

# Human waste

**By David Rubinson**

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**O**ur nation derives its self worth and defines itself by its productivity, consumption, and profit. Productivity. Product. Make. Consume.

What do you do with the waste product that is the natural and inevitable consequence of reckless productivity and conscious-free consumption?

You flush it, or hide it somewhere out of sight and pretend it isnt there, or if you can, you burn it or recycle it into something profitable. In the United States, we dispose of commerces human waste product by putting it in uniform, sending it out to kill or torture those in our way, or we put our human waste in prison, destroying generations of families, and thereby insuring that the cycle that began with slavery will endure.

We create the waste by designed neglect and malicious exploitation.

We systematically deny basic human needs: food, shelter, warmth, health care – thus we insure a continued flow of wasted lives, addicts, and cannon fodder.

We institutionally withhold universal free education – the means by which those deemed detritus raise themselves out of the garbage can. We obstruct and preclude the pursuit of legal paths of escape and success by closing schools and libraries, and instead we build prisons. We fill these prisons to bursting, thus insuring that many of the most enterprising of the slaves will be removed from the plantation, banned from meaningful participation in their families and communities, and most important, impeded from rebellion.

Its just business. Nothing personal.

Twelve MILLION people a Year passing through the American Criminal Justice system.

SIX MILLION people in prison on parole or probation RIGHT NOW.

Thats three times what it was 20 years ago. And who are these people?

Not Whitey.

Blacks are 13 percent of Americans. They are FIFTY PERCENT of the prison population.

One THIRD of ALL YOUNG BLACK MEN are in prison, on parole, or on probation.

Blacks and Hispanics make up 62 percent of the incarcerated population, though only 25 percent of the national population.

We have built what has been accurately termed a Prison-Industrial Complex.

The State of California has opened exactly ONE College since 1984. It has built TWENTY-

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ONE PRISONS.

We imprison people at a rate more than EIGHT TIMES that of Italy, France, UK, Spain and Australia COMBINED. Fifteen times the rate in Japan.

The rate of spending on prisons has increased at a rate TWICE that of education.

And, almost alone in the World, U.S. prisoners and ex-convicts lose many of their constitutional rights.

FOUR MILLION citizens have lost their right to vote. Of these, three million are on probation, or have COMPLETED their sentences and are no longer in jail.

1.4 MILLION black men – representing 13 percent of ALL African American men, have LOST the right to vote.

In Jeb Bushs Boer Republic – otherwise known as Florida – one third of the black men have PERMANENTLY lost their voting rights.

As Greg Palast shows – overwhelmingly, this is the result of mistakes, computer error, willful malfeasance. As if we need to bring this up – but black men are not whatcha would call Bush Lovers.

And what exactly goes on in those lovely AmeriGhraibs – with names like Chowchilla, Pelican Island, Corcoran??

Torture, abuse, sexual humiliation and exploitation, rape and murder, non-existent health care, and the kind of maniacal mistreatment by guards and staff that we associate with Auschwitz or Bataan.

Ours is also a nation of executioners. Morally superior, self-righteous lovers of capital punishment. And nobody more than the Bushes of Texas. Not only do we as a nation stand almost alone in imposing and implementing sentences of Death, we do it to CHILDREN. Only in this Christian Morally Superior country, do we EXECUTE humans under 18 years of age.

In TEXAS, 31 people UNDER 18 have been sentenced to death. And, who are these people?

Blacks again. Half of all people on death row are black. Most of them convicted of crimes against whites.

So, what does this all have to do with Abu Ghraib?

In his landmark and infamous study (Stanford Prison Experiment of 1971) of the effects of imprisonment, not only on the prisoners, but on the GUARDS, Prof. Phillip Zimbardo found that once a prison has a veil of secrecy around it, which most do, its just open for corruption. If you know nobody can get in, nobody can know what youre doing.”

Now, Zimbardo says that the report on Abu Ghraib prepared by Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba describes a prison that was the perfect petri dish in which the culture of guard

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violence could flourish.

In the original experiment, average students, acting as faux guards, turned to abuse to control the faux prisoners, stripping them, hooding them and ultimately forcing them to simulate sodomizing one another. Zimbardo finally shut down the two-week experiment more than a week early.

30 years later, Zimbardo said, the phenomenon of the Stanford Prison Experiment is so well understood that officials should have seen how it was being duplicated in Abu Ghraib.

We are a PRISON NATION, and prisoner abuse is one of our very best Growth Industries.

Proof of our National Productivity. Suitable for world-wide export.

Its The American Way.

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*In a previous life, David Rubinson was a well known record producer, artists manager and producer of film scores, but has always been a troublemaker. He first marched with Jackie Robinson, A. Phillip Randolph and Bayard Rustin, and he thought that when we finally put Nixon on that copter from the White House loawn, he wouldnt have to march again. He was wrong.*