

Force to Fruit

*— Chapter 01 : An Overcrowded System*



## *— The United States Has The Highest Incarceration Rate on Earth*

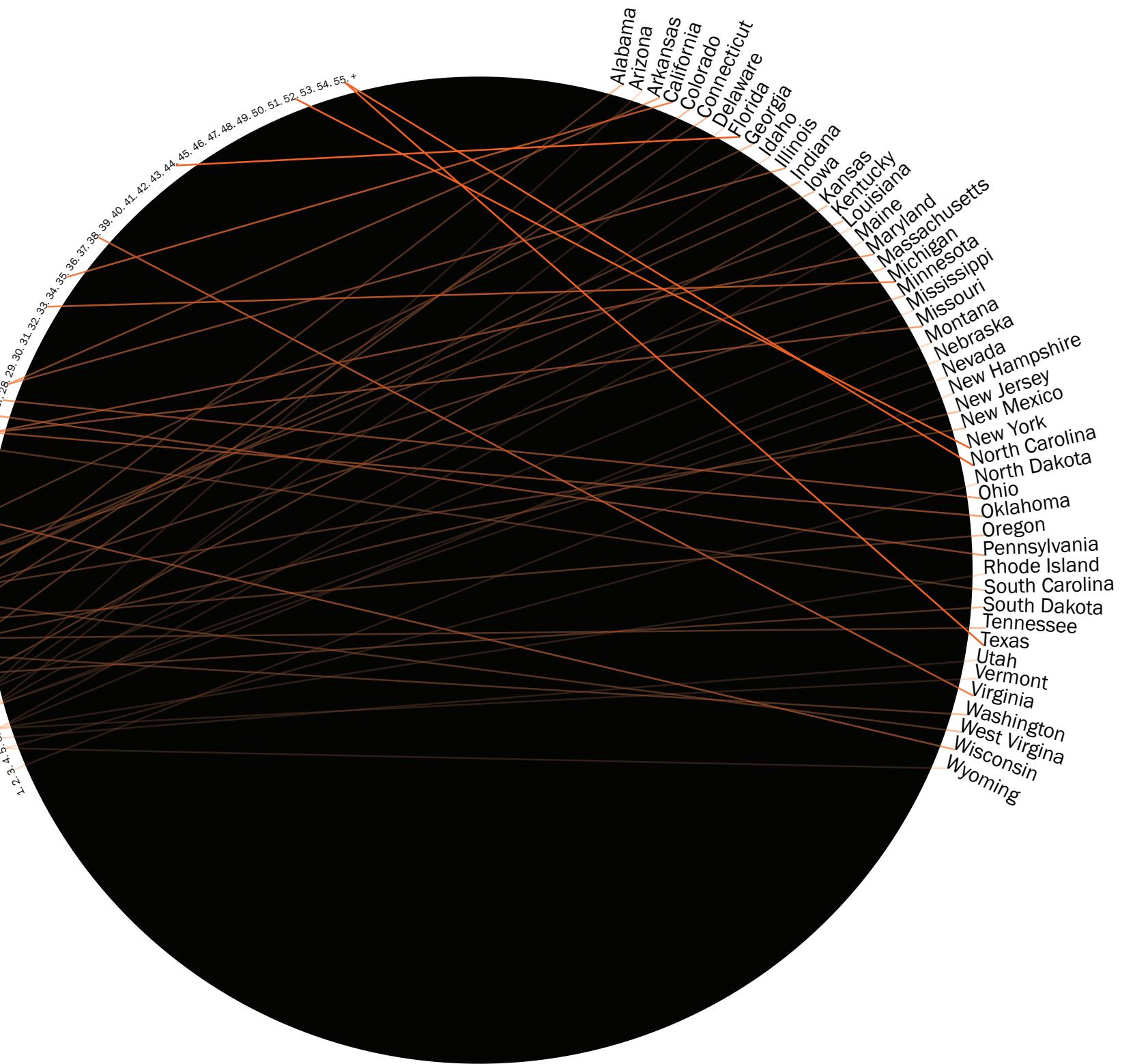
The system of justice and imprisonment in America has been in a downward spiral since its initial enactment. Reformation was never at the surface of this system, but instead punishment and force. This has caused an exponential rate of incarceration in the United States with 737 out of every 100,000 humans being incarcerated. Historical tactics have not changed, and a multitude of other tactics have been added, lending the U.S.A. to hold 1,100,000 more inmates than the total of 21 countries holding the abundant remainder worldwide. The United States holds 2,300,000 prisoners while the combination of other represented countries only holds 1,200,000.

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## *— Our Land is Covered in Facilities*

The prison facilities for holding these inmates do not go unnoticed.  
The U.S.A. stacks up to having 1,943 facilities covering our land.  
These facilities are used to hold 25% of the world's prison population.



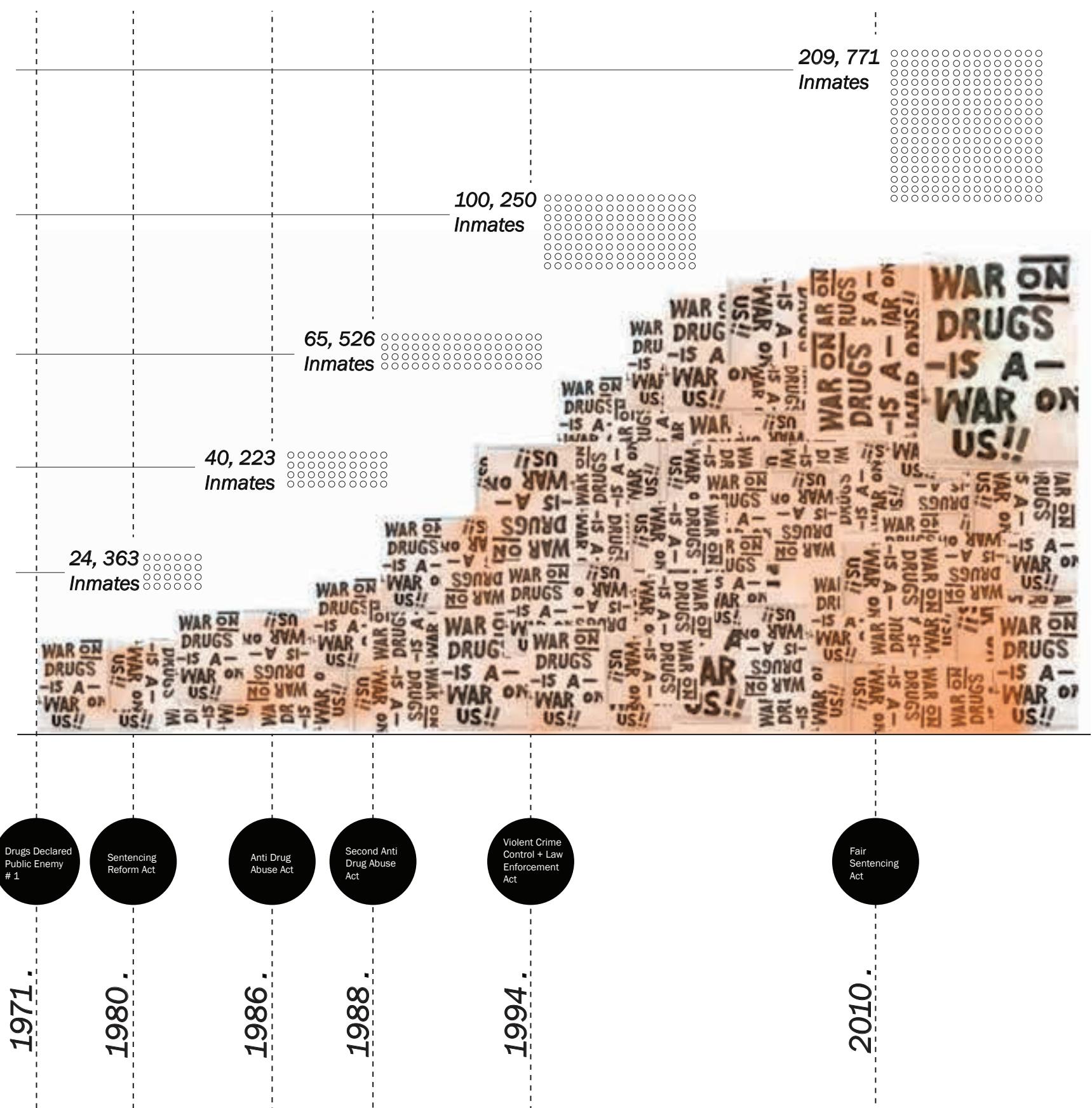
## *— The Legislative Branch Influences Mass Incarceration*

The trend of rising incarceration rates has continued for a multitude of reasons, the laws and regulations set forth by our government being one. The historical laws that continue to prevail allow long-term sentencing for low level offenses, incriminating of technical violations of parole and probation, and generally keeping laws in place that are responsible for massive incarceration rates.



## *— The War on Drugs Catapulted the Initial Rises in Prison Capacity*

The War on Drugs was set into place by Nixon in 1971 with the action for this declaration meaning to claim drugs as “public enemy number one.” This push lead to a massive increase in incarcerations related to non-violent drug offenses. When Reagan took hold of office in 1981, the war heightened in the sense of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act which established mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenders. Systemic racism came to light in the war as well, where five grams of crack and 500 grams of powder cocaine were served with the same five-year sentence. Crack was predominantly used by African Americans, while cocaine was used mostly by Whites; this led to suspicion of the disproportionate rate of colored versus whites being incarcerated.



## **— 1/4 Of the Incarcerated Lie in Only 5 States**

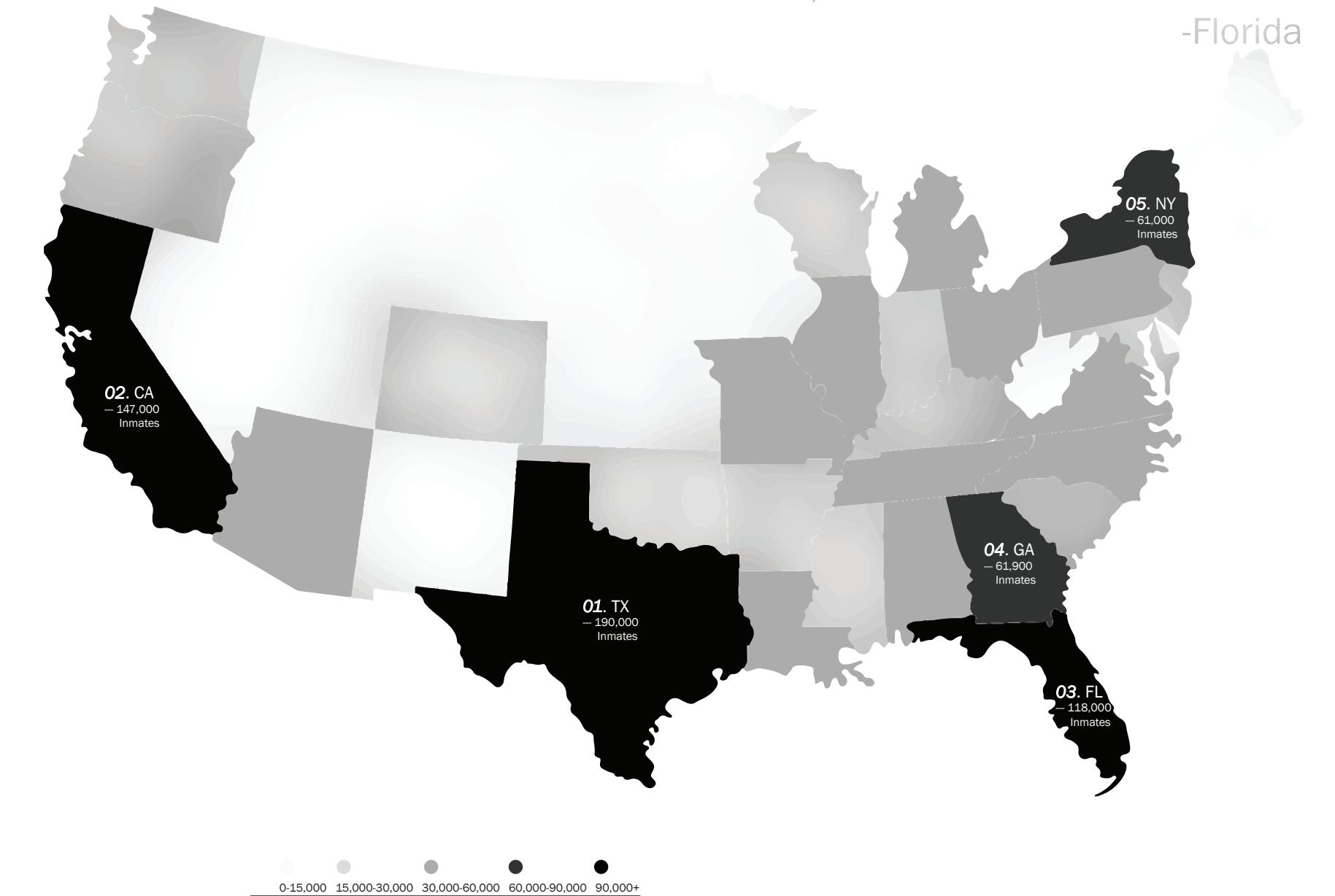
These states followed suit of the 1970's philosophy of being "tough on crime." The roots in punishment for such actions skyrocketed these states' inmate numbers, and they continue to withhold an abundance of U.S.A. inmates today.

"Prisons are not for rehabilitation, but for punishment to deter people from coming back."

-Texas

"Federal crime bills in the 1980's brought severe penalties and mandatory minimums for many drug crimes, and state laws followed suit."

-Florida



**01 : An Overcrowded System**

"Approximately 33,000 inmates are serving sentences of life or life without parole. Fewer than 1,000 of these inmates are released every year, typically after spending two or more decades behind bars."

-California

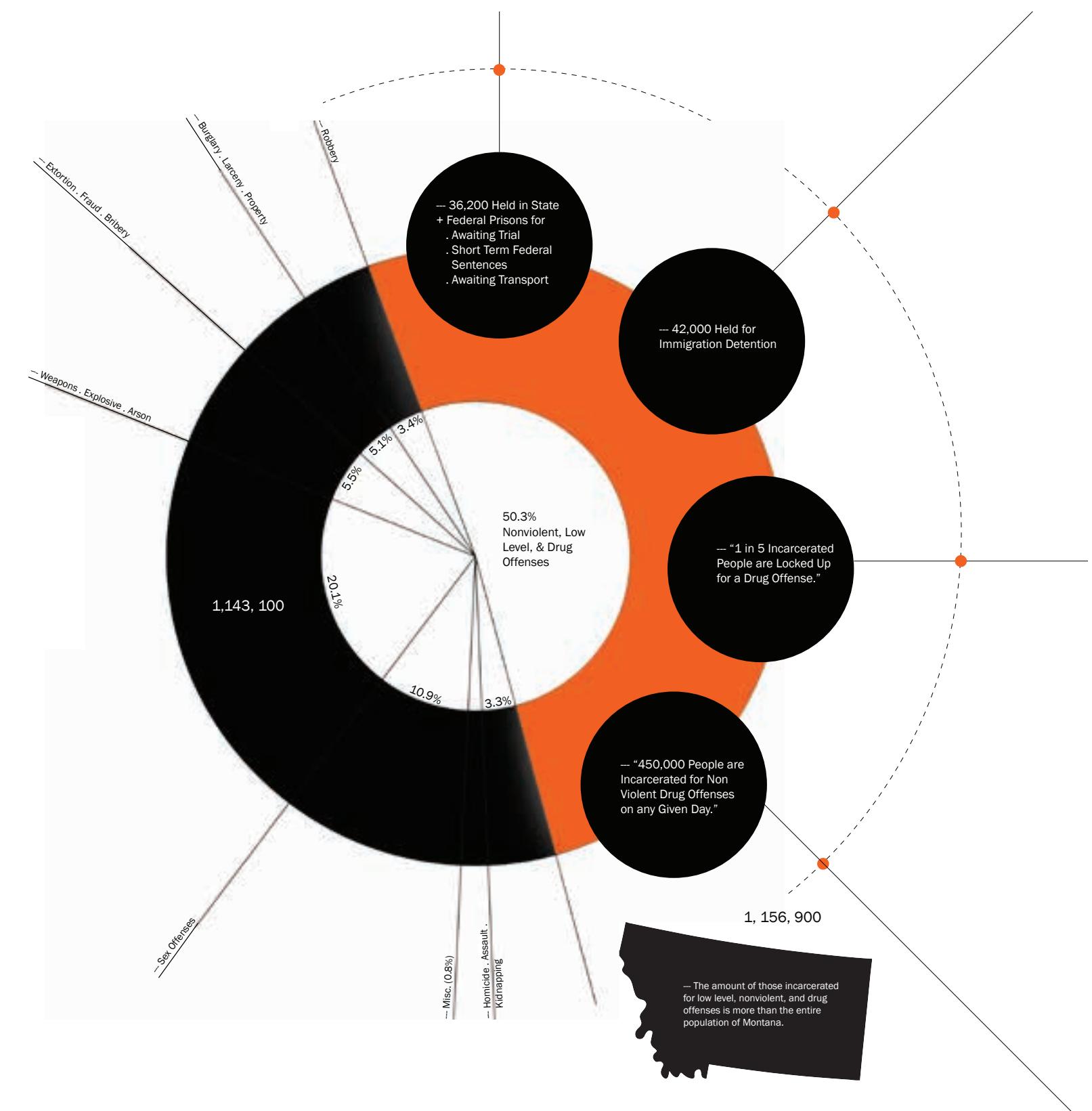
## *— The Justice System is The Problem*

Brazil, a country known for high rates of violent crime, has inmate numbers showing 1.5 million less inmates than the United States. This proves that there is a significant issue within the legislature of the U.S.A. and that a call to action is inevitably necessary.



*— Today We See Exponential Rates of  
Nonviolent, Low Level Offenses Crowding  
Our Prisons*

Out of the 2,300,000 inmates in our system, 1,150,000 of them are in our prisons for reasons related to outdated law.



## *— The System is a Corrupt Revolving Door No Matter the Offense*

Although an abundance of these inmates are low level and nonviolent offenders, regardless of the offense, the largest issue with the system is the way it treats inmates.

The abundance of laws put these inmates into a system that is rooted in force, violence, and scare tactics. Once an inmate makes their way out of the prison walls, they are subject to an abundance of policies and regulations.

I.e. --- Job opportunities are not easy to find and once found, questions such as “Are you a felon?” arise on applications. A law that was administered during the Clinton administration states, “There does not need to be a criminal conviction on a tenant’s record in order for the Housing Authority to evict a tenant on the grounds of criminal activity.” This one strike policy has been a segway in some cases as to give prisoners lack of resources for housing. This means in some cases, once they are released from prison, staying with family is not an option. Refusal for federal aid such as student loans or government funded food stamps are also issues that arise once prisoners make their way out. One thing after another, the mess of a system is in dire need of dismantling at its core and rebuilding from the ground up.

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Excessive Bail . Mandatory Minimums . Three Strikes . --

01. Causes for Imprisonment



Criminalization of Non - Violent Crimes

03. Societal Faults that Lead to a Revolving Door System



Resistance From Federal Aid . Dismantled Voting Rights .

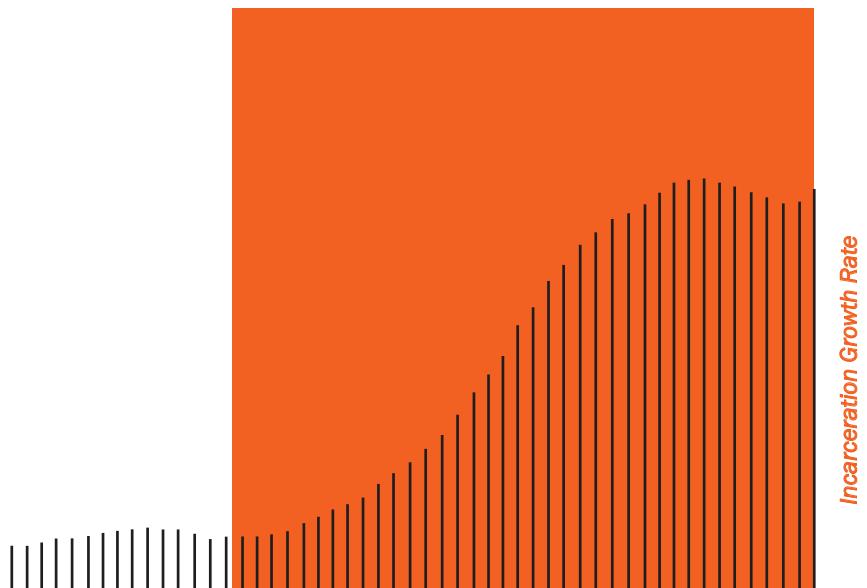
— Lack of Federal Aid . Parole Policy . One Strike .

-- Capital Punishment . Dehumanization . Lack of Mental Health Specialists . Inadequate Food + Poor Healthcare .

02. A System Rooted in Punishment



Solitary Confinement . Forced + Underpaid Labor .



Incarceration Growth Rate

*— Chapter 02 : Highlighting Inmate  
Vulnerability*



### *— Government Uses Mass Incarceration to Benefit Private Prisons, Corporations, & Investors*

Although only a small piece of the puzzle is the channeling of money from government to higher power profit, it is still a benefit of mass incarceration. For example, Private Prisons are allotted stipends by the government to keep the abundance of prisoners intact but off their hands. The government funds these prisons and private owners profit by pocketing a percentage of what they are given for each inmate. Therefore, these private owned companies want prisoners to stay caught in their revolving door to turn a profit.



Public Corrections Agencies | Criminal Law Policing | Public Employees | Judicial and Legal for Criminal Law | Healthcare | Prosecution  
Indigent Defense | Civil Asset Forfeiture | Private Corrections | Construction | Cost to Families | Food | Interest Payments | Utilities  
Commissary | Bail Fees | Telephone Calls | Private Prison Profits | **182 billion annual dollars spent**

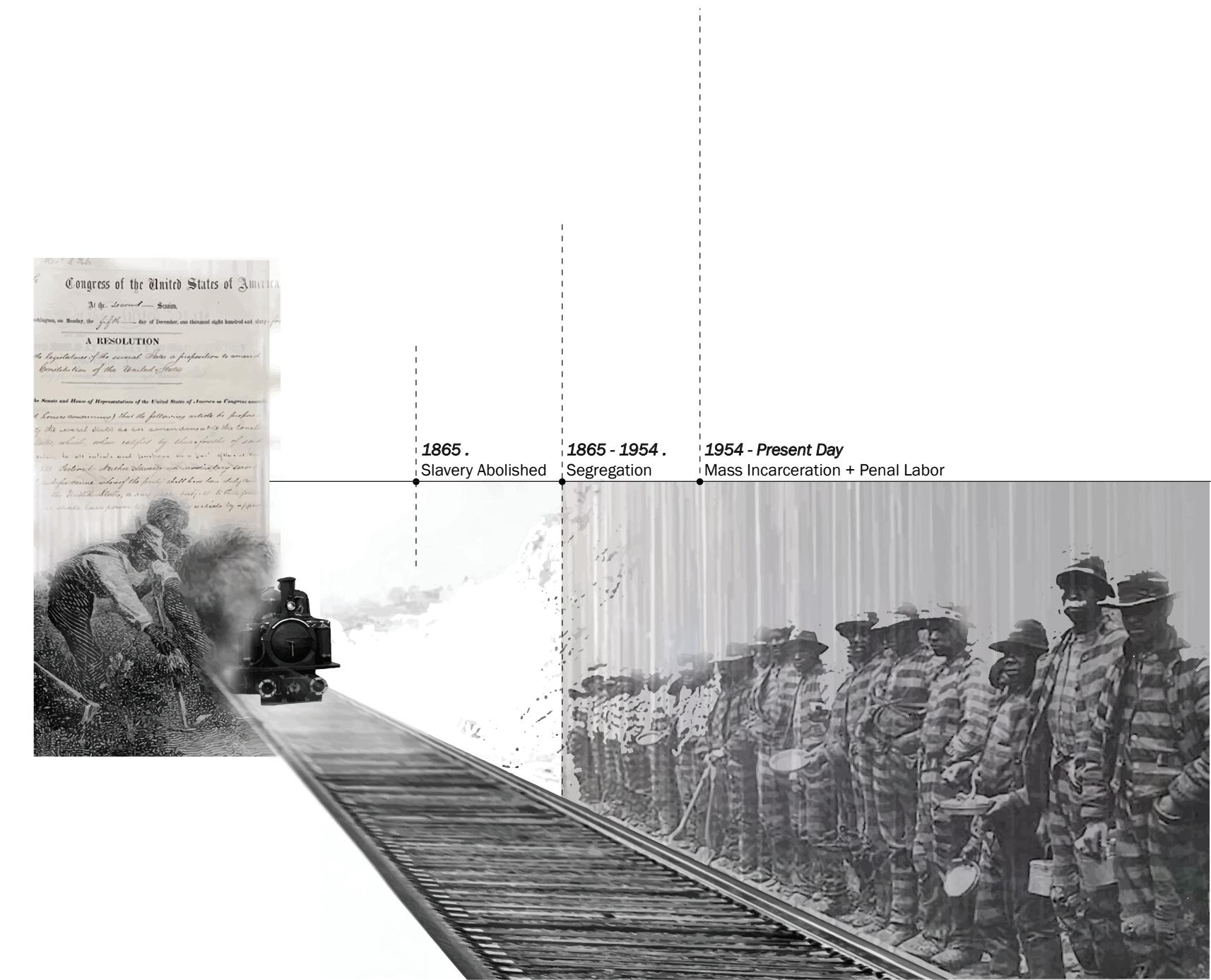


Investors | Corporations | Private Prisons ←

## *— Prisoners Work for Little to No Profit on Government and Corporation Jobs*

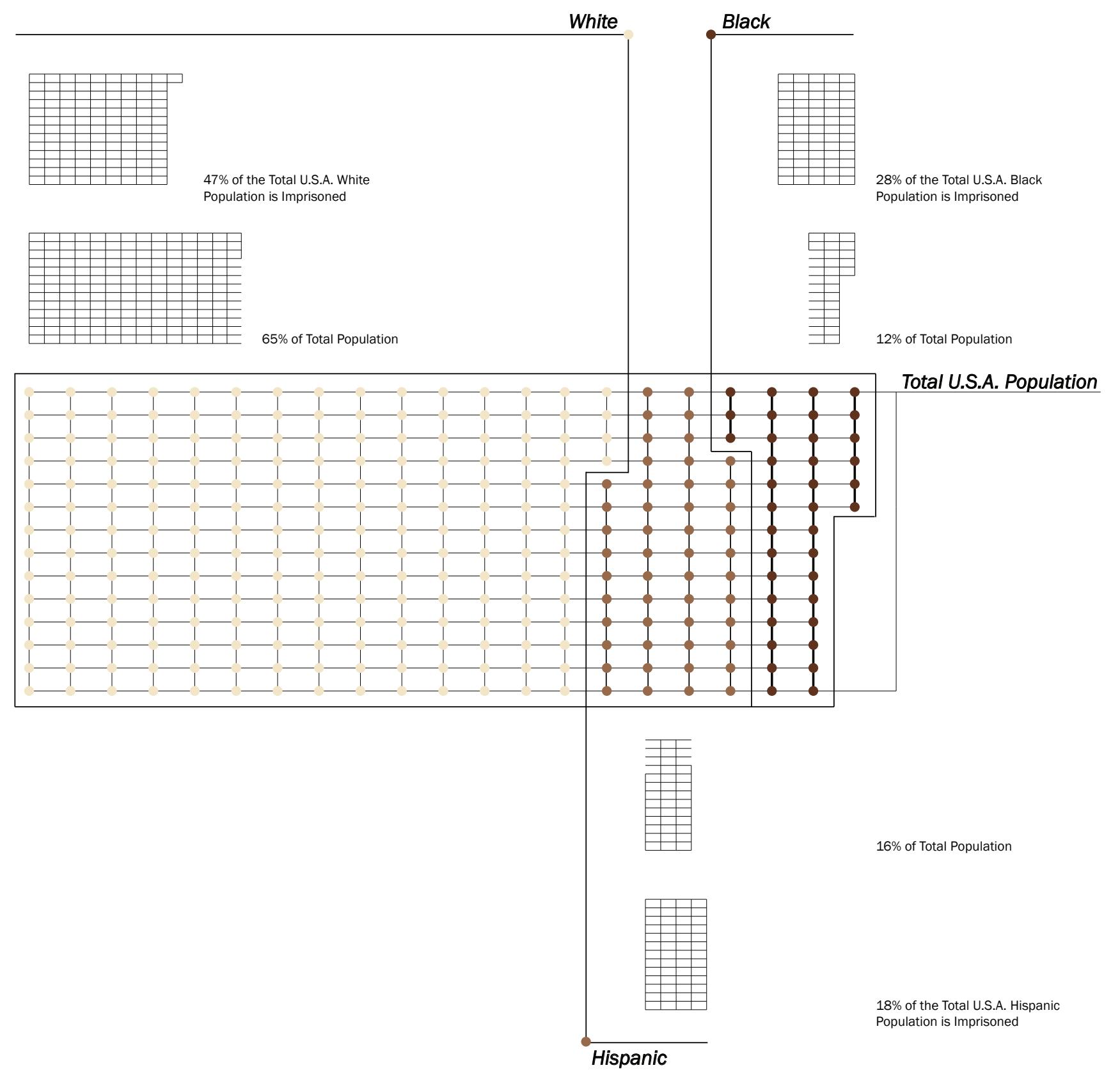
The 13<sup>th</sup> amendment states: “neither slavery nor involuntary servitude except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.” The clause in the amendment stating “except as punishment for crime” allows for annual penal labor profits of 500 million dollars.

Mass incarceration allows the law to use inmates for labor with little to no compensation (I.e. --- municipal and public work such as road crews or “in house” work scaling from working in the kitchen to producing product for large corporations). Whatever it be, there are multiple scenarios in which prisoners are being used as a byproduct of the moneymaking scheme that is hidden within the system, rather than being rehabilitated to reenter society. Although there are some inmates who rely on the work to step away from the atmosphere of the prison otherwise, there could be efforts to use alternative methods for providing this grace to the incarcerated.



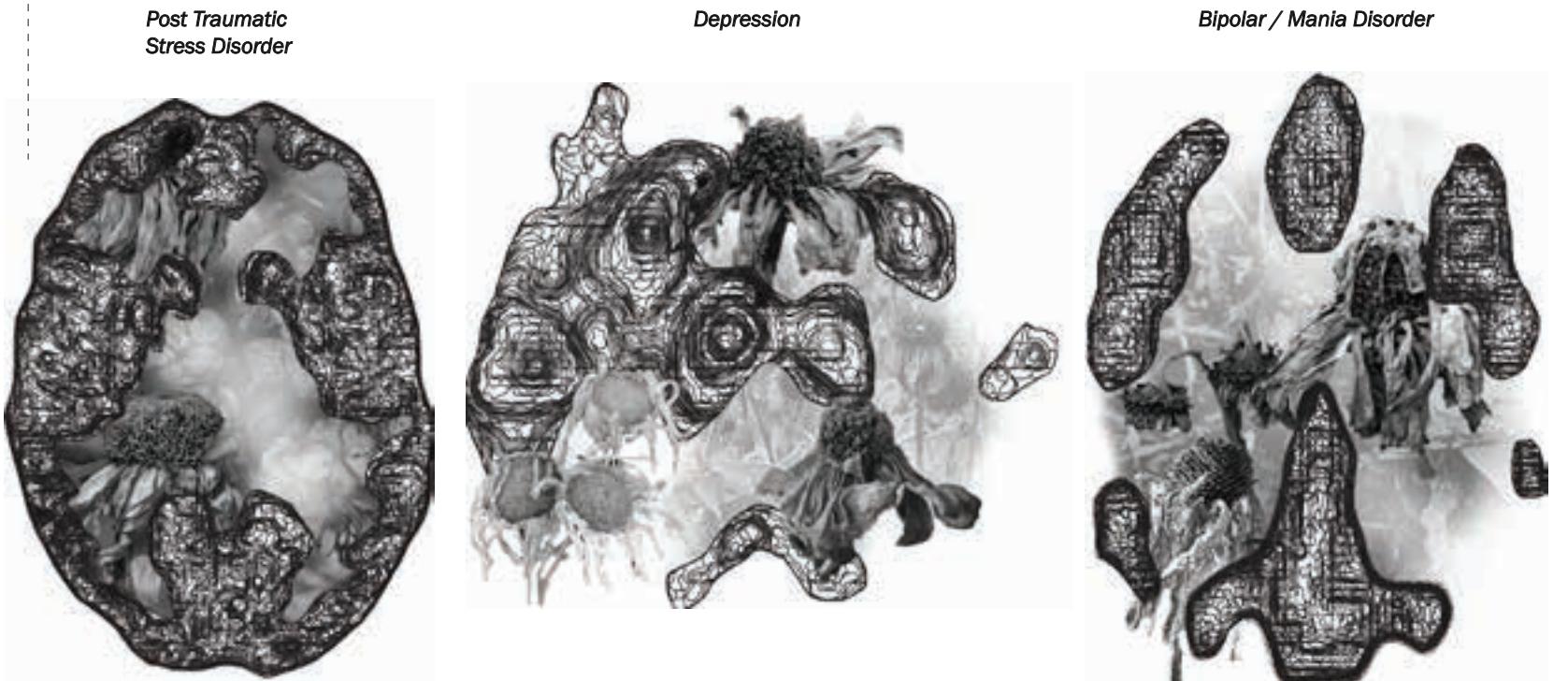
*— There is an Influx of Blacks & Hispanics  
Vulnerable to This System*

According to the Prison Policy Initiative, statistics also show that people of indigenous color are overrepresented on death row, solitary confinement, and more likely to be serving sentences of life. The internalized systemic racism in relation to imprisonment tactics are not lacking its intentional motives of stripping away human rights for the agenda of the oppressor.



## — Mental Health Deteriorates Within Prison Walls

The system is built on foundational methods such as dehumanization, little to no contact with the outside world, use of solitary confinement, and scare tactics. A failing factor of this system is the lack of representation of mental health specialists on the force, and rather a plethora of poorly trained, forceful police. Because of the use of this rather inhumane approach, instead of sending revived humans back into society after sentencing, prisoners with newly acquired mental health issues are. There are 10 times as many mentally ill humans in prisons compared to those in hospitals, and accompanying that, 50% of the imprisoned subject to mental illness are disproportionately abused and raped. Reoffending is highly likely for prisoners of this mentally instable state, once again keeping these prisoners in this revolving door strategy.



Of a sample study, inmates said that triggers stemmed from being physically/sexually assaulted or from being a witness to death inside of the facility.

The inhumanity of the facility, yearning for loved ones, prolonged imprisonment, constancy of surrounding prisoners, and lack of access to specialists within the prison walls give reasoning for the prevalence of this disease upon U.S.A inmates.

Prisoners are treated inadequately for their symptoms — heightening the probability of suicide and increasingly worse mood episodes. The disease grants vulnerability to co-occurring conditions such as anxiety and panic attacks.

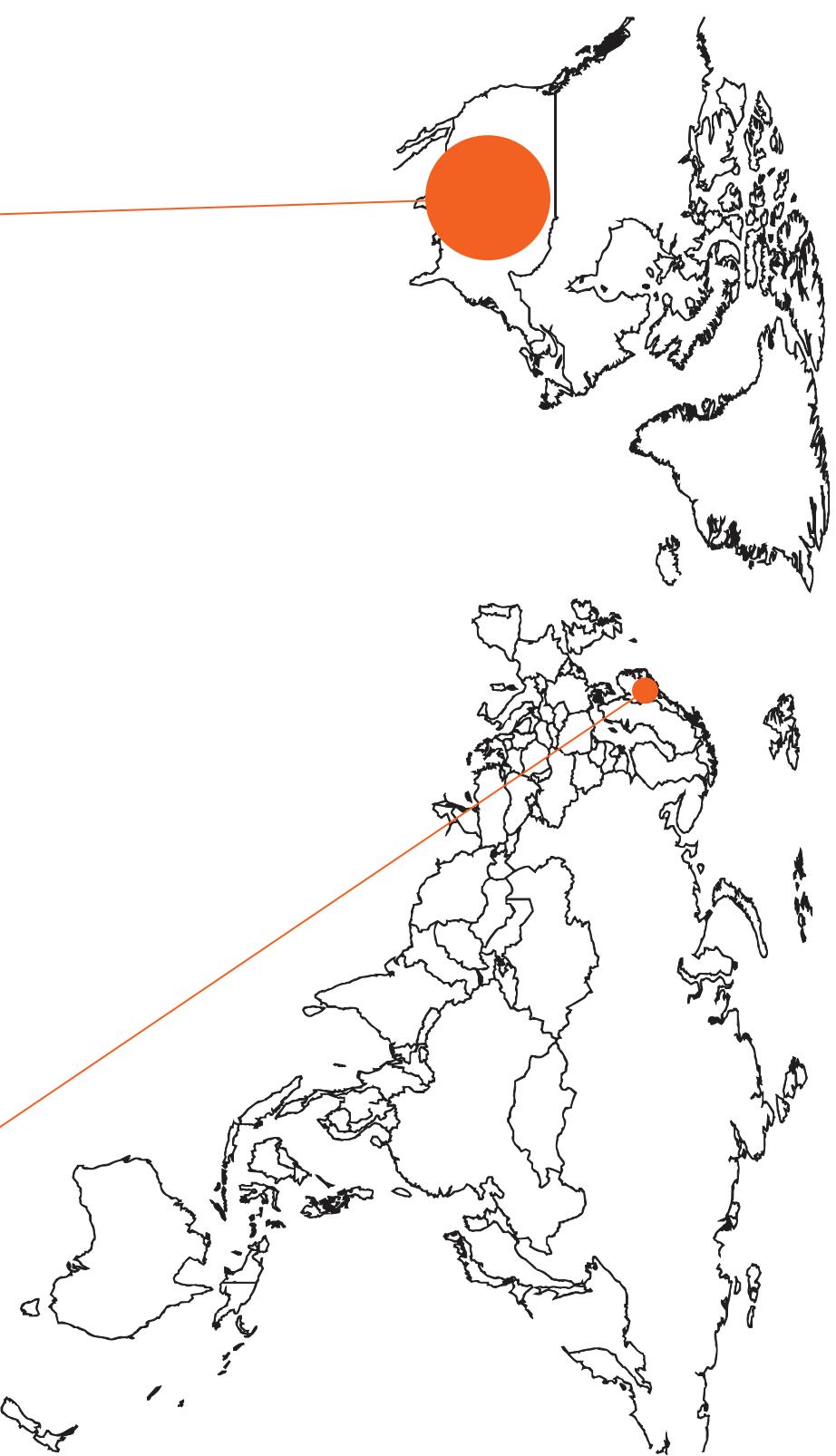
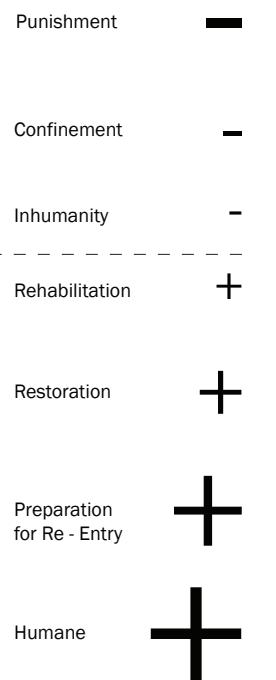
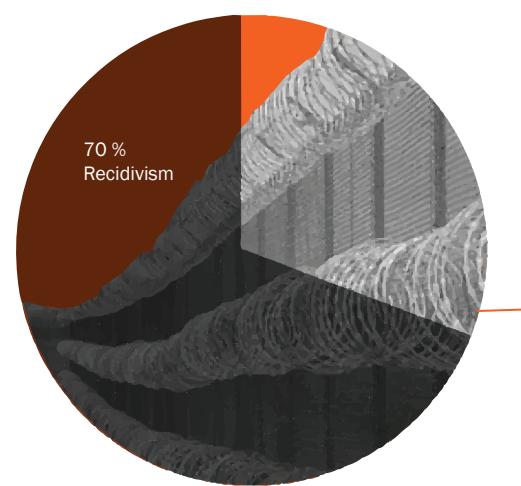
## *— Location of Prisons Drives Preventable Death*

As well as the lack of solace pertaining to human action upon these prisoners, they are also highly vulnerable to their environment. In numerous prison locations across the United States, reports have been formulated to record the unsafety of these structures during regional, state, and global disasters. The number of incarcerated people who have ceased from preventable death is indefinitely at fault. Scenarios related to natural disasters and the climate crisis continue to be situations not taken care of. There have been multiple recorded incidents where prisoners are left for dead, have no ability to evacuate, are without air conditioning/heat, and are left in the middle of floods, storms, and disasters of all shapes. With prisoners being left in these vulnerable states during times of crises, it proves once again that the unjust system is not out to help prisoners, but to use them and spit them back out.

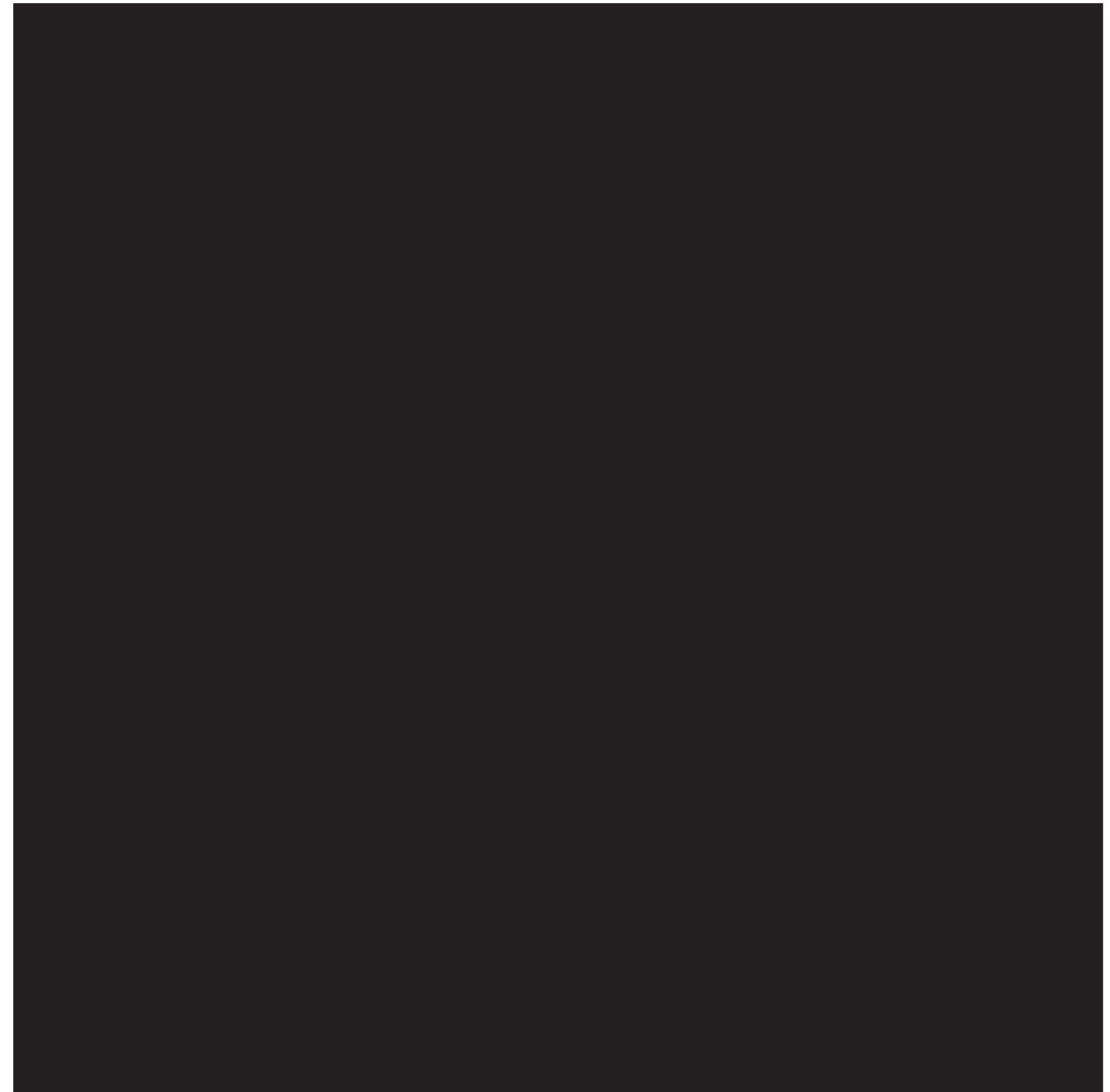


## *— A Restorative Justice System Should be Precedent for the U.S.A.*

Using a system that is rooted in rehabilitation has proven to be quite the victory for Norwegians. Along with giving prisoners a human's value, they provide beautiful, thoughtful architectural structures to house them. The system is rooted in rehabilitation rather than punishment and strives to put "better neighbors" back into their society. Because of this, they see a recidivism rate (the tendency of a convict to reoffend) of only 20% compared to 70% in the United States. They simulate life on the outside which aids in restoration of their citizens. The radical humanness of this system is preceded by the fact that they believe that using longer sentencing and more force is not the answer, no matter the offense. In their country, no criminal, violent or nonviolent, is sentenced to more than 30 years' time. In relation to this comparison, it is obvious that the U.S. holds the weaker system and is in desperate need of recovery.



*— Chapter 03 : Reassess, Reform,  
Rehabilitate*



## *— America is Transitioning From Force to Fruit*

The study of the social, psychological, and economical effects of the tactics used from the origination of this system have revealed that the methods of the United States prison system are outdated and in radical need of reform. Inventing a system that uses tactics to replenish rather than degrade the psyche are necessary to replenish the lives of those subjected. The constant use of punishment and violence without mental rehabilitation is going to continue to fail our nation unless there is a radical movement for change.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 . . . . .

## *— What does the United States Look Like as a Country Supporting Restorative Justice?*

There is a rejuvenated process for placing and taking care of the human lives that have done wrong. We heal victimizers and victims of the wrongdoings committed. There is a mutual respect and goal for helping offenders to become well again and we all do our part to restore our country to a place that promotes joy in the restoration of our people.



*— 1,943 Prisons are Dismantled and  
Citizens Demand a Call to Action*

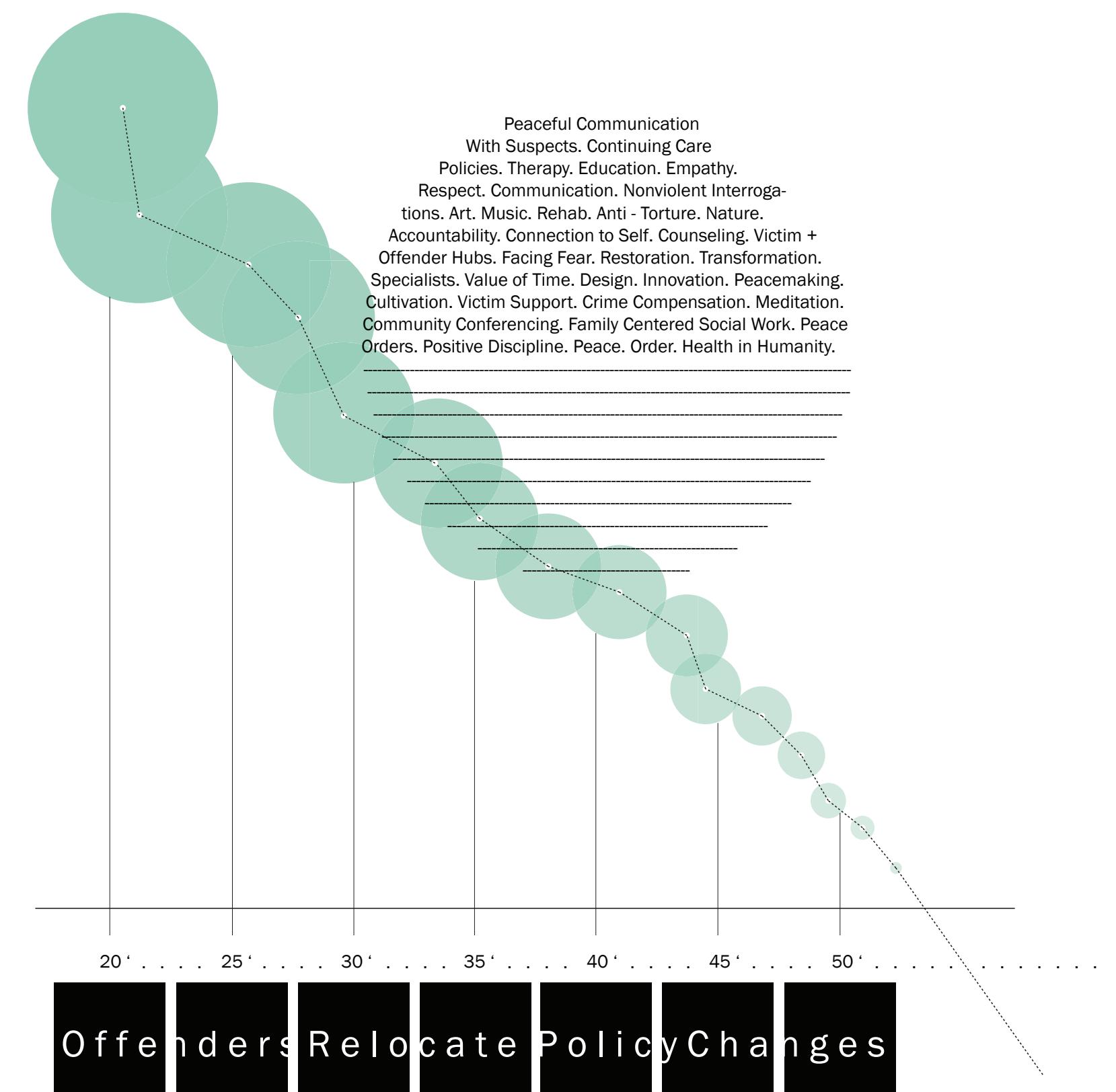
The country is bare of prior standing prisons. The justice system is reimagined to implement restorative and transformative justice efforts. We understand that the effort will not be a linear process but that we are willing to do whatever it takes to rebuild a system that is rooted in rehabilitating the psyche for the sake of our humanity.

03 : Reassess, Reform, Rehabilitate



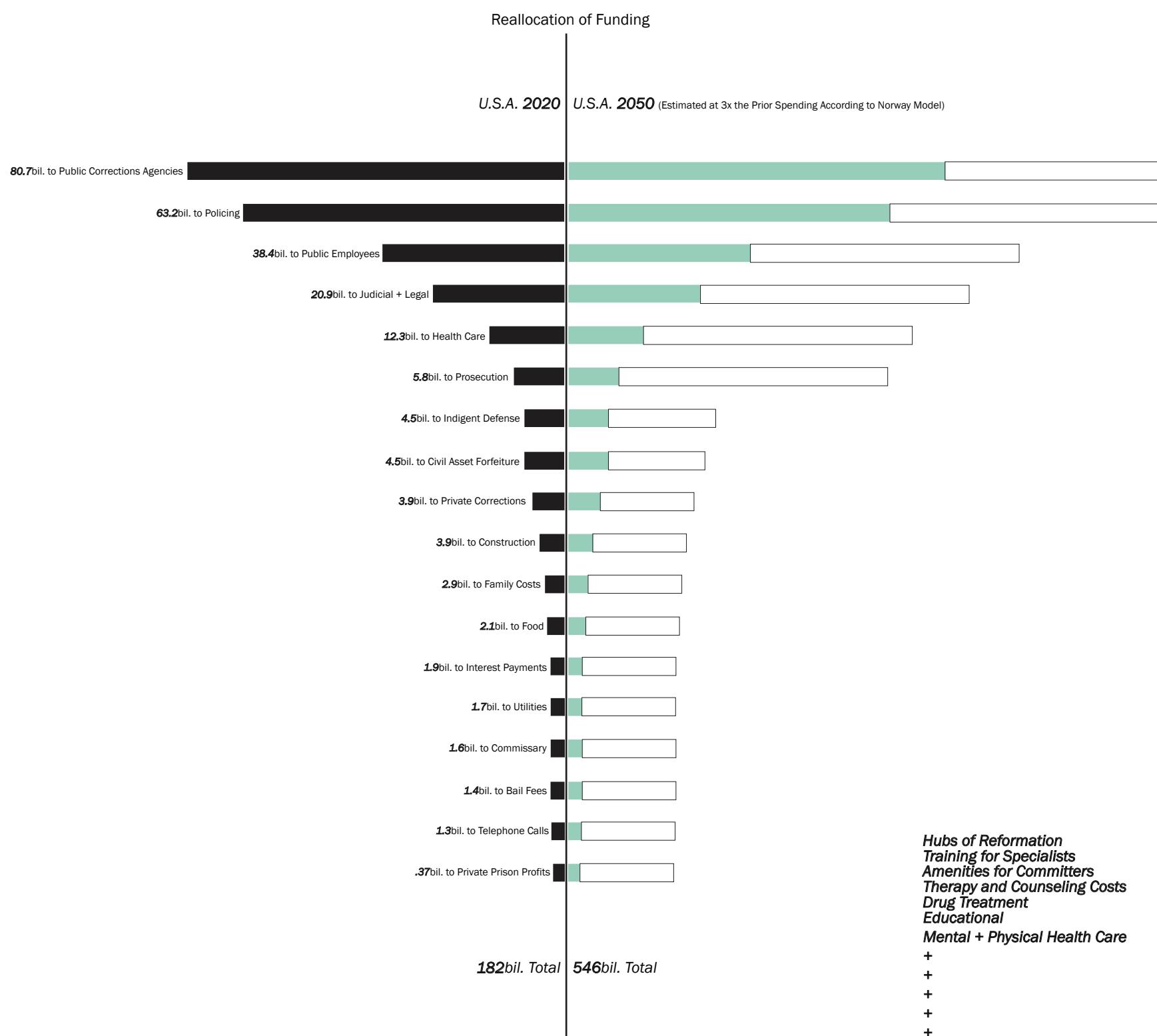
**– Outdated Tactics Diminish and  
Offenders are Reconcentrated Into New  
Methods**

The reconcentration of offenders is rooted in the restoration of current policy. We begin to look into alternative methods for serving offenders with accountability.



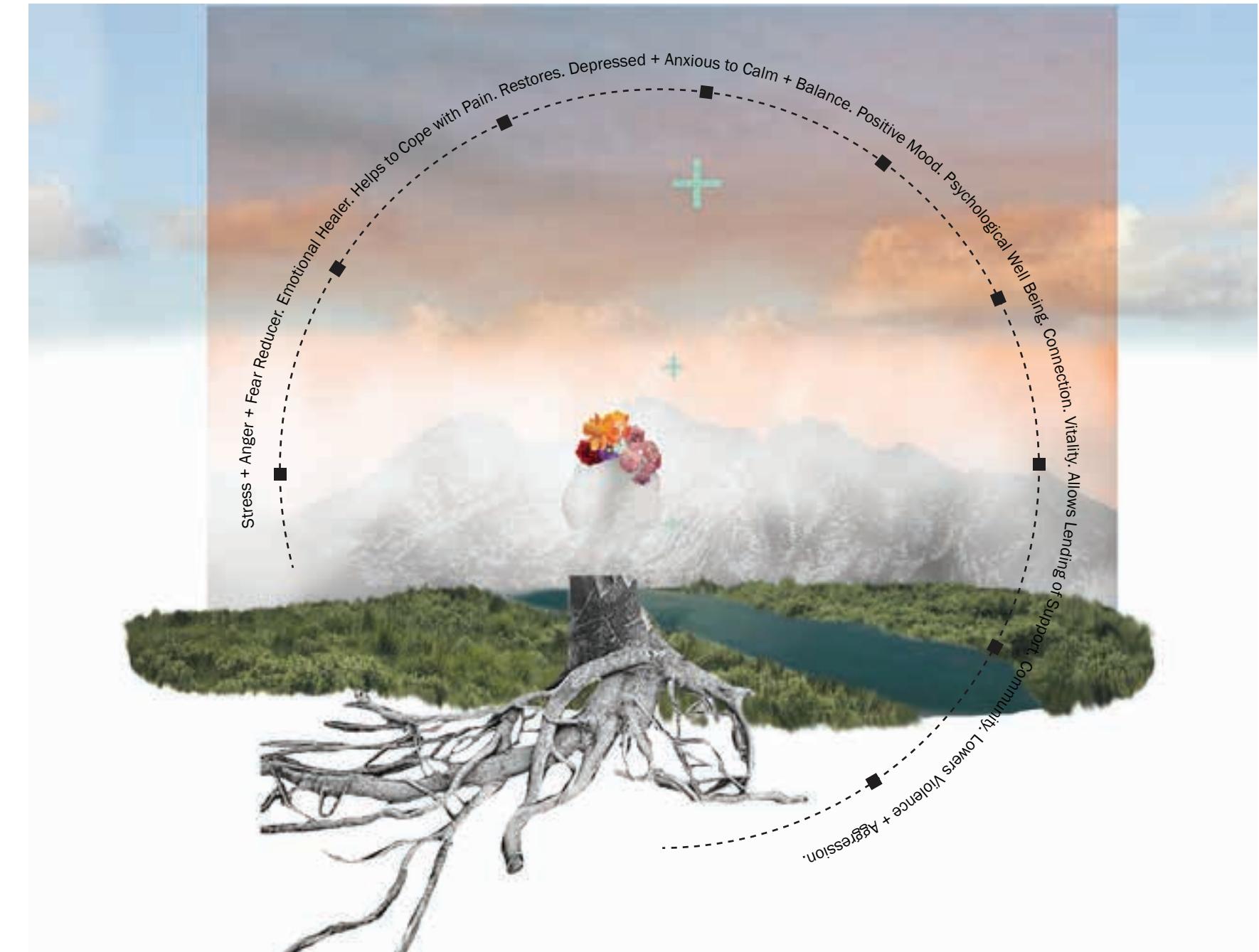
*— The Reguidance of Government Money  
Funds the Movement for Restorative  
Justice*

There will be a reallocation of funding from the prior system into the new system. According to data from Norway's Restorative Justice System, we will need to grant a greater funding, but a funding for reasons necessary.



*— Tactics are Rooted in Transformation of  
the Psyche, Using Nature as a Core  
Method*

Nature is said to be a valuable asset to regrounding and growth. Implementing the use of nature therapy will heighten the rehabilitation of offenders.



*— The U.S.A Pursues an Ever Evolving  
Restorative System Rooted in Human  
Connection and Community*

A previous major prison in the U.S.A., Rikers Island, transforms into a community park, where victims and offenders can intermingle within circumstances, community can come together to support these new efforts, and a place that was once a place of despair can be restored to support the wealth of human life.



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**— A Thought ...**

Imagine for a moment that there were hubs of reformation in the middle of beautiful fields ... nature sprouting through. The current system has been demolished and the design notion of the facilities has been completely reassessed. These serene pods gather in wildflowers and the transformation from force to fruit has been materialized. The humans that gather here are being treated with no labels, no different than those on the outside. They are simply sent here to be restored. There are an array of mental health and rehabilitation specialists. Activities are rooted in connection with nature and reconnection to self. There is a sense of time and understanding that this is the only life we have. Humans are not allowed to take away other humans lives. Moments are considered precious and every day is a work in progress to restore the minds, spirit, and souls of the occupants.

We have work to do.



