

## U.S. Prison Reform

Our current US prison system seems based more upon revenge and is closer to cruel and unusual punishment than criminal justice. How a society treats its criminals is truly a reflection on that society in general. Is this vengeful attitude itself why we have so many criminals in jail? Realistically, looking at our criminal justice system, it is really in need of much repair, as is our society in general.

In the early days of the Republic prisoners were given a Bible, and bread and water. Their deprivation of freedom was considered punishment enough. That concept would be further expanded to meet today's challenges, but still keeping to that same spirit.

Prisoners would be required to work, to pay for their keep. Skills and education to redeem the deficiencies that brought these criminals to prison in the first place would be given (even required, but not forced) for prisoners to earn their release and freedom.

The death penalty would only be used for unrepentant prisoners who would commit a similar crime of first degree murder or rape, while still in prison. This is to ensure the safety of prisoners in the criminal system. First degree rape and murder would should carry a lifetime sentence without parole - as a deterrent to crime, and as an attempt to promote domestic tranquility. A just society is also necessary for this system to work properly - so there is no legitimate reason for crime. All Americans should have the right to a job and to support themselves and their family - at whatever level, low, middle, or high class.

Military service might also be a venue and option for prisoners for their release. Special military units would be created for such prisoners.

©2016 U.S. Federalist Party/Robert A. Selwa