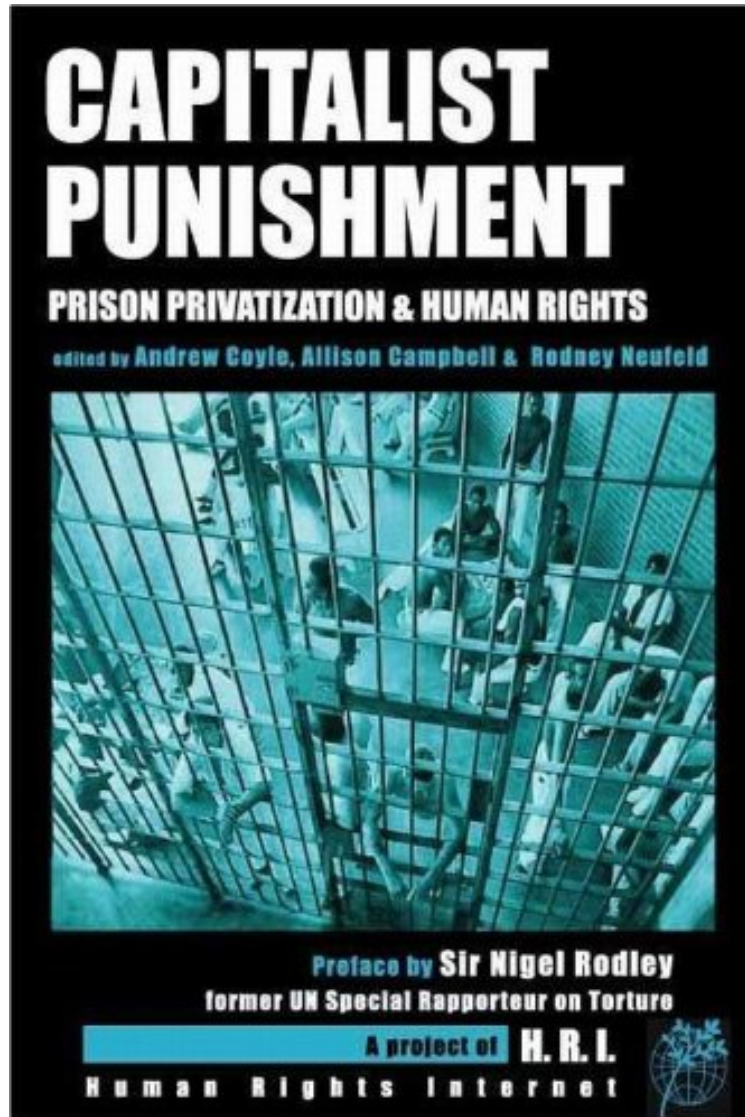


## Capitalist Punishment

*Alex Friedman, Christian Parenti*  
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**Alex Friedman, Christian Parenti : Capitalist Punishment** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Capitalist Punishment:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Diverse perspectivesBy Malvin"Capitalist Punishment" is a scholarly but accessible study of the relatively recent phenomenon of prison privatization. Two dozen writers representing academia, human rights organizations, investigative journalism, criminal justice policy, labor and other relevant fields have contributed thoughtful articles to the book. The author's diverse perspectives gives the reader a well-rounded understanding of the subject and no doubt will inspire many to take action and work against the expansion of the industry.The book is a project by Human Rights Internet (HRI) of Ottawa, Canada. HRI is an

organization dedicated to education on human rights issues and the role of civil society. Concise and well-written introductory and concluding chapters provide context for a number of sharply-focused articles that drill into specific subjects, such as the effects of prison privatization on women, minorities and prison workers. The book succeeds in informing concerned citizens and policy makers about the myriad obscure issues associated with prison privatization and its strong connection with human rights abuses. The first chapter by Phillip Wood is noteworthy for its excellent theoretical analysis. Mr. Wood examines the rise of the prison industrial complex in the U.S. and concludes that it is a policy response to postmodern economic restructuring. The author finds that the criminalization of race and poverty serves the dual purpose of preserving elitist privileges while preparing the working classes for an accumulation strategy based on capital's intensified exploitation of non-union labor. Another exceptional chapter was contributed by Monique Morris on the topic of the arrested development of African-Americans. Ms. Morris begins by discussing the historical legacy of legally sanctioned punishment against blacks in the U.S. She then finds that current punitive practices are merely an extension of policies that have disenfranchised and disempowered the African-American community for centuries. Private prisons serve to exacerbate these problems by offering a false solution to the media-induced spectacle of African-American criminality. On the whole, the articles in the book strongly suggest that the failures of prison privatization are attributable to the incompatibility of the private pursuit of profit with the public good of rehabilitation. In order to produce income for shareholders, private prisons routinely skimp on employee training and inmate health care, education, and other vital services. The overcrowding and stress that results often creates conditions where physical and sexual abuse increase, and recidivism predominates as opportunities to properly prepare inmates for reentry into society are lost. The book also adopts somewhat of a social research methodology to compare the experiences in the U.S. -- which has been leading the charge in prison privatization -- with other countries including Canada, the U.K. and Australia. As human rights abuses, poor financial performance and mismanagement of private prisons have become better known, most of these countries have begun to scale back on privatization and return responsibility once more to the public sector. However, many of the authors in the book are concerned that the profit motive will push some corporations to relocate to more easily exploitable countries like South Africa, where the relative absence of regulations and public accountability might well lead to disaster for unprotected inmate populations, families and communities. I recommend this important book to everyone. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Dene Ballantyne I'm doing a Criminology degree and this book is perfect for studying the privatization of prisons! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A bad money maker. By Thomas D. Sanford IV Must read. Give yourself a clear understanding of our out of control prison policies and mandatory sentencing policies.

Over 100,000 people in the U.S. are incarcerated in prisons owned and operated by private corporations--a booming business. But how are the human rights of prisoners and prison employees affected when prisons are run for profit? An accomplished group of human rights writers and activists explores the historical, political and economic context of private prisons: \* How are prisoners' lives affected by privatization? \* How does it impact prison labor and prison employees? \* How and why are private prisons becoming transnational? \* Are women, children, and African and Native Americans affected differently from other populations? \* How is privatization connected to the war on drugs, the criminalization of poverty and 'tough on crime' politics? The preface is by Sir Nigel Rodley, Professor of Law at the University of Essex; former United Nations Special Rapporteur for Torture; and knighted in 1999 for recognition of services to human rights and international law.

About the Author Ms. Alexander is the Director of the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation. A graduate of the Yale Law School, she has litigated many cases challenging health care in prisons and has argued three cases before the United States Supreme Court.