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Main content

Article Preview :

America without the Death Penalty: States Leading the Way by John F Galliher, Larry W. Koch, David Patrick Keys, and Teresa J. Guess. Boston, Northeastern University Press, 2002. 280 pp. \$35.00.

This book is a case study of nine states--Michigan, Wisconsin, Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, Hawaii, Alaska, Iowa, and West Virginia--that have legislatively abolished the death penalty. Three other states--Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont--in which the death penalty has been banned as a result of court decisions, and the District of Columbia, which has resisted repeated pressure from congressional lawmakers to reinstate the death penalty, are also briefly discussed. Each case is analyzed with reference to six guiding research questions focusing on the influence of murder rates and the history of executions, economic crises, public sentiment, population diversity, the mass media, and actions of political, social, and economic elites. The authors utilize data from newspaper articles and editorials, government documents, and personal interviews to gain insight into...

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States Without the Death Penalty Have Better Record on Homicide Rates - A new survey by the New York Times found that states without the death penalty have lower homicide rates than states with the death penalty. The Times reports that ten of the twelve states without the death penalty have homicide rates below the national average, whereas half of the states with the death penalty have homicide rates above. During the last 20 years, the homicide rate in states with the death penalty has been 48% - 101% higher than in states without the death penalty. "I think Michigan made a wise decision 150 8The Death Penalty Allows The State To Exact Appropriate Retribution, Criminals Must Face The Consequences Of Their Actions. Because the Death Penalty Allows an Avenue for Retribution it should be legal. A quick analysis of the cost of detention for life without parole show that detention will cost approximately \$34,000 per

year for an average of 50 years. The cost of trial and appeals will come in at about \$75,000. The death penalty in America is color blind! Abolitionists claim that white lives are accorded more value than black because the vast majority (82%) of all death penalty murder victims are white and only 13% black. Black deaths, so the argument goes, are simply not deserving of the death penalty. The death penalty – or capital punishment – is a government-sanctioned punishment for committing a crime. If someone is convicted and given the death penalty, that person will be executed, or put to death, as a punishment for that crime. Only people that are convicted of committing capital crimes and offenses are eligible to receive the death penalty. Crimes that fall into this category include murder, espionage, war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and treason. A person that has been convicted of a crime and sentenced to the death penalty is sent to death row. This is a part of a pr