

Correctional Systems
Lecture Notes
Chapter 3

Early Penal Systems

I. Wellspring Era (Middle Ages to 1800's)

A. Key features

1. Corporal punishment
2. Capitol punishment
3. Exile

B. Absent in era - locking up in secure confinement

II. Transportation

A. Banishment -

1. Banned from villages
2. Sent to sea as galley slave

B. Transportation

1. Sent to other countries
 - France to French Guiana (Papillion)
 - Russia to Siberia
 - Portugal to Mozambique and Brazil
 - Italy to islands of Tuscan coast
 - England (1598) to American Colonies
2. Transportation Act 1718
 - substitution for execution
 - auctioned prisoners off on arrival
 - 50,000 prior to 1775
 - ended w/ Revolutionary War
 - England then began sending to Australia
 - 160,000 until 1851

C. Hospice facilities

1. Influence of church
 - reflection in monastic cells
 - isolation, work, silence, prayer
2. Hospice of St. Michael
 - Pope Clement IX
 - Boys
 - Work/day, Cells/night
 - Single bed
 - forerunner for modern penitentiaries

D. Houses of Correction

1. English Workhouses
 - London - Bridewell House
 - vagrants, beggars, corrupt men and women
 - disobedient and wayward wives, children, servants
2. Spain, France 1500 on

- galleys
- convicts, beggars, vagrants

3. Maison de Force 1773

- goal > reformation
- labor and vocational training
- separated felons from misdemeanants
- Women/children separate quarters from men

E. John Howard/English Reform

1. Greatest prison reformers of modern times
2. John Howard Association
3. Sheriff of Bedfordshire 1773
4. Deplorable conditions
5. Instituted Penitentiary Act of 1779
 - secure/sanitary facilities
 - systematic inspections
 - fees for needs and services abolished
 - discipline had a reformatory regime
 - solitary confinement/silent contemplation/labor
6. Goal at Wymondham - under Howard's specs

F. Early U.S. Institutions

1. Mostly local jurisdiction
2. Convicted and unconvicted
3. Castle Island
 - Boston Harbor 1785
 - only convicted criminals
 - 45 people escaped
4. Debtors, political prisoners

G. Pillory to Penitentiary

1. Most facilities were used as something else prior to prison
2. Barracks, Mines
3. Saved \$\$\$\$
4. Simsbury, Conn.
 - Punishment was whipping
 - Revised statute
 - * Hard labor, years to life
 - * the pillory
 - * whipping
 - * imprisonment
 - * fine
 - * combination of above
5. Quakers - 1787
 - Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons
 - Walnut Street Jail
 - * large rooms
 - * separated petty from serious offenders
 - * allowed jailers to sell alcohol to inmates

- * "strip or pay"
- * isolated/hard labor

III. Penitentiary Era 1800 - 1860

A. Silence and penitence to:

- prevent cross contamination
- encourage positive changes in behavior

B. Philadelphia/Cherry Hill 1829

- 7 cell blocks radiating from center hub
- back doors to cells/uncovered yard
- 2 workouts/day

C. Pennsylvania System - **Separate and silent**

- inmates developed mental problems
- observed inmates being trained in crime
- communication
 - * codes on water pipes
 - * written codes
 - * language modification
 - * mirrors on gallery
- using inmates as employees - still occurs
- double celling

D. Auburn System

- Built back to back on 5 tiers
- drawing
- no yards
- **Congregate and silent**
 - * locked in separate cells at nights
 - * work/ate in silence during day
 - * lockstep marching, downcast eyes, "reckless eyeballing"
 - Face to face contact prohibited**
 - * avoid spreading evil ideas
 - * violations punished by flogging
 - * Cheap labor
 - * spread nationwide

IV. Reformatory Era

A. System approach

1. Discipline
2. Humanitarian confinement
3. Preparation for return to community
4. System of procedures

B. Irish System (Walter Crofton/Alexander Maconochie)

1. Education
2. Trade training
3. Indeterminate sentences
4. Early release

C. Maconochie

1. Brutality and cruelty prohibited
2. Treatment should prepare for release
3. Mark System
 - Indefinite sentences
 - should complete tasks
 - would receive "marks" for completing orientation
 - *restraint/deprivation/moral & religious instruction
 - * given marks for which they could buy food, shelter
Clothing
 - gradually prisoners would have fewer and fewer restraints
 - everything must be earned

D. Walter Crofton

1. Used Maconochie Mark system
2. Ticket of leave (earn early release subject to revocation)
3. Presented at the American Prison Association

E. Zebulon Brockway/Elmira (NY) Reformatory - 1876

1. Classify prisoners by age, sex and offense
2. Indeterminate sentences/fixed minimum
3. Emphasis on trade training and academics
4. 1st grade eligible for parole (6 month parole period)
5. Report 1st day of each month

F. Pontiac Correctional Center

1. Housing Units
 - Two man Interior Cells
 - 4 tiers/fenced to prevent throwing bodies
 - Long gallery cell houses/built interior towers
2. History -
 - Rioted/burned main building 1978
 - 100% turnover
 - Interview "Would you be willing to shoot an inmate if you Had to?"
 - Now a segregation facility (explain)

G. Problems

1. Progressive-stage system ineffective
 - Poor testing
 - Poor instruction
2. Inadequate funding

H. Prisons in South and West

1. Larger role of county government
 - corporal and capitol punishment
 - prisons not supported by southern evangelicals
2. Post Civil War
 - needed to rebuilt homes and communities
 - Northern inmates used for industrial labor
 - Southern inmates leased to plantation owners

- Argument - Southern imprisonment replace slavery
 - Blacks were 90% of criminal pop
- Work farms located near work site (*Cool Hand Luke*)
- 100 bed facilities, little H2O, sanitation poor, disease
- Penal plantations Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas
- Parchman - all securities on one property (*The Chamber*)
- Angola, La - 18,000 acres (28 sq miles)
- today..4 camps, one main pen, R&C 4500.

3. West

- California, San Quenton 1855
 - * large # of lesser offenders
 - * no system of discipline
- Washington Territory
 - * Millwork/day
 - * Log pit/night
- Illinois Prison at Joliet
 - * North Seg
 - * 3 ft limestone block walls
 - * Was used to house management problems
 - * Joliet shut down in 2003
- Arizona/Yuma 1876
 - * Electricity
 - * Large blowers
 - * Library open to public
 - * Held men and women
 - * Inmates from 20 different countries
 - * closed in 1909

We have not learned much!