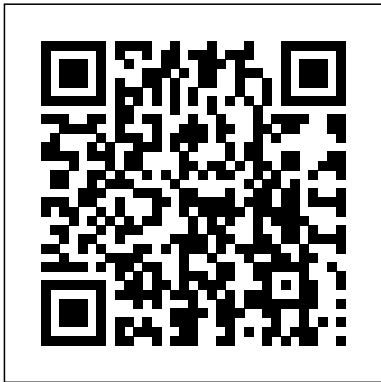

Death Penalty Information Center

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Near the beginning of *The Autobiography of an Execution*, David Dow lays his cards on the table. "People think that because I am against the death penalty and don't think people should be executed, that I forgive those people for what they did. Well, it isn't my place to forgive people, and if it were, I probably wouldn't. I'm a judgmental and not very

forgiving guy. Just ask my wife." It this spellbinding true crime narrative, Dow takes us inside of prisons, inside the complicated minds of judges, inside execution-administration chambers, into the lives of death row inmates (some shown to be innocent, others not) and even into his own home--where the toll of working on these gnarled and difficult cases is perhaps inevitably paid. He sheds insight onto unexpected phenomena-- how even religious lawyer and justices can evince deep rooted support for putting criminals to death-- and makes palpable the suspense that clings to every word and action when human lives hang in the balance.

Powerful, wry essays offering modern takes on a primitive practice, from one of our most widely read death penalty

abolitionists As Ruth Bader Ginsburg has noted, people who are well represented at trial rarely get the death penalty. But as Marc Bookman shows in a dozen brilliant essays, the problems with capital punishment run far deeper than just bad representation. Exploring prosecutorial misconduct, racist judges and jurors, drunken lawyering, and executing the innocent and the mentally ill, these essays demonstrate that precious few people on trial for their lives get the fair trial the Constitution demands. Today, death penalty cases continue to capture the hearts, minds, and eblasts of progressives of all stripes—including the rich and famous (see Kim Kardashian’s advocacy)—but few people with firsthand knowledge of America’s “injustice system” have the literary chops to bring death penalty stories to life. Enter Marc Bookman. With a voice that is both literary and journalistic, the veteran capital defense lawyer and seven-time Best American Essays “notable” author exposes the dark absurdities and fatal inanities that undermine the logic of the death penalty wherever it still exists. In essays that cover seemingly “ordinary” capital cases over the last thirty years, Bookman shows how violent crime brings out our worst human instincts—revenge, fear, retribution, and prejudice. Combining these emotions with the criminal legal system’s weaknesses—purposely ineffective, arbitrary, or widely infected with racism and misogyny—is a recipe for injustice. Bookman has been charming and educating readers in the pages of *The Atlantic*, *Mother Jones*, and *Slate* for years. His wit and wisdom are now collected and

preserved in *A Descending Spiral*.

Presents a portrait of prisoners on death row in Texas. Why does the United States continue to employ the death penalty when fifty other developed democracies have abolished it? Why does capital punishment become more problematic each year? How can the death penalty conflict be resolved? In *The Contradictions of American Capital Punishment*, Frank Zimring reveals that the seemingly insoluble turmoil surrounding the death penalty reflects a deep and long-standing division in American values, a division that he predicts will soon bring about the end of capital punishment in our country. On the one hand, execution would seem to violate our nation's highest legal principles of fairness and due process. It sets us increasingly apart from our allies and indeed is regarded by European nations as a barbaric and particularly egregious form of American exceptionalism. On the other hand, the death penalty represents a deeply held American belief in violent social justice that sees the hangman as an agent of local control and safeguard of community values. Zimring uncovers the most troubling symptom of this attraction to vigilante justice in the lynch mob. He shows that the great majority of executions in recent decades have occurred in precisely those Southern states where lynchings were most common a hundred years ago. It is this legacy, Zimring suggests, that constitutes both the distinctive appeal of the death penalty in the United States and one of the most compelling reasons for abolishing it. Impeccably researched

and engagingly written, *Contradictions in American Capital Punishment* casts a clear new light on America's long and troubled embrace of the death penalty.

Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration

Deterrence and the Death Penalty

The Increasing Danger of Executing the Innocent : a Death Penalty Information Center Report

The Rise and Fall of the Death Penalty

So Long as They Die

How Killing the Death Penalty Can Revive Criminal Justice

This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1890 edition. Excerpt: ...said Mr. Fogg. "Well, your honor," replied the pilot, " I can risk neither my men, nor myself, nor yourself, in so long a voyage on a boat of scarcely twenty tons, at this time of the year. Besides, we would not arrive in time, for it is sixteen hundred and fifty miles from Hong Kong to Yokohama." "Only sixteen hundred," said Mr. Fogg. "It is the same thing." Fix took a good long breath. " But," added the pilot, " there might perhaps be a means to arrange it otherwise." Fix did not breathe any more. "How?" asked Phileas Fogg. " By going to Nagasaki, the southern extremity of Japan, eleven hundred miles, or only to Shanghai, eight hundred miles from Hong Kong. In this last journey, we would not be at any distance from the Chinese coast, which would be a great advantage, all the more so that the currents run to the north." "Pilot," replied Phileas Fogg, "I must take the American mail steamer at Yokohama, and not at Shanghai or Nagasaki." "Why not?" replied the pilot " The San Francisco steamer does not start from Yokohama. She stops there and at Nagasaki, but her port of departure is Shanghai." You are certain of what you are saying? " "Certain." "And when does the steamer leave Shanghai?" "On the 11th, at seven o'clock in the evening. We have then four days before us. Four days, that is ninety-six hours, and with an average of eight knots an hour, if we have good luck, if the wind keeps to the southeast, if

the sea is calm, we can make the eight hundred miles which separate us from Shanghai." "And you can leave--" " In an hour, time enough to buy my provisions and hoist sail." " It is a bargain--you are the master of the boat?" " Yes, John Bunsby, master of the Tankadere." " Do you wish some earnest money?" " If it does not inconvenience...

See America with 50 of Our Finest, Funniest, and Foremost Writers Anthony Bourdain chases the fumigation truck in Bergen County, New Jersey Dave Eggers tells it straight: Illinois is Number 1 Louise Erdrich loses her bikini top in North Dakota Jonathan Franzen gets waylaid by New York's publicist...and personal attorney...and historian...and geologist John Hodgman explains why there is no such thing as a "Massachusettsian" Edward P. Jones makes the case: D.C. should be a state! Jhumpa Lahiri declares her reckless love for the Rhode Island coast Rick Moody explores the dark heart of Connecticut's Merritt Parkway, exit by exit Ann Patchett makes a pilgrimage to the Civil War site at Shiloh, Tennessee William T. Vollmann visits a San Francisco S&M club and Many More!

"Please see the attached text file"--

A Death Penalty Information Center report.

The Psychology of Waiting to Die

Life Stories from America's Death Row

Living on Death Row

Capital Punishment in American History

Texas Death Row

Saving the Death Penalty from Itself

In this timely work, the bishops open a new dialogue on crime and justice in the United States.

Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all time From the Modern Library's new set of beautifully repackaged hardcover classics by Truman Capote—also available are *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *Other Voices, Other Rooms* (in one volume), *Portraits and Observations*, and *The Complete Stories* Truman Capote's masterpiece, *In Cold Blood*,

created a sensation when it was first published, serially, in *The New Yorker* in 1965. The intensively researched, atmospheric narrative of the lives of the Clutter family of Holcomb, Kansas, and of the two men, Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith, who brutally killed them on the night of November 15, 1959, is the seminal work of the “new journalism.” Perry Smith is one of the great dark characters of American literature, full of contradictory emotions. “I thought he was a very nice gentleman,” he says of Herb Clutter. “Soft-spoken. I thought so right up to the moment I cut his throat.” Told in chapters that alternate between the Clutter household and the approach of Smith and Hickock in their black Chevrolet, then between the investigation of the case and the killers’ flight, Capote’s account is so detailed that the reader comes to feel almost like a participant in the events. In 1982, Sister Helen Prejean became the spiritual advisor to Patrick Sonnier, the convicted killer of two teenagers who was sentenced to die in the electric chair of Louisiana’s Angola State Prison. In the months before Sonnier’s death, the Roman Catholic nun came to know a man who was as terrified as he had once been terrifying. She also came to know the families of the victims and the men whose job it was to execute—men who often harbored doubts about the rightness of what they were doing. Out of that dreadful intimacy comes a profoundly moving spiritual journey through our system of capital punishment. Here Sister Helen confronts both the plight of the condemned and the rage of the bereaved, the fears of a society shattered by violence and the Christian imperative of love. On its original publication in 1993, *Dead Man Walking* emerged as an unprecedented look at the

human consequences of the death penalty. Now, some two decades later, this story—which has inspired a film, a stage play, an opera and a musical album—is more gut-wrenching than ever, stirring deep and life-changing reflection in all who encounter it.

Includes a database of all executions since 1976, searchable by name, year, age, race, gender, location, method of execution, and special factors. Also provides reports on issues such as innocence, juveniles, mental illness, and costs, as well as facts about death row, sentencing, data for individual states, and the history of the death penalty. Portions of the site also available in Spanish.

Catholic Opposition to the Death Penalty

Should America Have Capital Punishment? The Experts on Both Sides Make Their Case

The death penalty - legal cruelty

Capital Punishment Challenged in the World's Courts

Lethal Injections in the United States

Against Capital Punishment

Is capital punishment morally justified? Although the issue generates strong opinions, there are no easy answers when it comes to taking the life of a human being. Supporters of the death penalty believe it deters law-breaking and is the only punishment strong enough for horrific crimes such as child murder and genocide. Opponents argue that it violates human rights and point to its finality in the face of judicial system error and unfairness. This

resource presents a fascinating progression of current viewpoints that reflect the many facets of the death penalty debate.

"Published in cooperation with Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Stanford, California."--T.p.

A Columbia Law School team's in-depth examination of one man's 1989 wrongful conviction and execution for murder. In 1989, Texas executed Carlos DeLuna, a poor Hispanic man with childlike intelligence, for the murder of Wanda Lopez, a convenience store clerk. His execution passed unnoticed for years until a team of Columbia Law School faculty and students chose to investigate his case and found that DeLuna almost certainly was innocent. No one had cared enough about either the defendant or the victim to make sure the real perpetrator was found. Everything that could go wrong in a criminal case did. DeLuna's conviction was based on a single, nighttime, cross-ethnic eyewitness identification with no corroborating forensic evidence. At his trial, DeLuna's defense—that another Carlos had committed the crime—was not taken seriously. The lead prosecutor told the jury that the other Carlos, Carlos Hernandez, was

a "phantom" of DeLuna's imagination. In upholding the death penalty on appeal, both the state and federal courts concluded the same thing: Carlos Hernandez did not exist. However, he not only existed, but also had a long history of violent crimes . . . This book and its website (thewrongcarlos.net) reproduce law-enforcement, crime lab, lawyer, court, social service, media, and witness records, as well as court transcripts, photographs, radio traffic, and audio and videotaped interviews, documenting one of the most comprehensive investigations into a criminal case in US history. "This book will become a classic in the field." —Austin Sarat, Amherst College "[An] infuriating yet engrossing book on wrongful conviction...An important critique of our legal system." —Publishers Weekly Built on in-depth interviews with movement leaders and the records of key abolitionist organizations, this work traces the struggle against capital punishment in the United States since 1972. Haines reviews the legal battles that led to the short-lived suspension of the death penalty and examines the subsequent conservative turn in the courts that has forced death penalty

opponents to rely less on litigation strategies and more on political action. Employing social movement theory, he diagnoses the causes of the anti-death penalty movement's inability to mobilize widespread opposition to executions, and he makes pointed recommendations for improving its effectiveness. For this edition Haines has included a new Afterword in which he summarizes developments in the movement since 1994.

Against the Death Penalty

Let the Lord Sort Them

Dead Man Walking

A Descending Spiral

The Financial Cost of Capital Punishment in the United States of America

A Panoramic Portrait of America

Pre-University Paper from the year 2000 in the subject American Studies - Miscellaneous, grade: 14 Punkte, St.-Irmengard-Gymnasium, course: LK Englisch, language: English, abstract: People have been humiliated, mutilated and killed -daily were atrocities in the name of the law committed. Reigns of terror invented methods, which brought the inhuman aspect in man to light. The victims suffered from unbelievable pains. And still today there exist methods, which mean torture and pain for the offenders as well as for the victims - even in the USA. The history of capital punishment in the territory which is

now known as the USA starts in the 17th Century, when the American colonies imposed the death sentence not only for 14 offenses as England prescribed it, but also for fewer crimes. The first known execution was of Daniel Frank. He was put to death in 1622 in the Colony of Virginia for the crime of theft. In the 19th century politics and advances of technology influenced the use of the death penalty a lot. On August, 6, 1890 murderer William Kemmler was the first person, who has been executed in the electric chair. After a short-lived abolition movement which led to the repeal of numerous state death penalty statutes in 1900, Kansas was the first state who abolished capital punishment in 1907. Eight more states followed suit over the next 10 years. Then two sensational murder cases restarted the debate over the death penalty in the 1920s. As a result of this a time of death penalty support followed. For example two Italian immigrants were electrocuted in Massachusetts for two murders. Finally the peak of the U.S. executions was reached in the 1930s, averaging 167 a year. The decline of executions in the 1960s was caused by growing doubts about the death penalty. That means that after Luis Jose Monge who died in the gas chamber at Colorado State Penitentiary, an unofficial moratorium on executions began. The 1970s was an eventful decade for capital punishment. It first saw the death penalty canceled and then reinstated. Dr. Robert Baldwin would be the first to tell you that he used to be an average white Southern male; a family man with conservative ideals and a growing medical practice, he was living out his life without too much introspection.

In 1997, however, Baldwin was diagnosed with the autoimmune disease, myasthenia gravis. In his compelling new memoir *Life and Death Matters*, Baldwin discusses his health scare and his subsequent search for truth in both the Christian church and society at large. Baldwin goes on to tackle one of the most precarious moral issues of our time—the death penalty—with statistical fact and thoughtful religious sympathy. While volunteering as a prison minister, Baldwin immerses himself in this issue, proving himself to be a most thoughtful individual with an eye for social injustice and an ear for those in most need of counsel.

Discusses the history of the two Supreme Court cases that were responsible for changing the laws regarding the death penalty in America and polarizing the nation.

Examines both the legal and illegal uses of the death penalty in American history.

Right Here, Right Now

I Am Troy Davis

Innocence and the Crisis in the American Death Penalty

The Autobiography of an Execution

End of Its Rope

Beyond Reason : the Death Penalty and Offenders with Mental Retardation

Bachelor Thesis from the year 2011 in the subject Business economics - Law, grade: 1,0, Berlin School of Economics and Law, language: English, abstract:

Awareness surrounding the financial burden of capital punishment is increasing and slowly beginning to permeate the American Society. However, not enough

light has been shed on the sources that are causing the financial devastation. The death-is-different legal doctrine in the United States grants procedural protection that is unique for capital litigation providing individual consideration for each case. The paper investigates the price increase by capitally adjudicating a case compared to a non-capital litigation. Looking at the economic side of the impact of legal statutes should contribute to the discussion about choosing alternative punishments, such as life incarceration without the possibility of parole, and the systems' improvement prospects or the lack thereof. In the aftermath of a severe economic crisis and with ongoing financial solvency crises of interdependent nations, cost cutting considerations become all the more essential. Further, it is "Time to consider whether maintaining the costly death penalty system is being smart on crime" by briefly looking into where the money could be invested instead in order to achieve an equivalent effect. In short, the paper aims at ascertaining the financial cost of capital punishment and how the discoveries can impact jurisprudence. The central questions are the following. How to approach the financial cost of death penalty? What are the cost drivers of the system? Are there calculable benefits? How did and can economic arguments influence the legitimacy of capital punishment? The paper is structured as follows. The introduction is designed to lay out the framework of the United States capital punishment system. The main part provides an overview of the developments in approaching the cost of state-sanctioned killing, then explores the key cost drivers

and f

This book synthesizes scholarly reflections with personal accounts from prison administrators and inmates to show the harsh reality of life on death row.

Argues that understanding the impact of past injustices faced by some peoples can help us understand and overcome injustice today.

This book includes perspectives from a broad range of victims, including family members of the crime victims; convicted persons whose rights are violated by the justice system through wrongful convictions, unequal and discriminatory application of justice, lack of a due process, imposition for crimes that do not meet the most serious crimes threshold or to the categories of perpetrators that should be protected from the death penalty (minors, persons with mental or intellectual disabilities, pregnant women), as well as third parties including family members of the convicted person (especially children and primary caretakers) and persons included in criminal proceedings or executions (such as prosecutors, judges, lawyers and executioners). It is argued in this thought provoking book that the states right to execute violates the right to life and negatively reflects on human rights of its citizens in general.

Enduring Injustice

Innocence and the Death Penalty

Stay of Execution

Anatomy of a Wrongful Execution

State by State

A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice

The true story of a woman's fight for her brother's life—and her own: “ Essential for those interested in the U.S. justice system ” (Library Journal). On September 21, 2011, Troy Anthony Davis was put to death by the State of Georgia. Davis's execution was protested by hundreds of thousands of people across the globe, and Pope Benedict XVI, Pres. Jimmy Carter, and fifty-one members of Congress all appealed for clemency. Davis's older sister, Martina, a former Army flight nurse who had served in the Gulf War, was one of Davis's strongest advocates—despite the fact that she was battling liver and metastatic breast cancer and died just weeks after her brother's death by lethal injection. This book, coauthored by Martina and writer Jen Marlowe, tells the intimate story of an ordinary man caught up in an inexorable tragedy. From his childhood in racially charged Savannah; to the confused events that led to the 1989 shooting of a police officer; to Davis's sudden arrest, conviction, and two-decade fight to prove his innocence, *I Am Troy Davis* takes us inside a broken legal system where life and death hang in the balance. It is also an inspiring testament to the unbreakable bond of family and the resilience of love, and reminds us that even when you reach the end of justice, voices from across the world can rise together in chorus and proclaim, “ I am Troy Davis. ” “ Martina Correia's heroic fight to save her brother's life while battling for her own serves as a powerful testament for activists. ” —The Nation “ Should be read and cherished. ” —Maya Angelou, author and civil rights activist

Staff report issued on October 21, 1993 by the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, Committee on the Judiciary One Hundred Third Congress, First session.

Capital Punishment examines all aspects of capital punishment in the United States. It discusses the history behind the death penalty in the United States and varying opinions about the

ethics of capital punishment. Features include a glossary, further readings, websites, source notes, and an index. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Essential Library is an imprint of Abdo Publishing, a division of ABDO.

In *The Death Penalty: What's Keeping it Alive* an award-winning criminal defense attorney turns a critical eye towards the death penalty in America. Filled with gripping case studies, the book analyzes why the death penalty remains active in most states in spite of well-documented flaws in the justice system.

The Wrong Carlos

Race, Class, and the Death Penalty

A Wild Justice: The Death and Resurrection of Capital Punishment in America

Life and Death Matters

Debating the Death Penalty

The Death Penalty as Cruel Treatment and Torture

Provides death penalty information for individual states within the United States, compiled by the Death Penalty Information Center. Highlights states without the death penalty and lists the sources used. Provides statistics on death row inmates and executions.

The death penalty is contested across modern social, political, academic, and legal institutions, and this interdisciplinary text helps readers analyze that debate. It begins with *Furman v. Georgia*, which doubles as the Supreme Court's only decision striking down the death penalty and as the origin of the modern American death penalty. The text explores the legal rules and moral reasoning behind the principle that the death penalty be reserved for the worst offenders, as well as the most

uncomfortable realities of American capital punishment--the likelihood of wrongful executions and the undeniable influence of race on death penalty practice. Discussion of law and theory is always supplemented with appropriate empirical studies, and is connected to the practice of lawyers on the ground. The text concludes with a glimpse to the future of the death penalty, and situates the increasingly exceptional American experience in an international context. This legal material is carefully presented so as to remain accessible to non-lawyers, and it is intended for anyone with an interest in capital punishment.

Recommendations. To state and federal corrections agencies - To state legislators and the U.S. Congress. -- I. Development of lethal injection protocols. Oklahoma - Texas - Tennessee - Lethal injection machines - Public access to lethal injection protocols. -- II. Lethal injection drugs. Potassium chloride - Pancuronium bromide - Sodium thiopental - The failure to review protocols. -- III. Lethal injection procedures. Qualifications of execution team - Checking the IV equipment - Level of anesthesia not monitored. -- IV. Physician participation in executions and medical ethics. -- V. Case study: *Morales v. Hickman*. -- VI. Botched executions. -- VII. International human rights and U.S. constitutional law. International human rights law - U.S. Constitutional law. -- Appendix A: State Execution Methods. -- Acknowledgements.

Today, death sentences in the U.S. are as rare as lightning strikes. Brandon Garrett shows us the reasons why, and explains what the failed death penalty experiment teaches

about the effect of inept lawyering, overzealous prosecution, race discrimination, wrongful convictions, and excessive punishments throughout the criminal justice system.

The Contradictions of American Capital Punishment
United States

Where Justice and Mercy Meet

The Death Penalty

Exposing the Death Penalty in 12 Essays

Death Penalty and the Victims

Upon receiving his execution date, one of the thousands of men living on death row in the United States had an epiphany: “ All there ever is, is this moment. You, me, all of us, right here, right now, this minute, that's love. ” Right Here, Right Now collects the powerful, first-person stories of dozens of men on death rows across the country. From childhood experiences living with poverty, hunger, and violence to mental illness and police misconduct to coming to terms with their executions, these men outline their struggle to maintain their connection to society and sustain the humanity that incarceration and its daily insults attempt to extinguish. By offering their hopes, dreams, aspirations, fears, failures, and wounds, the men challenge us to reconsider whether our current justice system offers actual justice or simply perpetuates the social injustices that obscure our shared humanity.

NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS ' CHOICE • A deeply

reported, searingly honest portrait of the death penalty in Texas—and what it tells us about crime and punishment in America “ If you ' re one of those people who despair that nothing changes, and dream that something can, this is a story of how it does. ” —Anand Giridharadas, The New York Times Book Review WINNER OF THE J. ANTHONY LUKAS AWARD In 1972, the United States Supreme Court made a surprising ruling: the country ' s death penalty system violated the Constitution. The backlash was swift, especially in Texas, where executions were considered part of the cultural fabric, and a dark history of lynching was masked by gauzy visions of a tough-on-crime frontier. When executions resumed, Texas quickly became the nationwide leader in carrying out the punishment. Then, amid a larger wave of criminal justice reform, came the death penalty ' s decline, a trend so durable that even in Texas the punishment appears again close to extinction. In Let the Lord Sort Them, Maurice Chammah charts the rise and fall of capital punishment through the eyes of those it touched. We meet Elsa Alcala, the orphaned daughter of a Mexican American family who found her calling as a prosecutor in the nation ' s death penalty capital, before becoming a judge on the state ' s highest court. We meet Danalynn Recer, a lawyer who became obsessively devoted to unearthing the life stories of men who committed terrible crimes, and fought for

mercy in courtrooms across the state. We meet death row prisoners—many of them once-famous figures like Henry Lee Lucas, Gary Graham, and Karla Faye Tucker—along with their families and the families of their victims. And we meet the executioners, who struggle openly with what society has asked them to do. In tracing these interconnected lives against the rise of mass incarceration in Texas and the country as a whole, Chammah explores what the persistence of the death penalty tells us about forgiveness and retribution, fairness and justice, history and myth. Written with intimacy and grace, *Let the Lord Sort Them* is the definitive portrait of a particularly American institution.

Where Justice and Mercy Meet: Catholic Opposition to the Death Penalty comprehensively explores the Catholic stance against capital punishment in new and important ways. The broad perspective of this book has been shaped in conversation with the Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty, as well as through the witness of family members of murder victims and the spiritual advisors of condemned inmates. The book offers the reader new insight into the debates about capital punishment; provides revealing, and sometimes surprising, information about methods of execution; and explores national and international trends and movements related to the death penalty. It also addresses how the

death penalty has been intertwined with racism, the high percentage of the mentally disabled on death row, and how the death penalty disproportionately affects the poor. The foundation for the church's position on the death penalty is illuminated by discussion of the life and death of Jesus, Scripture, the Mass, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the teachings of Pope John Paul II. Written for concerned Catholics and other interested readers, the book contains contemporary stories and examples, as well as discussion questions to engage groups in exploring complex issues.

Many studies during the past few decades have sought to determine whether the death penalty has any deterrent effect on homicide rates. Researchers have reached widely varying, even contradictory, conclusions. Some studies have concluded that the threat of capital punishment deters murders, saving large numbers of lives; other studies have concluded that executions actually increase homicides; still others, that executions have no effect on murder rates. Commentary among researchers, advocates, and policymakers on the scientific validity of the findings has sometimes been acrimonious. Against this backdrop, the National Research Council report *Deterrence and the Death Penalty* assesses whether the available evidence provides a scientific basis for answering questions of if and how the death penalty

affects homicide rates. This new report from the Committee on Law and Justice concludes that research to date on the effect of capital punishment on homicide rates is not useful in determining whether the death penalty increases, decreases, or has no effect on these rates. The key question is whether capital punishment is less or more effective as a deterrent than alternative punishments, such as a life sentence without the possibility of parole. Yet none of the research that has been done accounted for the possible effect of noncapital punishments on homicide rates. The report recommends new avenues of research that may provide broader insight into any deterrent effects from both capital and noncapital punishments.

Death Penalty Information Center Reports
Seeking the Truth About Capital Punishment
In Cold Blood

What's Keeping It Alive

Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC).

The Anti-Death Penalty Movement in America,
1972-1994

Experts on both side of the issue speak out both for and against capital punishment and the rationale behind their individual beliefs.

A landmark dissenting opinion arguing against the death penalty Does the death penalty violate the Constitution? In Against the Death Penalty, Justice Stephen G. Breyer argues that it does: that it is carried out unfairly and inconsistently,

and thus violates the ban on "cruel and unusual punishments" specified by the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution. "Today 's administration of the death penalty," Breyer writes, "involves three fundamental constitutional defects: (1) serious unreliability, (2) arbitrariness in application, and (3) unconscionably long delays that undermine the death penalty 's penological purpose. Perhaps as a result, (4) most places within the United States have abandoned its use." This volume contains Breyer's dissent in the case of *Glossip v. Gross*, which involved an unsuccessful challenge to Oklahoma's use of a lethal-injection drug because it might cause severe pain. Justice Breyer's legal citations have been edited to make them understandable to a general audience, but the text retains the full force of his powerful argument that the time has come for the Supreme Court to revisit the constitutionality of the death penalty. Breyer was joined in his dissent from the bench by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Their passionate argument has been cited by many legal experts — including fellow Justice Antonin Scalia — as signaling an eventual Court ruling striking down the death penalty. A similar dissent in 1963 by Breyer's mentor, Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, helped set the stage for a later ruling, imposing what turned out to be a four-year moratorium on executions.

An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States

Capital Punishment

State By State Death Penalty Information