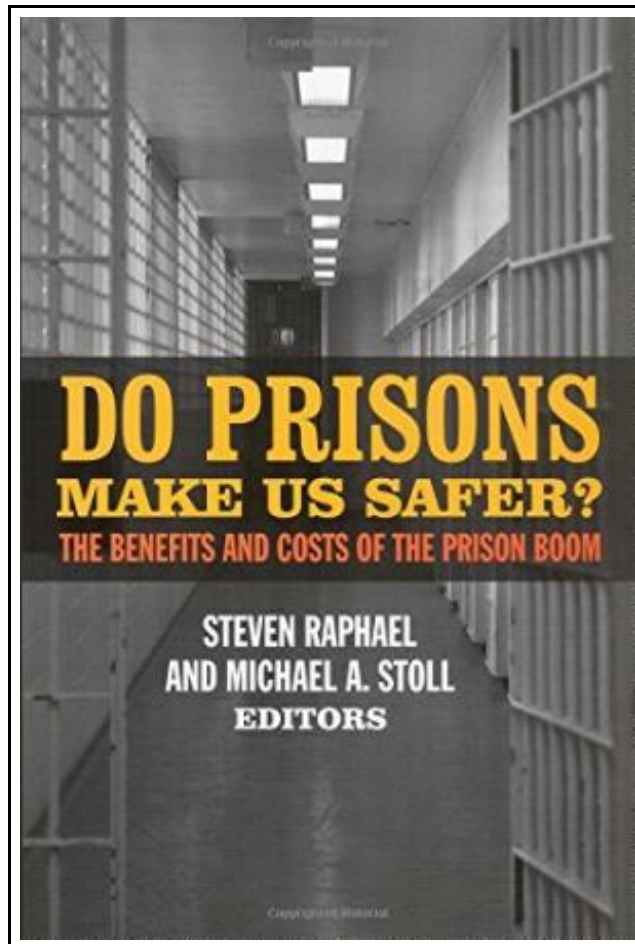


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DO PRISONS MAKE US SAFER?: THE BENEFITS AND COSTS OF THE PRISON BOOM (HARDBACK)



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Russell Sage Foundation, United States, 2009. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 160 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The number of people incarcerated in U.S. prisons and jails more than quadrupled between 1975 and 2005, reaching the unprecedented level of over two million inmates today. Annual corrections spending now exceeds 64 billion dollars, and many of the social and economic burdens resulting from mass incarceration fall disproportionately on minority communities. Yet crime rates across the country have also dropped considerably during this time period. In *Do Prisons Make Us Safer?* leading experts systematically examine the complex repercussions of the massive surge in our nation's prison system. *Do Prisons Make Us Safer?* asks whether it makes sense to maintain such a large and costly prison system. The contributors expand the scope of previous analyses to include a number of underexplored dimensions, such as the fiscal impact on states, effects on children, and employment prospects for former inmates. Steven Raphael and Michael Stoll assess the reasons behind the explosion in incarceration rates and find that criminal behavior itself accounts for only a small fraction of the prison boom. Eighty-five percent of the trend can be attributed to get tough on crime policies that have increased both the likelihood of a prison sentence and the length of time served. Shawn Bushway shows that while prison time effectively deters and incapacitates criminals in the short term, long-term benefits such as overall crime reduction or individual rehabilitation are less clear cut. Amy Lerman conducts a novel investigation into the effects of imprisonment on criminal psychology and uncovers striking evidence that placement in a high security penitentiary leads to increased rates of violence and anger particularly in the case of first time or minor offenders. Rucker Johnson documents the spill-over effects of parental...



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