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Death Penalty Should Be Illegal

The death penalty dates as far back as the eighteenth century B.C... in the Code of King Hammurabi of Babylon justified the death penalty for 25 different crimes. When the death penalty first came to America from European settlers it was under another name called 'Capital Punishment'. The first ever to be executed was Captain George Kendall in Jamestown Virginia 1608 for being a spy for Spain. In 2022 around 2,500 prisoners currently face execution in the United States. In America, you would be surprised that more people support the death penalty rather than oppose it. In today's day and age, crimes can be wrongfully convicted so to punish someone for a crime they did not commit is cruel and unusual. The primary states that use the death penalty are majorly republican and can often be prejudiced against African Americans. The death penalty is mostly used against minorities and the poor. Although sometimes the crime is a very punishable crime the death penalty is still very inhuman and can be seen as very barbaric behavior. The death penalty also goes against people's constitutional rights even criminals are subjective to their constitutional rights.

More Americans support the death penalty than oppose it: 60% of American adults, including 27% who strongly support it, support the death penalty for those found guilty of murder. "Capital Punishment: Our Duty or Our Doom?" is a nonbiased article that is informing us of both sides on whether the death penalty should be kept or abolished. It states Capital punishment is often defended because society has a moral obligation to protect the safety and

welfare of its citizens. Murderers threaten this safety and welfare. Only by putting murderers to death can society ensure that convicted killers do not kill again. This quote is implying an eye for an eye mentality which can become very harmful. Also, it is trying to say that criminals can't change if that were the case why are their programs even churches in jail that sole purpose is to reform these people? In the article "Should, the Death Penalty Be Legal?" it states " Proponents of the death penalty say it is an important tool for preserving law and order, deters crime, and costs less than life imprisonment. They argue that retribution or "an eye for an eye" honors the victim, helps console grieving families, and ensures that the perpetrators of heinous crimes never have an opportunity to cause future tragedy." The phrase "Eye for an Eye" refers to the idea that if someone has been harmed by someone else, they should either compensate the offender or have a third party act on their behalf. Any legal system should not allow the justification of the hatred that leads to the act of killing someone else. The adage "an eye for an eye" belongs to the past; America must learn to advance. Also, the death penalty can be used so that prisons do not get crowded or have to spend money to keep their prisoners alive. It is disgusting that to save money or become so obsessed with money you would kill people and have it justified by saying it's capital punishment.

Capital Punishment or the Death Penalty is a sugar-coated version of murder. I contend that it would make more sense for a prisoner to serve out the remainder of their life in solitary confinement as retribution for their crimes than for authorities to engage in the same behavior that led to the prisoner's initial incarceration. And it is particularly remarkable that a nation like America, which upholds strong religious ideals, would allow itself to basically "play god" in the execution of others. The article " THE DEATH PENALTY: AN EYE FOR AN EYE?" states "the real irony of the situation is that the inmates on death row lead quite potentially the most

luxurious lives that prison can offer to the incarcerated. So, while they do know that they shall be executed, they may spend as long as 30 years in the best-case scenario of living behind bars.”

When people are placed on death row, they are usually given special privileges rather than the other prisons. In a youtube documentary called “ Meet The Men On Death Row (Prison Documentary) | Our Life” it can be seen that the men on death row have TVs, magazines, and even pets but aren't they supposed to be getting the worst type of punishment of them all? In the article “ The Case Against the Death Penalty - ACLU” it says “ Innocent people are too often sentenced to death. Since 1973, over 156 people have been released from death row in 26 states because of innocence. Nationally, at least one person is exonerated for every 10 that are executed.” The legal system can sometimes be wrong and convict the wrong person. So that means an innocent person is dying for a crime they did not commit. Now there is another victim and another family who is hurting, does this make it acceptable for those officers who killed the innocent person to now be convicted of the death penalty because they killed the wrong person, or is it okay because they did it but it was justified in the eyes of the law.

The death penalty has had more effects on the African American and Hispanic communities than anyone else. As of right now, there are 2418 thousand of people on death row. Of those 2418 people, 987 of them are black, 1026 of them are white, and 335 of them are Hispanic. The death penalty can lead to many psychological events throughout not only the prisoners' life but their families. Families that have a loved one on death row or have witnessed a loved one executed encounter several detrimental mental health repercussions such as sadness, anxiety, and Post-Traumatic- Stress (PTSD). Many death row inmates suffer from mental illness, and the isolation on death row often acerbates their condition. Older inmates also suffer from increasing physical disabilities rendering their ultimate sexual a particularly demanding action. The article

“THE CASE AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY” states “The death penalty system in the US is applied unfairly and unjustly against people, largely dependent on how much money they have, the skill of their attorneys, the race of the victim and where the crime took place. People of color are far more likely to be executed than white people, especially if the victim is white.” Even though racism no longer exists there is still racism rather it's shown or it's hidden. In some cases, the death penalty can be used as a way to punish African American men and women not simply because of the crime they committed but simply based on the color of their skin. In August 1988, a black man named Walter McMillian, known as Johnny D was sentenced to death for the murder of a white teenage girl in Monroeville, Alabama. When Ronda Morrison was killed, Mr. McMillian was thousands of miles away with his family. But it made no difference. Despite the stories of multiple black witnesses who could attest to his whereabouts at the time of the murder and the fraudulent evidence of a criminal, he was found guilty and given the death penalty by electrocution. He was falsely convicted because he was a black man and the victim is a white woman. Black men are sometimes seen as always angry, violating, and the aggressor even if they have done nothing wrong.

The death penalty, commonly referred to as capital punishment, is a legal procedure whereby a person is purposefully put to death as retribution for a real or imagined crime after a legal investigation has been conducted to determine whether they are guilty of a crime that justifies their execution. The argument that society has a moral duty to safeguard its citizens' welfare and safety is frequently used to support the death penalty. Murderers put this safety and welfare in danger. Society can only assure that convicted killers don't kill again by putting them to death. The death penalty morals stand on the quote “An eye for an eye” even in the most religious states. But not only are the people who are on death row sometimes given special

privileges but can easier live better life rather than the other prisoners. In some cases, unfairness can play a part especially if the person on trial is African American or any other minority. The death penalty is always for government officials to “ play God” and gives them an unjustified amount of power. The death penalty also has many effects on the people on death row families and also on themselves. It would be better for people of committed crimes to sit in jail and think even if they would have to be put in the most horrible jails with maximum security that would be more productive rather than killing someone and putting an end to their misery.

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U.S.A: The Innocents On Death Row



