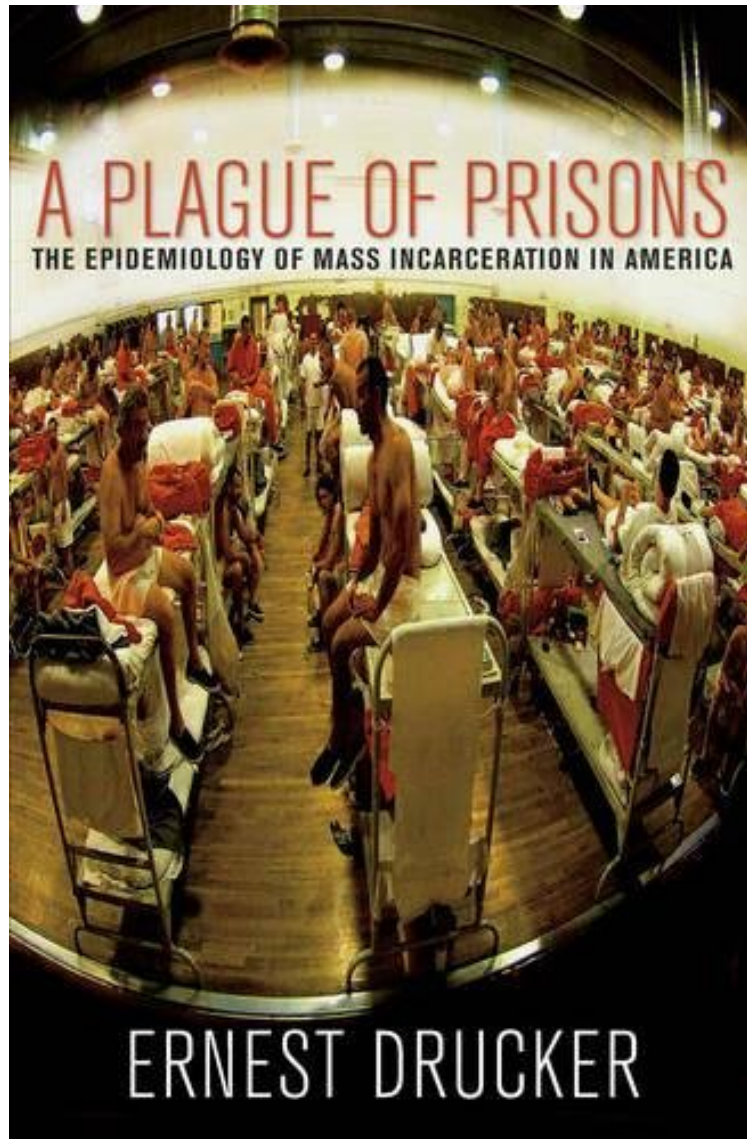


(Free and download) A Plague of Prisons: The Epidemiology of Mass Incarceration in America

A Plague of Prisons: The Epidemiology of Mass Incarceration in America

Ernest Drucker

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Ernest Drucker : A Plague of Prisons: The Epidemiology of Mass Incarceration in America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Plague of Prisons: The Epidemiology of Mass Incarceration in America:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Great Analysis of a National Disaster By Norman A. Pattis Sending folks off to prison is a sad reality for criminal defense lawyers. From the well of the court, these voyages are always

cast as morality plays, dramas in which the defendant is accused of transgressing some social, and perhaps also some moral, code. Holding the defendant "accountable" is the rhetorical move prosecutors and judges rely upon to imprison. But the rhetoric of punishment rings hollow. Something more is going on. We send so many folks to prison, and often for such trifling reasons. Things have reached a point in which it makes sense to speak of mass incarceration. Is this best thought of as an epidemic? Ernest Drucker thinks so. He brings the skills of an epidemiologist to bear on why, with five percent of the world's population, the United States incarcerates 25 percent of the world's prisoners. His answer is simple: the war on drugs accounts for the explosive growth during the past forty years of the prison population. The statistics are familiar enough. Young black men, young Hispanic men, face a far greater chance of landing in prison than to their white counterparts, and usually for drug offenses. We build prisons at an astonishing rate. Some 2.5 million Americans are currently behind bars. Millions more are on probation. Drucker's brief work supports from a novel perspective the need for reform of drug laws. We need treatment, not prison; legalization, not the creation of an incarcerated nation. This is a well-written and even entertaining book about a depressing subject. I was dubious about whether Drucker could pull the analysis off. He did, but, I suspect, I was an easy cell. Mass incarceration is a national disaster. 19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. A New and Challenging Perspective on Incarceration in America By GLFilerman This book will leave you informed, angry, frustrated and challenged. Drucker provides an overview of the social, political, economic and public health context of incarceration in America. At the same time he demonstrates how the science, art, and application of epidemiology provides understanding the drivers of this plague on our society and how it can be reduced, if not reversed. One of the many strengths of the book is how he draws upon recent research to support his case and challenge. It is a must read for policy makers as well as students of law, public health and all of the other professions that work in the field. It is an important contribution. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well written well said By Frederick Martello Excellent data

When Dr. John Snow first traced an outbreak of cholera to a water pump in the Soho district of London in 1854, the field of epidemiology was born. Ernest Drucker's *A Plague of Prisons* takes the same concepts and tools of public health that have successfully tracked epidemics of flu, tuberculosis, and AIDS to make the case that our current unprecedented level of imprisonment has become an epidemic. Drucker passionately argues that imprisonment originally conceived as a response to the crimes of individual has become mass incarceration: a destabilizing force, a plague upon our body politic, that undermines families and communities, damaging the very social structures that prevent crime. Described as a towering achievement (Ira Glasser) and the clearest and most intelligible case for a reevaluation of how we view incarceration (Spectrum Culture), *A Plague of Prisons* offers a cutting-edge perspective on criminal justice in twenty-first-century America that could help to shame the U.S. public into demanding remedial action (The Lancet).

"With voluminous data and meticulous analysis, [Drucker] persuasively demonstrates in his provocative new book that the unprecedented surge in incarceration in recent decades is a social catastrophe on the scale of the worst global epidemics." Michelle Alexander, *The Washington Post* "How did America's addiction to prisons and mass incarceration get its start and how did it spread from state to state? Of the many attempts to answer this question, none make as much sense as the explanation found in [this] book." *Philadelphia Inquirer* "Drucker uses the tools of his trade to examine the laws and their consequences... Treating drug addiction as a public-health problem rather than a crime to be punished would go a long way towards making America's poor and minority communities stabler and better." *The Economist* "Wonderfully written and packed with insight." Todd Clear, dean of the Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice