

EDITORIAL

Interest in international comparisons on the use of incarceration has increased in recent years. From the Singapore caning of Michael Fay, to changes in the use of prisons in eastern Europe, to the use of prison labor in China, attention has focused on the ways in which nations utilize different sentencing policies.

The Sentencing Project, which this article is taken, has issued two prior reports on the subject. The third report, and to date the most comprehensive survey on international rates of incarceration found the following:

*Russia has now surpassed the U.S. to become the world leader in its rate of incarceration, with 558 citizens per 100,000 population in its prison system. The rise of organized crime, political instability and the transition to an uncertain economic future have all played a factor in crime rates and the use of imprisonment.

*With 1.3 million Americans behind bars, the U.S. rate of incarceration is 519 per 100,000, second in the world among the 52 nations covered by this survey. The U.S. rate has increased by 22 percent since 1989 and is generally five to eight times the rate of most industrialized nations.

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

Americans Behind Bars The International Use Of Incarceration, 1992-93

*A racial breakdown of the U.S. inmate population shows that African Americans are incarcerated at a rate this is more than six times of whites, 1,947 per 100,000 to 306 per 100,000.

*Black males in the U.S. are incarcerated at more than four times the rate of Black males in South Africa, 3,822 per 100,000 vs. 851 per 100,000.

*The cost of incarceration nationally in the U.S. is estimated at \$26.8 billion annually. Estimated costs of incarceration of African American males is \$11.6 billion annually.

*The number of African American males in prisons and jails in the U.S. (583,000) is greater than the

number of African American males enrolled in higher education (537,000).

*Drug, poverty and public order offenders accounted for 84 percent of the 155 percent increase in new court commitments to state prisons from 1980 to 1992, while violent offenders accounted for only 16 percent of the increase.

The study says that a nation's rate of incarceration in itself only describes one aspect of its criminal justice or social policies. For example, a nation with a high rate of incarceration might have a high rate of crime, a harsh sentencing system, a politically repressive government or some combination of these and other

factors.

Similarly, one cannot assume that nations with low incarceration rates necessarily show low crime rates or are respectful of civil liberties. For example, the cost of large-scale incarceration is prohibitive for many Third World nations, so they maintain a low imprisonment rate.

Other nations maintain a relatively low incarceration rate, yet have brutal conditions of confinement. In Zaire, for example, although the incarceration rate is a relatively modest 88 per 100,000, it has been reported that nearly 7.5 percent of the inmates in the prison system die each year due to malnutrition and poor health care.

A few of the recommendations of the study included the following.

*Repealing mandatory sentencing laws in order to restore appropriate judicial discretion.

*Treating the drug problem primarily as a public health problem rather than as a criminal justice problem.

*Supporting the expansion of a broader range of alternatives to incarceration to provide judges and communities with viable community-based sentencing options.

*Establishing a national commission to examine the high rate of incarceration in the U.S. and of African American males in particular.

Civil Rights Journal

The Costs And Joys Of Integration

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

Myths are a part of all of our lives. They give us a common story and common values to live by. Sometimes such myths are good, but sometimes myths are misleading and destructive.

One misleading myth which seems to be growing in the American psyche is that integration is all good and that African Americans have all profited because of it while white Americans are the ones who have given up something for it. The reality is that both black and white Americans have lost some things and gained some things because of integration. There are pluses and minuses for us all.

Let's look at some of the costs of integration for the African American community. Prior to integration nearly every American city with any sizeable African American community had a black business district. Whether it was U street in Washington, D.C., East 55th Street in Cleveland or Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, there was a viable black business community.

African Americans owned clean-

work everyday and never knowing anyone who has gone to college. The result is a generation of alienated and hopeless youth.

The third cost of integration, many African Americans feel, has been the education of our children. For generations our ancestors believed that the solution to the problems of racism in America was education. Thus, much of the civil rights movement in the 1950s centered around education and culminated in the Brown vs. Board of Education decision in 1954.

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baby -- I was scheduled to go to a segregated kindergarten, but after the Supreme Court's decision, I attended an integrated school. But I know that my predecessors in segregated Washington public schools learned four years of Latin or Greek, had year-round black history and high percentages of students went on to college.

I also know that by the time I

graduated from high school in 1967, my high school graduating class was 99 percent African American. Whites had left the public school system.

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I was a Brown vs. Board of Ed baby -- I was scheduled to go to a segregated kindergarten, but after the Supreme Court's decision, I attended an integrated school. But I know that my predecessors in segregated Washington public schools learned four years of Latin or Greek, had year-round black history and high percentages of students went on to college.

I also know that by the time I graduated from high school in 1967, my high school graduating class was 99 percent African American. Whites had left the public school system.

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nation, nearly half of the African American students never finish high school. Of those who do, many cannot read or write or add. Many are victims of an educational system which embodies a self-fulfilling prophecy of non-achievement. Many are never taught anything about black history or given any reason to have a positive self-image.

Those are the costs of integration. But there have been joys too. Their jobs of whites and Americans of color no longer being stereotypes to each other, but real people who share experiences of living in the same community. The jobs of living in a multi-cultural world, of beginning to know each other's foods and music and laughter. The joys of people of color being able to enter many new job markets.

With all the costs of integration, would I go back to a segregated world? No way. But as we move toward a new millennium in this country where whites will no longer be in the majority, it's important for us to understand that we must all give and take if we are going to live together in this country. That is our hope and our destiny.

perspectives

South Africa II: Exporting

That March, 1978 issue of "Africa Magazine" had the following lead to a key article: "The proposal to transfer technology through White settlers from southern Africa to South American countries is far from being a development or humanitarian scheme. On the contrary, it is part and parcel of a western backed strategy to consolidate minority rule in South Africa and prop military dictatorships in South America."

So, it was the opinion of the Africans themselves that the White Afrikaners and international corporations were early on preparing for any threatening eventuality in their trillion-dollar power base. Even given the possibility that the true owners of the land and mineral wealth would one day gain the vote (which they just did), the exploiters knew quite well that the sinews of commerce are the international bankers, the electronic communication highways: the very same network used by the drug combines, money launderers and clandestine government agencies.

Last week we saw that these "sinews" (perhaps 'tentacles' would be a better description) extended even to the U.N., State Department, Pentagon and even little old Albany, Oregon (Wah Chang Metals Complex). Fenced-in like the American Slave, the black South African was equally privileged to wail, "...the rocks cried out, no hiding place!" Especially when South America, the world's greatest refuge for Hitler's monstrous Nazis, was opening her arms to equally-depraved South African industrialists. Jews still hunt them down.

In November, 1977, a West German initiative led to a meeting in Costa Rica which studied the feasibility of opening the frontiers of the Latin American countries to the White population of the southern Africa. Almost 60 percent of the Namibia's European population is of German origin, and observers believe that it is this fact that compelled Bonn to take the initiative in organizing the Costa Rica meeting. This is not

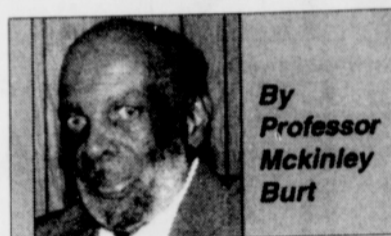
the first time that such a scheme has been proposed. In 1975, a similar plan to relocate the Portuguese 'retornados' from Angola and Mozambique was suggested, but it was never implemented.

The Costa Rica seminar was held under the auspices of the Swiss-based Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (CIME). Its blandly technocratic and seemingly neutral theme, "The Transfer of Technology Through Migration", could give the impression of being just another international gathering

on a subject which has been recently discussed in all 'North-South' conferences. However, behind the rhetoric, the substance and the objectives of the meeting appears to be of a highly political, if not strategic nature.

The representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Venezuela demonstrated a varying degree of interest in the project. Both Brazil and Argentina let it be known that they would only accept a small group of selected trained technicians from among the European population of southern Africa. On the other hand, the pro-government Uruguayan newspaper, El Pais, strongly supported the idea. In an editorial the newspaper said it was necessary to accept the offer because, in the past, several excellent opportunities had been missed, such as the Belgians fleeing the Congo and the French settlers left Algeria in the early sixties.

Many African blacks have been beguiled by false reports of a continent to the south where "Rainbow Coalitions" were pioneered, and ethnic democracies abound. Not so according to members of my family who have been there and as reported by my students from South America. "These countries are controlled by the same mulatto culture as is the case with the islands of the Caribbean... Don't let the adulation given Pele, the famed Brazilian soccer player fool you. This dark-skinned super-athlete brings millions to the box office like Jackie Robinson did." The African American must come to realize that his struggle is on a global front.



By
Professor
McKinley
Burt

Class Struggle In Haiti: Which Side Will We Choose?

BY RON DANIELS

What we have been witnessing in Haiti for the last few years is a clear illustration of the class dimension of the global/pan-African black liberation movement. In Haiti, as is the case in other quarters of the world, the clash and contest is Haitian against Haitian, African against African, the dispossessed African masses against entrenched, self-serving African elites.

In his provocative book, Class Struggle in Africa, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, the late president of Ghana, sought to teach us that sometimes the enemies of national liberation and national reconstruction will have the same pigmentation-skin color as the oppressed; that there is nothing within our skin color or genes as Africans that makes us inherently immune to collaborating with our oppressors or becoming oppressors; that classes do in fact form or are created among African people and these classes often have different interests and/or serve different masters. Dr. Nkrumah was clear, however, that over the past 400 years the formation of classes in Africa and subsequently the African diaspora has been driven by the forces of European domination/

white supremacy - slavery, colonialism and neo-colonialism.

During the holocaust of enslavement the European invaders often played one African ethnic group off against another in a deadly strategy of divide and enslave. In the era of colonialism selected Africans, or in some instances whole ethnic groups, were granted more privileges to foster their collaboration and support for the colonial administrations. In effect these selected Africans were given special privileges to become collaborators with the oppressors. In what Malcolm X might call the "house nigger" syndrome, the goal of the colonizers was to have these Africans identify with and protect the interest of their oppressor. An integral aspect of the house niggerization process was the internalization of European culture and values through European education. As Carter G. Woodson warned, "he who controls minds has nothing to fear from bodies."

This is why Jean Bertrand Aristide is considered dangerous. The masses support him because he has courageously declared that a redistribution of wealth is necessary to enable the Haitian masses to enjoy the basics of life, quality jobs, food, housing, health care and education.

Letter To The Editor

Send your letters to the Editor to:
Editor, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

Colin Powell For President?

BY DR. MANNING MARABLE

Colin Powell is widely recognized, according to Newsweek magazine, as "the most respected figure in American public life. He is an African-American who transcends race; a public man who transcends politics."

When Newsweek asked Americans several weeks ago who they would support in a presidential election if Powell ran as the Republican candidate against Bill Clinton, the choice was obvious and easy: Powell received 54 percent to only 39 percent for the incumbent president.

Powell's rise to public prominence has been nothing short of spectacular. And in many respects, the closest parallel which can be drawn with Powell's political career was the rise of Booker T. Washington, a century ago.

Like Washington, Powell's origins were humble. Born in Harlem and raised by a seamstress and shipping clerk in South Bronx, Powell joined the U.S. Army. After 14 years, he had served two tours of duty in Vietnam, winning a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star along the way.

Also like Washington, Powell has benefited from the patronage of the Republican Party. In 1972, former Secretary of Defense Caspar

Weinberger selected Powell to work in the Nixon budget office as an administrative fellow. Under the Reagan Administration, Powell's star rose steadily: first as Weinberger's military aide, then as Frank Carlucci's deputy national security adviser, and then as Carlucci's successor. When Bush became President, Powell advanced to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As head of the U.S. military during the Gulf War against Iraq, Powell became a popular, well-known figure to the American public.

Booker T. Washington became powerful with Republicans, corporate capitalists and white conservatives by preaching a doctrine of self-reliance, hard work and faith in American institutions. He promoted these values to develop the National Negro Business League and Tuskegee Institute at a time when white Americans were endorsing racial segregation.

By running as an independent, Powell might attract the same following as Perot, plus a sizeable share of African-American votes. The Newsweek poll confirms this analysis. Forty-seven percent of Americans polled stated that electing an "independent president" would be a "good way" to make changes in Washington.

Letter To The Editor

Send your letters to the Editor to:
Editor, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

Don't believe the lies being spread by those who would seek to repeal Oregon's Prevailing Wage Law. I'm an African-American construction worker who's been working union for one year. I'm enrolled in an apprenticeship program and learning new skills. I have health insurance for my family. I receive the same wage no matter if the job I'm working on is public or private.

I know other minorities who are working for open shop contractors. They receive no training, no health insurance and no benefits. They are promised these benefits, but they never come true.

I know the truth. Don't believe the lies - stop the greed! Please VOTE NO ON MEASURE 12.

Sincerely,
Aaron Crews

The Portland Observer

(USPS 959-680)

OREGON'S OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN PUBLICATION
Established in 1970 by Alfred L. Henderson

Joyce Washington

Publisher

The PORTLAND OBSERVER is located at

4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97211 • 4503-288-0033 • Fax 503-288-0015

Deadline for all submitted materials:

Articles: Friday, 5:00 pm Ads: Monday Noon

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Portland Observer,
P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208.

Second Class postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

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Subscriptions: \$30.00 per year.

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