



Dead Certainty: The Death Penalty and the Problem of Judgment

By Jennifer Louise Culbert

Stanford University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Dead Certainty: The Death Penalty and the Problem of Judgment, Jennifer Louise Culbert, "Dead Certainty" is about the challenge of judging matters of public concern without a common sense of the good or other shared criteria that validate final decisions. Examining both the philosophical and the practical aspects of this challenge, this book focuses on United States Supreme Court opinions that authorize and regulate the practice of sentencing people to death. Unlike other books that discuss capital punishment, it does not argue for or against the death penalty. Instead, "Dead Certainty" contributes to a larger project in contemporary political and legal philosophy: re-imagining how people in today's world give coherence and meaning to their shared experience. Culbert's work will be of interest to scholars of political theory, jurisprudence, law and society, rhetoric, continental philosophy, and ethics.

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"Dead Certainty is one of the most interesting and original treatments of capital punishment I have read in a long time. Culbert offers a philosophically compelling account of the Supreme Court's ongoing struggle to legitimate capital punishment. In her view, this struggle reveals important things about the nature of judgment itself and about the Court's attempt to ground capital punishment outside a framework of judgment." - - Austin Sarat, Amherst College. About the Author. Dead Certainty is about the challenge of judging matters of public concern without a common sense of the good or other shared criteria that validate final decisions. Examining both the philosophical and the practical aspects of this challenge, this book focuses on United States Supreme Court opinions that authorize and regulate the practice of sentencing people to death. Unlike other books that discuss capital punishment, it does not argue for or against the death penalty. Instead, Dead Certainty contributes to a larger project in contemporary political and legal philosophy: re-imagining how people in today's world give coherence and meaning to their shared experience. The existence of the death penalty in any society raises one underlying question: have we established our justice systems out of a desire for rehabilitation, or out of a desire for retribution? The lister has set out to examine both sides of the debate over the ethics and legality of capital punishment, especially in the US, and chooses neither side in any of the following entries. They are not presented in any meaningful order. A death sentence is the only irrevocable penalty that protects innocent lives. Maintains justice. For most people, life is sacred and innocent lives should be valued over the lives of killers. The Bottom Line: The death penalty has been used to maintain the balance of justice throughout history, punishing violent criminals in the severest way to ensure they won't kill again. On the other hand, with inconclusive evidence as to its deterrence of crime, the higher costs involved in pursuing capital cases, and the lack of relief and closure it brings to victims' families, the death penalty is not justified. Where do you stand on this controversial issue? The death penalty has been responsible for the death of many innocent people as well as people handed a sentence that didn't fit the level of the crime. Life imprisonment has the distinct advantage that it can lead to liberation if new evidence uncovers innocence. In a country where it is still possible to be put to death based on witness testimony, the weakest form of evidence, this penalty should not be allowed. The idea behind prisons should be to separate dangerous individuals from society. Taking someone's life goes beyond that and we should not allow ourselves or institutions t

Arguments supporting the death penalty. Prevents convicted killers from killing again. A death sentence is the only irrevocable penalty that protects innocent lives. Maintains justice. For most people, life is sacred and innocent lives should be valued over the lives of killers. Innocent victims who have been murdered and in some cases, tortured beforehand had no choice in their untimely and cruel death or any opportunity to say goodbye to friends and family, prepare wills, or enjoy their last moments of life. Meanwhile, convicted murderers sentenced to life in prison and even those on death row are still able to learn, read, write, paint, find religion, watch TV, listen The death penalty aims to be primarily a deterrent. And it fails. The death penalty is made humane. We're constantly researching for ways to make the death in the death penalty as painless as possible. That essentially renders it completely ineffective. The problem with any scientific study of the effects of large-scale, slow-moving public policy is that it's basically impossible to do a controlled experiment, and there are so many factors (thousands observable, millions unobservable) that contribute to any metric. For example, let's say that you could prove that murders increased after the death penalty was instated. Opponents of the death penalty do not agree and have a valid argument when they say, "The claims that capital punishment reduces violent crime is inconclusive and certainly not proven." The fourth argument is that the length of stay on death row, with its endless appeals, delays, technicalities, and retrials, keep a person waiting for death for years on end. It is both cruel and costly. This is the least credible argument against capital punishment. The main cause of such inefficiencies is the appeals process, which allows capital cases to bounce back and forth between state and federal courts