

Mass Incarceration Era

In 1971, President Richard Nixon declared the War on Drugs.

Here is a famous quote from his advisor John Ehrlichman:

"THE NIXON WHITE HOUSE HAD 2 ENEMIES; THE ANTI-WAR LEFT AND BLACK PEOPLE. WE KNEW WE COULDN'T MAKE IT ILLEGAL TO BE EITHER AGAINST THE WAR OR BLACK, BUT BY GETTING THE PUBLIC TO ASSOCIATE THE HIPPIES WITH MARIJUANA AND THE BLACKS WITH HEROIN, AND THEN CRIMINALIZING BOTH HEAVILY, WE COULD DISRUPT THOSE COMMUNITIES [...] AND VILIFY THEM NIGHT AFTER NIGHT ON THE EVENING NEWS. DID WE KNOW WE WERE LYING ABOUT THE DRUGS? OF COURSE WE DID."

Targeted incarcerations damage communities and lead to poverty, which manifested into a cycle.



That cycle is accompanied with the psychological impact systemic racism has on people of color.

"Racist ideas make people of color think less of themselves, which makes them more vulnerable to racist ideas. Racist ideas make White people think more of themselves, which further attracts them to racist ideas."

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-Ibram X. Kendi (How to be an Antiracist)

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The Reagan Administration (1981-1989)

Pushed the War on Drugs and accelerated the Mass Incarceration Era.

They introduced "Tough on Crime" policies such as mandatory minimum sentencing for drug offenses, stricter law enforcement, and reduced opportunity for parole.

By the end of their 8-year term, the prison/jail population rose to 1.2 million.

(They nearly doubled it). 6

What is ALEC?

The American Legislative Exchange Council: An organization of conservative state legislators and private sector representatives who draft and share model legislation for distribution.

Lobbyists

Private Sector Representatives (CEOs, Lawyers, Trade Associations, Lobbyists)

Insurance Companies (UnitedHealth)

Pharmaceutical Companies

Oil Companies

Tobacco Companies

Private Prisons (CoreCivic, GEO Group)

News Corp

National Rifle Association

American Bankers Association

American Insurance Association

So what can we do ?

We should promote growth and awareness of ...

These systems and how they work.

Ourselves and the ways in which we may be complicit to these systems.

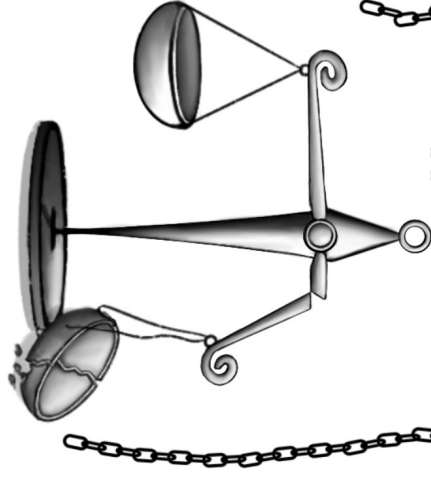
If you identify behaviors within yourself, such as participating in hateful rhetoric, the best thing you can do is make an effort to change this. We can also denormalize hateful rhetoric / ideologies when we hear it from others by openly opposing such opinions / ideas. (While maintaining your safety).

"I disagree"

is a great start.

Your voice matters

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A glance at systemic oppression

WE HAVE A PROBLEM. LET'S TALK ABOUT IT.

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (1865)

ARTICLE XIII.

SECTION 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Slavery was "abolished" except for those who committed crimes

The Prison Industrial Complex

Refers to the system of mass incarcerations and the companies that profit from them.

This includes private prisons, and any company that profits from prison labor.

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