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1.

Title: Private Prisons

Author(s): Richard Harding

Source: Crime and Justice, Vol. 28, (2001), pp. 265-346

Publisher(s): The University of Chicago Press

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1147676>

Abstract: Private prisons have become integral to penal administration in the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom. The principal debate revolves around such tangible matters as regime quality, value for money, public accountability and the efficacy of regulatory procedures, and whether the private sector has improved standards and outcomes in the prison business as a whole. There is clear evidence that the advent of the private sector has stimulated system-wide improvement but also evidence that the private sector can succumb to the same failures as the public sector. When this has happened, it is usually because public authorities have, through neglect or naivete, been in a sense complicit in the failure. The future of privatization will revolve around the ability of contracting states to achieve effective public accountability and the ability of the private sector to continue to deliver high-quality correctional regimes that provide excellent value for money.

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