.S. HAS 25% OF THE WORLD’S PRISON POPULATION. 1

★ World Population ★ U.S.’s % of Overall Population ★ U.S.’s % of Prisoner Population
What it is

- **Mass incarceration**
  - “refers not only to the criminal justice system but also to the larger web of laws, rules, policies, and customs that control those labeled criminals BOTH IN AND OUT OF PRISON.”

Why both (in and out)?

- “Once released, former prisoners enter a hidden underworld of legalized discrimination and permanent social exclusion” (Alexander 2010:13).
Michelle Alexander

“We have not ended racial caste in America, we have merely redesigned it.”
A recent New York Times article by Matt Apuzzo reported that in the Obama era, “police departments have received tens of thousands of machine guns; nearly 200,000 ammunition magazines; thousands of pieces of camouflage and night-vision equipment; and hundreds of silencers, armored cars and aircraft.”
The result is that police agencies around the nation possess military-grade equipment, turning officers who are supposed to fight crime and protect communities into what looks like an invading army. And military-style police raids have increased in recent years, with one count putting the number at 80,000 such raids last year.


– Bill Moyers and Company
Brief Review

- **Crime**
  - Types, Statistics

- **Incarceration and Crime**
  - Uneven rel. at best, global and rates
  - Now, incarceration > education
  - Linked with police militarization

- **Where We Are**
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUdHIatS36A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUdHIatS36A) (John Oliver)
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_icVWK04_o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_icVWK04_o) (resource)