



Lockdown America: Police and Prisons in the Age of Crisis

By Christian Parenti

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Lockdown America documents the horrors and absurdities of militarized policing, prisons, a fortified border, and the war on drugs. Its accessible and vivid prose makes clear the links between crime and politics in a period of gathering economic crisis.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In this important book, Parenti surveys the rise of the prison industrial complex from the Nixon through Reagan eras and into the present. Why does the United States currently have one of the highest rates of incarceration in the world, with over 1.8 million Americans living behind bars? Why are only 29 percent of all prisoners violent offenders? Parenti, a former radio journalist and now a professor at the New College of California, argues that capitalism implies and demands a certain amount of poverty; the powers that be then respond by incarcerating drug users, the underclass, and other relatively powerless persons. Parenti provides a very thorough account of this process as well as a realistic portrayal of an American prison life characterized by rape, torture, gangs, and prisoners as a source of labor. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries. —Tim Delaney, Canisius Coll., Buffalo, NY

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Review

“[Parenti’s] exhaustively documented text deserves a full hearing from anyone serious about ending the often horrific realities of the criminal justice system.”—*Washington Post Book World*

“A fast read, angry and compelling. —*Philadelphia City Paper*”—

“Essential reading for those in law enforcement and politics.”—*Times Literary Supplement*

“The book is in the best tradition of investigative journalism, paced like a fine novel, it carries the authority of meticulous academic research.”—*The Independent*

“This dark, unflinching look at what our nation has become ... cannot fail to generate serious thought about issues we prefer to lock away in darkness.”—*Christian Science Monitor*

About the Author

Christian Parenti is the author of *The Soft Cage* and *The Freedom*, and is currently writing a book on Afghanistan. He is a visiting fellow at the CUNY Graduate School’s Center for Place, Culture and Politics, and his articles appear regularly in *The Nation*. He lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Pinkerton:

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