Data Bootcamp Final Project: The Relationship Between Private Prisons, Incarceration, and Political Parties in the United States

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The first private prison in the U.S. came into existance in 1984. Since then, the number of private prisons and people incarcerated in private prisons has increased dramatically. There have been many studies on the quality of private prisons over public prisons, typically looking at internal variables such as financing, security and opperations. There is a lot of controversy regarding the ethics of private prisons, as well as their quality. However, there has been less exploration of the broad, macro-level trends of private prisons, specifically in relation to all prisons and politics.

In this project, I will analyze the change in people incarcerated in private prisons over time and people, relative to the change in total people incarcerate. Secondly, I will normalize the number data of people incarcerated by state relative to the population of that state. Finally I will look at where most private prisons are located and see if there is a relationship between the states in which private prisons are concentrated and that state's political leaning.

The data behind this project comes from the <u>Bureau of Justice Statistics ('https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm? ty=nps')</u>, (JBS), for information on incarceration rates, number of private prisons, and location of private prisons; <u>Pew Research Center ('http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/compare/party-affiliation/by/state/#')</u> for information about party affiliation by state.

I will download the data from the <u>Bureau of Justice Statistics ('https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nps')</u> from their website into an excel sheet. I will do the same for <u>Pew Research Center</u> ('http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/compare/party-affiliation/by/state/#').

Steps:

Step One: Private Prisons v. All Prisons in the United States First, I will examine the change in number of people in private prisons over time, compared to total people in prisons on a Natinoal level. To do this I will read two data sets from the <u>Bureau of Justice Statistics ('https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nps')</u>. One contains information on the number of people incarcerating in private prisons over tiem from 1999 to 2016. The other data set contains information on the number of people incarcerated in all prisons over time from 1999 to 2016. This data set contains indevidual state data, state prison data, federal prison data, and total data regarding people incarcerated in private prisons. For this part I will only be looking at the national statistics, not indevidual state statistics.

Step Two: Private Prisons v. All Prisons by State Next, I will be using that same private prison data set from the <u>Bureau of Justice Statistics ('https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nps')</u>, as well as the Census API. I will be using the Census API to access state population from 2015. For this section I will be examining the number of private prisons in each state. I will use the population data from the Census API to normalize the number of people in private prisons relative to that state's population.

Step Two: Location of Private Prisons v. Political Leaning by State Finally, I will be comparing the location of private prisons in the United States to the political leaning of that state. I will be using data from Pew Research Center ('http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/compare/party-affiliation/by/state/#') for state political leaning and the normalized data from Step Two.

```
In [432]: # Here I am importing the packages that I need
               # This helps displays things nicely
          from IPython.display import display, Image
          # This is my key tool to manipulate data-set
          import pandas as pd
          # Helps plot
          import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
           # Helps numerical operations
          import numpy as np
          import os
          # Needed for geopandas to run which I will be using in Step three
          import fiona
          # Main geopandas
          import geopandas as gpd
           # Needed for shape-files - Step three
          from shapely.geometry import Point, Polygon
          # This helps make a nice inset
          from mpl_toolkits.axes_grid1.inset_locator import zoomed_inset_axes
          from mpl toolkits.axes grid1.inset locator import mark inset
```

Step One: Private Prisons v. All Prisons in the United States

Private Prison Data

First, I am going to read and reformat the data on Private Prisons and All Prisons and then merge them into one, easy to read chart

```
In [433]: # Here I am reading the data set from JBS about people in private prison
s
private_custody = pd.read_excel('QT_private_prisons_total.xlsx')

In [434]: # Reformatting - I am only taking the national statistics, not stat by s
tate statistics for this section
private_custody = private_custody[:4].T.reset_index().drop('index', axis
=1).drop([1]).T.set_index([0])

In [435]: # Reformatting and renaming columns
private_custody = private_custody.T.rename(columns={'Jurisdiction':'Yea
r'})
```

In [436]: # This is how it looks so far
 private_custody.head()

Out[436]:

	Year U.S. total		Federal/a	State	
2	1999	68960	3828	65132	
3	2000	00 91579	15524	76055	
4	2001	86421	12736	73685	
5	2002	88370	14732	73638	
6	2003	90123	16281	73842	

```
In [438]: # Adding the list to private_prisons
    private_custody['Prison Type'] = private_type
```

```
In [439]: # Reformatting
    private_custody = private_custody.T.reset_index()
```

```
In [441]: # Here it is - ready to merge with the next set, which I am about to go
    format
    private_custody.head()
```

Out[441]:

	0	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
0	Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	U.S. total	68960	91579	86421	88370	90123	92569	107433	113697	124150	129482
2	Federal	3828	15524	12736	14732	16281	18709	27046	27726	31310	33162
3	State	65132	76055	73685	73638	73842	73860	80387	85971	92840	96320
4	Prison Type	Private									

Total Prison Data

```
In [442]: # Reading JBS data set on total people in all prisons
prison_custody = pd.read_excel('QT_custody_prisons_total.xlsx')
```

```
In [444]: # How it looks so far
prison_custody.head()
```

Out[444]:

	Year	U.S. total	Federal	State		
2	1999	1.28156e+06	125682	1.15588e+06		
3	2000	1.3173e+06	140064	1.17724e+06		
4	2001	1329806	149852	1179954		
5	2002	1367361	158216	1209145		
6	2003	1394115	168144	1225971		

```
In [445]: # Same as with private custody - making a list to distinguish this as da
           ta pertaining to ALL prisons
           prison_type = ['Total', 'Total', 'Total', 'Total',
                           'Total', 'Total', 'Total', 'Total', 'Total', 'Total', 'Total', 'Total', 'Total',
                           'Total', 'Total', 'Total', 'Total',
                           'Total', 'Total']
In [446]: # Adding to prison custody
           prison custody['Prison Type'] = prison type
In [447]:
           # Reformatting
           prison_custody = prison_custody.T.reset_index()
In [448]:
           # Now we are ready to merge prison custody and private custody
           prison custody.head()
Out[448]:
                   0
                                2
                                            3
                                                    4
                                                             5
                                                                     6
                                                                              7
                                                                                      8
            0
              Year
                      1999
                                  2000
                                              2001
                                                       2002
                                                               2003
                                                                        2004
                                                                                2005
                                                                                         200
            1
              U.S.
                      1.28156e+06 | 1.3173e+06
                                              1329806 | 1367361
                                                               1394115 | 1421816 | 1447435 | 148
              total
              Federal 125682
                                  140064
                                              149852
                                                       158216
                                                               168144
                                                                       177600
                                                                                186364
                                                                                         190
            2
            3
              State
                      1.15588e+06 | 1.17724e+06 | 1179954
                                                      1209145
                                                               1225971
                                                                       1244216
                                                                                1261071
                                                                                         129
            4
              Prison
                      Total
                                  Total
                                              Total
                                                      Total
                                                               Total
                                                                        Total
                                                                                Total
                                                                                         Tota
              Type
In [449]:
          # Merging prison custody and private custody into a new data set called
             tot
           tot = prison custody.merge(private custody, on=[0], how="outer")
In [450]: # Reformatting tot and creatting a new variable called total to be the r
           eformatted data frame
           total = tot.set index([0]).T.set index(['Prison Type', 'Year']).unstack(
            'Prison Type').T
In [451]:
           # Transposing
```

Reformatted Chart: Private Prisons v. Total Prisons

total = total.T

This chart contains the U.S. total (i.e both state and federal prisons) as well as the totals for State and Federal prisons independant of eachother

Out[452]:

0	U.S. tota	al	Federal		State	
Prison Type	Private	Total	Private	Total	Private	Total
Year						
1999	68960	1.28156e+06	3828	125682	65132	1.15588e+06
2000	91579	1.3173e+06	15524	140064	76055	1.17724e+06
2001	86421	1329806	12736	149852	73685	1179954
2002	88370	1367361	14732	158216	73638	1209145
2003	90123	1394115	16281	168144	73842	1225971
2004	92569	1421816	18709	177600	73860	1244216
2005	107433	1447435	27046	186364	80387	1261071
2006	113697	1488380	27726	190844	85971	1297536
2007	124150	1513390	31310	197285	92840	1316105
2008	129482	1522953	33162	198414	96320	1324539
2009	129333	1524650	34087	205087	95246	1319563
2010	127945	1521413	33830	206968	94115	1314445
2011	130972	1504986	38546	214774	92426	1290212
2012	137220	1483913	40446	216915	96774	1266998
2013	133363	1485266	41159	214989	92204	1270277
2014	131723	1479300	40017	209561	91706	1269739
2015	126272	1440722	34934	195622	91338	1245100
2016	128323	1417017	34159	188311	94164	1228706

Normalized Data

Next, I am going to normalize each column against its own minimum and maximum to create a range between 0 and 1 so that the data is easier to analyze

```
In [453]: # These are functions that will populate the lists below with the normal
          ized values of each column
                  # That way I can join the lists together to create a new data fr
          ame with the normalized data
          tot p = []
          tot_t = []
          fed p = []
          fed_t = []
          sta_p = []
          sta_t = []
          for item in total['U.S. total'].Private:
              mn = total['U.S. total'].Private.min()
              mx = tot_p_max = total['U.S. total'].Private.max()
              p = (item - mn)/(mx - mn)
              tot p.append(p)
          for item in total['U.S. total'].Total:
              mn = total['U.S. total'].Total.min()
              mx = tot_p_max = total['U.S. total'].Total.max()
              p = (item - mn)/(mx - mn)
              tot t.append(p)
          for item in total['Federal'].Private:
              mn = total['Federal'].Private.min()
              mx = tot p max = total['Federal'].Private.max()
              p = (item - mn)/(mx - mn)
              fed p.append(p)
          for item in total['Federal'].Total:
              mn = total['Federal'].Total.min()
              mx = tot p max = total['Federal'].Total.max()
              p = (item - mn)/(mx - mn)
              fed_t.append(p)
          for item in total['State'].Private:
              mn = total['State'].Private.min()
              mx = tot p max = total['State'].Private.max()
              p = (item - mn)/(mx - mn)
              sta p.append(p)
          for item in total['State'].Total:
              mn = total['State'].Total.min()
              mx = tot p max = total['State'].Total.max()
              p = (item - mn)/(mx - mn)
              sta_t.append(p)
```

In [455]: # Here is what the data frame looks like # This is the number of people incarcerated over time, normalized to each columns own data

normal

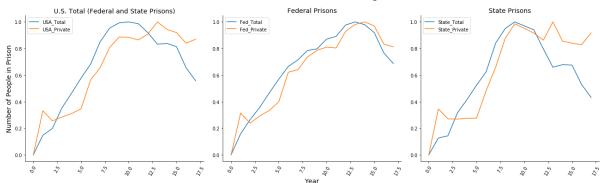
Out[455]:

	Fed_Private	Fed_Total	State_Private	State_Total	USA_Private	USA_Total
0	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
1	0.313305	0.157640	0.345206	0.126656	0.331365	0.147040
2	0.238622	0.264926	0.270305	0.142748	0.255801	0.198470
3	0.292090	0.356603	0.268820	0.315823	0.284354	0.352960
4	0.333583	0.465424	0.275267	0.415585	0.310035	0.463018
5	0.398623	0.569070	0.275836	0.523761	0.345869	0.576971
6	0.621950	0.665132	0.482112	0.623695	0.563624	0.682360
7	0.640165	0.714237	0.658587	0.839898	0.655391	0.850796
8	0.736171	0.784837	0.875672	0.949994	0.808526	0.953680
9	0.785781	0.797212	0.985652	1.000000	0.886639	0.993019
10	0.810560	0.870354	0.951710	0.970497	0.884456	1.000000
11	0.803675	0.890971	0.915966	0.940152	0.864122	0.986684
12	0.930005	0.976533	0.862588	0.796473	0.908468	0.919108
13	0.980901	1.000000	1.000000	0.658836	1.000000	0.832420
14	1.000000	0.978889	0.855572	0.678278	0.943495	0.837986
15	0.969409	0.919393	0.839833	0.675088	0.919470	0.813444
16	0.833249	0.766609	0.828203	0.529002	0.839613	0.654745
17	0.812488	0.686473	0.917515	0.431801	0.869660	0.557230

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```
In [533]: # These are three graphs showing the number of people in all prisons and
           only private over time,
              # separated by all prisons, Federal prisons, and State prisons
          fig, ax = plt.subplots(nrows = 1, ncols = 3, figsize = (18,5))
          fig.tight_layout()
          ax[0].plot(normal['USA Total'])
          ax[0].plot(normal['USA_Private'])
          ax[1].plot(normal['Fed_Total'])
          ax[1].plot(normal['Fed_Private'])
          ax[2].plot(normal['State_Total'])
          ax[2].plot(normal['State_Private'])
          ax[0].tick_params(axis='x', rotation=60)
          ax[1].tick params(axis='x', rotation=60)
          ax[2].tick params(axis='x', rotation=60)
          # Eliminating the upper and right frame of the graphs
          ax[0].spines["top"].set_visible(False)
          ax[0].spines["right"].set_visible(False)
          ax[1].spines["top"].set visible(False)
          ax[1].spines["right"].set_visible(False)
          ax[2].spines["top"].set visible(False)
          ax[2].spines["right"].set_visible(False)
          ax[0].set_ylabel("Number of People in Prison", fontsize=14)
          ax[1].set_xlabel("Year", fontsize=14)
          # Labeling each graph
          ax[0].set_title('U.S. Total (Federal and State Prisons)', fontsize=14)
          ax[1].set title('Federal Prisons', fontsize=14)
          ax[2].set_title('State Prisons', fontsize=14)
          # Labeling the whole thing
          fig.suptitle("Private Prisons (blue) vs. All Prisons (orange) Normalize
          d",
                       fontsize=18, fontweight='bold', y = 1.1)
          ax[0].legend()
          ax[1].legend()
          ax[2].legend()
          plt.show()
```

Private Prisons (blue) vs. All Prisons (orange) Normalized



Step Two: Private Prisons v. All Prisons by State

In this step I am going to use the same data set, but this time I will be looking at the data on a state level rather than a national level

```
In [457]: # Reading the data set into a new variable
          state private = pd.read excel('QT private prisons total.xlsx')
          # Reformatting - this time saving only the state data
In [458]:
          state private = state private.T.reset index().drop(['ind'+
                           'ex', 1, 2, 3, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62], axis = 1
          ).drop([0])
In [459]:
          state_private = state_private.set_index([0]).T
In [460]:
          # This is a function to rid any of the state names of additional charact
          ers they may have at the end
          for i in (state private.Year):
              if (i[-2:] == '/b') or (i[-2:] == '/e'):
                  p = i[0:-2]
                  if i[0:-2] == p:
                       state private. Year.replace(to_replace=i, value = p, inplace=
          True)
In [461]:
          # Cleaning up the data set to make sure all values are numbers
          state_private.replace(to_replace="/", value=0, inplace = True)
          state_private.replace(to_replace="--", value=0, inplace=True)
          state_private.replace(to_replace=".", value=0, inplace=True)
In [462]: # Filling empty cells with 0
          state_private.fillna(0, inplace=True)
```

Normalized Data

For this section, I am normalizing the data based on population size to get a better representation of the relative number of people incarcerated in private prisons as compared to all prisons

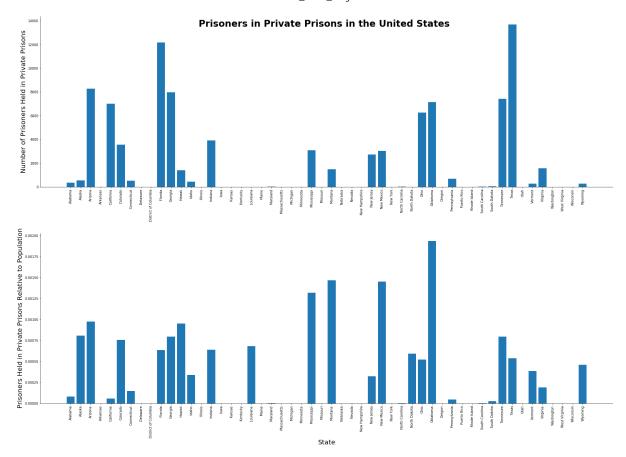
For this step I am utilizing the Census API to pull population data - due to the data available with this API and the scope of this project, I am only looking at 2015 for this section

```
In [465]: # Here I am importing the Census API
          from census import Census
          from us import states
In [466]: # This is my api key
          my api key = '34e40301bda77077e24c859c6c6c0b721ad73fc7'
          # object c has methods associated with it to use the Census API
          c = Census(my api key)
In [467]: # This grabs the geographical name, B01001 001E which is the population
              # This grabs data from all of the States
          code = ("NAME", "B01001 001E")
          state pop 2015 = c.acs5.get(code, {'for': 'state:* '}, year=2015)
          # This creates a data frame with the data I grabbed from the API
          state pop 2015 = pd.DataFrame(state pop 2015)
          # Here I renamed B01001 001E
          state pop 2015.rename(columns={'B01001 001E':'Pop 2015'}, inplace=True)
In [468]:
          # Here I am merging state pop 2015 with state private
          state private = state private.reset index().merge(state pop 2015, left o
          n='Year', right on='NAME', how="outer")
In [469]:
         # Reformatting
          state private 2015 = state private.T.reset index()[17:21].T.set index([2
          0]).T.set index('NAME').T.drop('2016', axis=1)
```

```
In [479]: # Here I am reformatting the private prisons 2015 normalized data set so
    it can be graphed seamlesly
    state_private_2015 = state_private_2015.reset_index()
    state_private_2015.columns = state_private_2015.columns.map(str)
    state_private_2015.rename(columns={'20':'State'}, inplace=True)
```

Below are two graphs. This first graph was made with 2015 data NOT normalized by population. The second graph WAS made with 2015 data, normalized by population.

```
In [480]:
          # Creting my graphs in 2 rows and 1 column
          fig, ax = plt.subplots(nrows = 2, ncols = 1, figsize = (25,17))
          fig.tight_layout(h_pad=12, w_pad=12)
          ax[0].bar(state private 2015['State'], state private['2016'])
          ax[1].bar(state_private_2015['State'], state_private_2015['normal_2015'
          1)
          # Rotating the State names on the x-axis
          ax[0].tick_params(axis='x', rotation=90)
          ax[1].tick_params(axis='x', rotation=90)
          # Making clear names to distinguish between the charts
          ax[0].set ylabel('Number of Prisoners Held in Private Prisons', fontsize
          =20) # Set the y label
          ax[1].set_ylabel('Prisoners Held in Private Prisons Relative to Populati
          on', fontsize=20) # Set the y label
          # Making more labels
          ax[1].set_xlabel("State", fontsize=20) # Set the x label
          # Titling the graphs
          fig.suptitle("Prisoners in Private Prisons in the United States",
                       fontsize=28, fontweight='bold')
          # Eliminating the upper and right frame of the graphs
          ax[0].spines["top"].set_visible(False)
          ax[0].spines["right"].set_visible(False)
          ax[1].spines["top"].set_visible(False)
          ax[1].spines["right"].set_visible(False)
          #California, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexic
          o, North Dakota
          plt.show()
```



Step Three: Location of Private Prisons v. Political Leaning by State

In this step I am going to use data from Pew Research to create a graph that illustrates the political leaning of the States in the United States

Then, I will use the normalized number of people inprivate prisons in 2015 data from Step Two and create a map that shows which states have the most people incarcerated in private prisons, relative to the population

In [484]: # Here is what it looks like USA map.head(5)

Out[484]:

	STATEFP	STATENS	AFFGEOID	GEOID	STUSPS	NAME	LSAD	ALAND	
0	54	01779805	0400000US54	54	WV	West Virginia	00	62265662566	4
1	17	01779784	0400000US17	17	IL	Illinois	00	143784114293	6
2	24	01714934	0400000US24	24	MD	Maryland	00	25150696145	6
3	16	01779783	0400000US16	16	ID	Idaho	00	214048160737	2
4	50	01779802	040000US50	50	VT	Vermont	00	23873457570	1

In [485]: # Now, I am loading the data from Pew Research about State political lea ning

political_leaning = pd.read_excel('PEW_political_leading.xlsx')

In [486]: # Here it is

political_leaning.head()

Out[486]:

	State	Republican/lean Rep.	No Lean	Democrat/lean Dem.	Sample Size
0	Alabama	0.52	0.13	0.35	511
1	Alaska	0.39	0.29	0.32	310
2	Arizona	0.40	0.21	0.39	653
3	Arkansas	0.46	0.16	0.38	311
4	California	0.30	0.21	0.49	3697

In [487]: # Now, I am merging the political leaning data with the USA_map data fra
 me
 USA_map = USA_map.merge(political_leaning, left_on='NAME', right_on='Sta
 te', how="outer")

In [488]: # Here is is, merged
USA_map.head()

Out[488]:

	STATEFP	STATENS	AFFGEOID	GEOID	STUSPS	NAME	LSAD	ALAND	
0	54	01779805	040000US54	54	WV	West Virginia	00	62265662566	4
1	17	01779784	0400000US17	17	IL	Illinois	00	143784114293	6
2	24	01714934	040000US24	24	MD	Maryland	00	25150696145	6
3	16	01779783	0400000US16	16	ID	Idaho	00	214048160737	2
4	50	01779802	0400000US50	50	VT	Vermont	00	23873457570	1

In [489]: # Here is state_private_2015 from Sept Two
state_private_2015.head()

Out[489]:

NAME	index	State	2015	Pop_2015	normal_2015
0	0	Alabama	398	4.83062e+06	8.23911e-05
1	1	Alaska	593	733375	0.00080859
2	2	Arizona	6471	6.64193e+06	0.000974265
3	3	Arkansas	0	2.95821e+06	0
4	4	California	2195	3.84215e+07	5.71295e-05

In [490]: # Now I am going to merge
USA_map = USA_map.merge(state_private_2015, left_on='NAME', right_on='St
ate', how="outer")

In [491]: # Here is the fully merged USA_map
USA_map.head()

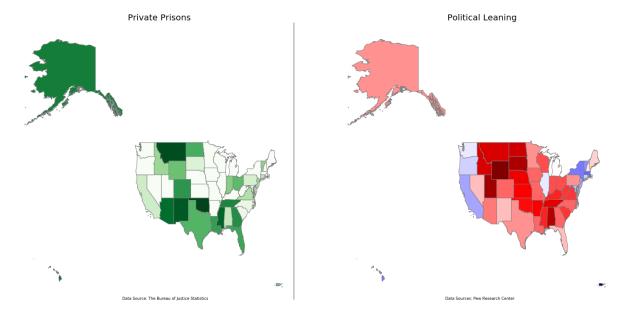
Out[491]:

	STATEFP	STATENS	AFFGEOID	GEOID	STUSPS	NAME	LSAD	ALAND	
0	54	01779805	040000US54	54	WV	West Virginia	00	62265662566	4
1	17	01779784	040000US17	17	IL	Illinois	00	143784114293	6
2	24	01714934	040000US24	24	MD	Maryland	00	25150696145	6
3	16	01779783	0400000US16	16	ID	Idaho	00	214048160737	2
4	50	01779802	0400000US50	50	VT	Vermont	00	23873457570	1

```
In [493]: | fig, ax = plt.subplots(nrows = 1, ncols = 2, figsize=(25,12))
          # This first map is the map of the number of people incarcerated in priv
          ate prisons in each state,
              # relative to the population of that state, in 2015
          USA_map.plot(ax = ax[0], # So the geopandas has a built in plot feature,
           we just pass our "ax to it
                       edgecolor='tab:grey',
                       column='normal_2015',
                       cmap='Greens',
                       alpha = 1) # Transparent
          # This second map is a dipiction of the political leaning of the United
           States of America, by state
          USA map.plot(ax = ax[1], # So the geopandas has a built in plot feature,
           we just pass our "ax to it
                       edgecolor='tab:grey',
                       column='Republican/lean Rep.',
                       cmap='seismic',
                       alpha = 1) # Transparent
          # Setting the bounds of the map so that it fits the frame better
          ax[0].set xlim([-170, -60])
          ax[0].set_ylim([15, 75])
          ax[1].set_xlim([-170, -60])
          ax[1].set_ylim([15, 75])
          # Making the right boarder of the left map visible to separate the maps
          ax[0].spines["right"].set_visible(True)
          # Making the rest of the boarders invisible
          ax[0].spines["left"].set visible(False)
          ax[0].spines["top"].set visible(False)
          ax[0].spines["bottom"].set visible(False)
          ax[1].spines["right"].set_visible(False)
          ax[1].spines["left"].set_visible(False)
          ax[1].spines["top"].set_visible(False)
          ax[1].spines["bottom"].set visible(False)
          ax[0].get_xaxis().set_visible(False)
          ax[0].get_yaxis().set_visible(False)
          ax[1].get_xaxis().set_visible(False)
          ax[1].get_yaxis().set_visible(False)
          # Labeling the Maps
          ax[0].set_title('Private Prisons', fontsize=20)
          ax[1].set title('Political Leaning', fontsize=20)
          # Labeling the whole thing
```

/Users/rachelrub/anaconda3/lib/python3.6/site-packages/matplotlib/color s.py:489: RuntimeWarning: invalid value encountered in less np.copyto(xa, -1, where=xa < 0.0)

States With The Most Private Prisons Compared to States Political Leaning



Conclusion

My evaluation post analysis:

- Step 1: In step one Private prisons and all prisons seem to be traveling along very similar trajectories.
- Step 2: In step two, it was apparent how impactful normalizing by state population was in interpreting the data. Some states, like California, went from having being seemingly dominant in its private prison population, however when adjusted to the population of California itself, the significance decreased dramatically. Similarly, state like Montana became more significant upon normalizing the data. There may not be many people in private prisons in Montana, however there simply are ot that many people in Montana, so when population was taken into account, Montana had a higher people in private prisons relative to population ratio.
- **Step 3**: I was predicting that Republican leaning states would have more people in private prisons. However, while there is quite a bit of overlap between dominant private prison states and Republican leaning states, the graphs are significantly different.

Next steps would be to delve deeper into the types of prisosn that are private versus the types of prisons that are public, to take into account variables that perhaps contributed to some element of ommitted variable bias in this report.