

Collet—Nott

Léo

TD n°249

In our world, a lot of countries are using death penalty as a way to reduce criminality and force people to obey. But we can ask ourselves, is that a good way for the state to get out of crime ? A not so long time ago, almost every european civilizations were using death penalty as a punishment. But in our days, a few countries decided to ban it. How did all of this happen ? For the first humans, did the first penalty really exist ? On these days, people were hunting to eat. All they were doing was trying to stay alive, like animals. The death penalty didn't exist, because there was no penalties. So the death penalty is something that is cultural and not natural.

The first thing that comes to mind when we talk about death penalty is : how could someone have the capacity to kill someone because he has killed ? For example : how can a judge allows this murder, because in a way, death penalty is a kind of murder ? When a state allows himself to kill people, then it becomes a murderer. So, does he has to be killed ? This is an endless circle.

Some people will say that the death penalty should not be banned, because it helps to pratect people agains crimes. For them, some of the criminal are afraid of being deathly punished, so they don't dare to commit crime. This man, for example, explained it on a internet website³ :



donkey52 says

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Torture and death penalties should be enforced. After a few examples, the crime rate will go DOWWWNNNN. No one wants to get f*ucked up after some stupid crap so crime will decrease dramatically. Look at Hammurabi's Code in ancient Mesopotamia there was a SUPER strict law system that included punishments that implemented the "eye for an eye" ideology.

This argument may look right and logic, but it isn't. They are three reasons to commit crime : the killer killed another man for money, by insanity or because of his feels (rage, love, vengeance). For the first reason, the death penalty is useless. If the killer is deseperated enough to kill another man, so the death penalty won't stop him. Then, if someone kills by insanity, he won't realise that he could be punished by death. Finally, if the killer killed because of his feels, so he didn't take the time to think and realise what he was doing. So the death penalty is not a way to reduce crime. We can see that on that picture, that illustrate the difference between states that still use the death penalty and the one who don't¹.

Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Murder Rate in Death Penalty States*	9.94	9.51	9.69	9.23	8.59	7.72	7.09	6.51	5.86	5.70	5.82	5.82	5.91	5.71	5.87	5.90	5.83	5.72	5.26	5.00	4.89
Murder Rate in Non-death Penalty States	9.27	8.63	8.81	7.88	6.78	5.37	5.00	4.61	4.59	4.25	4.25	4.27	4.10	4.02	4.03	4.22	4.10	4.05	3.90	4.01	4.13
Percent Difference	7%	10%	10%	17%	27%	44%	42%	41%	28%	35%	37%	36%	44%	42%	46%	40%	42%	41%	35%	25%	18%

There is another excellent reason to ban death penalty. With death penalty, there is no way back. Like all things, the justice can do mistakes. So if we use death penalty to punish people, what will we do when we will realise that we will have killed someone who didn't do anything at all ? For exemple, in florida, a man has been released from prison² . What if he would have been killed by death penalty ?

Some other people say that it is easy to say that, but that if our daughter or husband would be killed, we would also want to have a revenge and kill the mruderer. This argument is difficult to discuss because it is an argument that uses our feelings. But if we think objectively, we can realise that killing someone because he killed someone else isn't justice at all, but it is revenge. The death penalty isn't faire, it is just satisfactory for the one who suffers, at least seemingly.

As a conclusion, I would say that death penalty isn't a good way to punish people. There is no way a that death could be positive for a society. Then, if we add to it the fact that it doesn't prevent from crimes and the fact that we can never be sure is someone is guilty, we can easily conclude saying that death penalty really isn't a right solution to anything for a state.

1:<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/deterrence-states-without-death-penalty-have-had-consistently-lower-murder-rates>

2:<http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/decisions/2014/sc12-1161.pdf>

3:<http://www.debate.org/polls/are-you-for-or-against-the-death-penalty>