

The Role of Race in Contemporary U.S. and Jamaican Society

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout my research on the role of race in contemporary U.S. and global society, a burning question I sought to answer using statistics and facts was: How does one explain that there is a social structure in place that reproduces racism and discrimination, which causes high poverty and crime rates as well as diminishing socioeconomic and education prospects for people of color, particularly black men? Holding 25 percent of the world's prison population, the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world despite having just five percent of the world's population. Of the prison population in the U.S., at least 40 percent is comprised of African Americans, although they make up just 14 percent of the population. Of that 40 percent, half are in for nonviolent drug offenses¹.

In Jamaica as of 2014, the country had a population of 2.79 million while the prison population total, including pretrial detainees and remand prisoners, was 4,050². These high imprisonment rates exacerbate the disenfranchisement of the black population by contributing to poverty, depression, and unemployment. It is no secret that black men are seen as the underdog in society, especially with so many black women breaking boundaries in politics, education, and business. In the media, black men are often portrayed as criminals, but people neglect to question why so many of these young black men end up in the prison system. According to Michelle Alexander, there are more African American men in prison today than there were black male slaves during the era of slavery³. Life for young black men is almost as oppressive as it was during slavery, due to society's perception of them as a threat, based on the negative portrayal of

¹ *13th*. Directed by Ave DuVernay. Produced by Spencer Averick and Howard Barish. Performed by Angela Davis and Jelani Cobb. Netflix.com. October 7, 2016.

² "Jamaica." Jamaica | World Prison Brief | Institute for Criminal Policy Research.

³ Prison is the new plantation. [Video file]. (2013, March 28).

them in the media. Moreover, capitalism is one of the primary driving forces behind the explosion of the U.S. and Jamaica prison populations. This further helps to explain the disproportionate rates of people of color in prison. In addition, the government plays a role in the systematic oppression of men of color because of the laws and regulations put into place that privilege certain groups of people over others. For this reason, the prison system is now referred to as the “new plantation” because it is systematically reviving a practice that was legally abolished in America and several other parts of the world, like Jamaica.

DIFFERENT BRANCHES GROWING FROM THE SAME ROOT OF OPPRESSION

Though slavery ended over a century ago in both the U.S. and Jamaica, long-term effects of this systematic form of oppression continue to plague the black community today. In America, white supremacy as well as racism and hatred of black people still exist, albeit sometimes in a subtle form. This hatred can be traced back to the slavery era, during which black men were seen as the defenders of the family. Similarly in Jamaica, during slavery black men were targeted and sexually abused in order to disgrace them in front of the other slaves, undermining the role of the black man as a protector. Without men in this protector role, the black population would be helpless and therefore easier to manipulate.

The United States of America: From Slavery to the “New Plantation”

In the U.S., nearing the abolition of slavery, there was a rise in white supremacist groups, and although these terrorist groups were outlawed and seemingly vanished from the public eye,

they still exist today. Some members of such groups hold positions of authority as lawyers, doctors, senators, and even law-enforcement officers, and they continue to covertly target and criminalize black males. After the emancipation of black slaves, white Southerners devised ways to keep blacks enslaved and therefore continue to profit from their labor. As a result, the criminalization of black people has played a significant role in the economic growth of America. Convict leasing and Black Codes were tactics used to further African American servitude by exploiting a loophole in the 13th Amendment that states, “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.” This means that slavery is permitted to exist in the United States if the person concerned has been convicted of a crime.

The Black Codes were laws that criminalized legal activities of black people, such as vagrancy, providing an excuse for the mass imprisonment of newly freed black people⁴. Evidence of this is shown in the Alabama County Convict report of 1890⁵⁻⁶. This report gives primary information about the name, race, crime, and sentence of a convict. This report illustrates the effects of Black Codes, later known as Pig Laws, under which blacks were heavily penalized for crimes such as theft and vagrancy. Long sentences were often given for vagrancy, which inevitably worked against the newly freed blacks because most of them had no land and very little money. Therefore, they were more susceptible to breaking the vagrancy law. In addition to that, the conviction of grand larceny was aimed at freed blacks who stole livestock to feed their families because of their lack of money, land, and food. Stealing a farm animal that was worth more than \$10 was considered grand larceny, which could get a sentence of up to five

⁴ Prison is the new plantation.

years in state prisons. According to the county convict report, many black convicts were convicted of larceny, burglary, and carrying a concealed weapon in 1890. Yancy Lovelace, who was a white convict that committed manslaughter, got a mere six months in prison while Walter Gordon, a black convict, committed larceny and received a sentence of 18 months. This evidence allows us to analyze how the sentences of blacks differed in comparison to their white counterparts. Since more black people were in prison, the convict leasing system thrived using primarily their labor, as opposed to that of the lower population of whites in prisons. In the convict leasing system, private companies would pay the state to lease out prisoners to work for them by day, and return them to their cells at night. Although the convict leasing system was abolished in the 1930s, other forms of convict labor, such as industrial prisons, still thrive to this day, continuing to further the downfall of black men in society. Today, close to a million African American inmates work full-time in jails and prisons throughout the United States. Corporate America, as a result, is getting free labor from imprisoned African American men. This is one of the reasons why prison systems are referred to as the “new plantation.”

Influence from the Media

Through the media, the image of the dangerous, lawless black man was created and disseminated throughout the nation and has since defined societal stereotypes, despite facts to the contrary. For example, the 1915 commercially successful Civil War drama *The Birth of a Nation* popularized the image of the black male rapist with its depiction of black men as a threat to white

women⁵. Historically, however, sexual assault of black women by white men has been a far more frequent occurrence. Nevertheless, this film led to the rise of hate crimes against blacks as well as the rise of the Ku Klux Klan terrorist group. Ida B. Wells, a black journalist during the 1900s, recorded many lynchings in the South, most of which were provoked by false accusations of rapes by black males. In the 1931 Scottsboro Boys case, nine African American boys were accused and convicted of raping two white women in Alabama. Although a physician examined the women and found no evidence of rape, the boys were still found guilty and were sent to prison. Less than 25 years later, in 1955, a 14-year-old black boy from Chicago named Emmett Till was lynched for allegedly flirting with and whistling at a white female clerk. The woman's husband and brother kidnapped Till, murdered him, then bound his naked body with barbed wire to a cotton-gin fan and threw him in the Tallahatchie River. The men were tried for murder, but an all-white male jury found them innocent. According to reports, Till had contracted polio at the age of five, and although he recovered, it left him with a stutter, which he tried to alleviate by whistling⁶. These are prominent examples among the scores of black males who were criminalized because they were perceived as a threat.

Are They Still Citizens?

Prisons have become a means of financial and social disenfranchisement for young black people, particularly black men. The War on Drugs, which originally was a campaign used during the Nixon administration to demote the use and trade of illegal drugs, specifically targeted

⁵ *The Birth of a Nation*. Directed by D. W. Griffith. Performed by Jillian Gish and Henry B. Walthall. USA: D.W. Griffith, 1915.

⁶ Crowe, C. (2003). *Getting away with murder: The true story of the Emmett Till case*. London, United Kingdom: Penguin Group.

African Americans as the root of the problem. However, multiple studies have proven that whites use and sell illegal drugs at rates equal to or higher than those of blacks. Drug use among white males surpasses that of black males by seven percent, yet black males are sent to prison on drug charges at 13 times the rate of white males⁷. This proves that the War on Drugs racially targets black men; hence, many young black men from impoverished neighborhoods can expect to be incarcerated at some point in their lives⁸. Privatized prison systems rob felons of their voting rights, even after they have completed their sentences. African American youths are dropping out of school as a result of drug-related charges. This lack of education, plus a prison record, make it far more likely that these youngsters will spend a lifetime in the prison system. They are kept from participating in juries and have difficulty finding employment and access to education⁹. Kept from exercising their rights as U.S. citizens, they are, essentially, slaves in the “new plantation.” These young men lose their voice in society, which contributes to their downfall in America.

The Effects of Colonialism on the Role of Race in Jamaican Society

In the late 15th century, Europeans set out to explore different regions beyond Europe, which resulted in the conquering and colonization of many lands, one being Jamaica in 1494. Those who were indigenous to the land attempted to fight back, but many were killed due to lack of sophisticated weaponry. Those who survived were captured as slaves. The European

⁷ See Appendix B.

⁸ Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: New Press, 2010.

⁹ Pettit, Becky. *Invisible Men: Mass Incarceration and the Myth of Black Progress*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2012.

conquerors dismantled families, tribes and nations; they destroyed cultures, languages, and lineages; and they assigned a new name, identity, and history to the original Jamaicans.

Religion Used as a Weapon of Submission

The slaughtering of the native Jamaicans was justified as converting “savages” to Christianity. Religion was used to justify white supremacy. The natives were taught that the Europeans were a reflection of God and Jesus, making the enslavement of natives “divine destiny.” This notion produced a deep-rooted fear among the natives that contributed to their obedience to the Europeans. Even in today’s society, Christianity is practiced by 64 percent of the Jamaican population. This is an example of how the role of race is demonstrated in the context of contemporary Jamaican society.

Stocks and Bonds

Once the British conquered the Spaniards and claimed the land of Jamaica in 1655, the natives had already been stripped of their riches, their language, their culture, and their identity. The British created a system that would enable them to profit from the land and its native people and build the economy of England. This system was called Stocks and Bonds, the stocks being the slaves and the bonds being the certificates of ownership. The bond carried value depending on the stock. A warrior slave, for instance, was more valuable than a field slave, who was more valuable than a house slave. The British continued to extract wealth from Jamaicans and sought to keep them under control using The Jamaica Slave Act of 1684, modeled after the Barbados Slave Act of 1661, in which they used comprehensive slave codes codify the establishment of African slavery.

Emancipation?

The system of Stocks and Bonds continued until Jamaica was granted emancipation in 1834, which legally freed the slaves but exacerbated the structure of class and race. Former slave owners received financial compensation for the loss of their slaves, while former slaves received nothing. With no land, education, or means of making an income, former slaves struggled financially and many were denied rights such as voting because of their lack of land. What we have here is a manifestation of the role of race in society in which white Europeans maintained a level of wealth and high social standing while blacks remained poor.

Skin Bleaching

One side-effect of the association of whites as rich, powerful, and superior was that native Jamaicans began to want to make themselves appear physically as close to European as possible. This led to a phenomenon known as “skin bleaching.” Aside from the aspirations of looking white, many Jamaicans claim that the act of skin bleaching is a means of becoming more marketable in the workforce because oftentimes employers seek workers who are of a lighter complexion¹⁰. Regardless of the reason, skin bleaching is a health hazard because it increases the risk of skin cancer, and this epidemic is sweeping Jamaica as a result of the influence of white colonialism on the land and its people. This demonstrates how race was reinforced through structural means that uphold standards of society while offering a consensual understanding of which group of people in society holds power and which group is essentially powerless.

How Poverty Breeds Crime in Jamaican Society*Corruption within Politics*

¹⁰ "Cake Soap.... Skin Bleaching in Jamaica (Full Documentary)."

Following the abolition of slavery in Jamaica and the island's independence from Britain in 1962, corruption within the political system began to occur. Two primary political parties formed in Jamaica, the Jamaican Labour Party (JNP) and the People's National Party (PNP)¹¹, that established close connections with organized crime in order to maintain control on a macro-level. From 1974 to 1980, my father served as a correctional officer at General Penitentiary, which was renamed Tower Street Adult Correctional Centre and is the largest correctional facility in Jamaica¹². He recalled prisoners being charged for conspiring with politicians by killing their competition for payment. This notion was further supported by such articles as "Understanding Crime in Jamaica: New Challenges for Public Policy" and "Organized Crime and Politics in Jamaica: Breaking the Nexus." This is an example of a corrupt feature within the political system called garrison communities, which has contributed to a rise in crime, violence, electoral-manipulation corruption and a waning of morals and generally bleaker outlook. It also contributes to Jamaica's connection with the international drug trade¹³. Over time, politicians promoted community division for the purpose of securing votes and support for their political party. The function of these garrison communities, which are primarily controlled by a political party, is to threaten and annihilate anyone who decides to oppose the dominant political party, which creates a dangerous and violent environment. "Any significant social, political, economic or cultural development within the garrison can only take place with the tacit approval of the leadership (whether local or national) of the dominant party."¹⁴ Subsequently, these garrison

¹¹ Edmonds, Kevin. "Guns, Gangs and Garrison Communities in the Politics of Jamaica." *Institute of Race Relations: Race & Class* 57, no. 4 (June 2016): 54-74. Accessed November 26, 2016. 56.

¹² Behind These Prison Walls, Pt. 1" All of the Above. July 9, 2007. Accessed December 02, 2016.

¹³ Edmonds, Kevin. "Guns, Gangs and Garrison Communities in the Politics of Jamaica." 55.

¹⁴ Anglin, Lenworth Newton. "The Role of the Church in Helping to Reduce the Levels of Crime and Violence in the Jamaican Society." Order No. 3455165, Anderson University, 2011. 15.

communities became quickly associated with gun warfare as they continued to be deeply rooted in political struggle¹⁵.

Collapse of the Jamaican Economy leads to crime

This structure of high-level corruption has been in place for decades since Jamaica achieved its independence and has led to the undisputed notion that corruption in Jamaica “is the norm”¹⁶. In 1966, Jamaica was granted a loan from the World Bank of \$9.5 million to build more schools in order to promote education and training skills for the labor force. However, the loan was awarded to the partisan political contractors on the basis of their connection to political parties. Subsequently, Jamaica suffered educational and economic hardships, including overcrowding schools and poor performance from students as well as a financial debt that continues to exceed \$1 trillion. To date, Jamaica has the least productive labor force in the Caribbean.

Therefore, as a result of improper prioritization and mismanagement of funds, Jamaica’s economy was on the verge of collapse during the 1990s¹⁷. From this point, crime and poverty were on the rise. Gun violence, an inherent aspect of the system, was favored by gangs and contributed to a rise in crime. An Editorial in the *Daily Observer*, MURDER RECORD: 1,680 KILLINGS IN 2009, THE HIGHEST IN THE COUNTRY’S HISTORY, reported that 2009 had the most

¹⁵ Harriott, Anthony. *Understanding Crime in Jamaica : New Challenges for Public Policy*. Kingston, JM: University of the West Indies Press, 2004. Accessed December 7, 2016. ProQuest ebrary. 65.

¹⁶ The Cost of Corruption... Jamaica's Barrier to Prosperity

¹⁷ "Zooming in on the '90s Meltdown." In *Focus | Jamaica Gleaner*. June 12, 2011

murders in Jamaica's history, 52 percent of which were gang-related¹⁸ and 82 percent of which were executed with a gun¹⁹.

A breakdown in the social fabric as a result of the shattered economy with its lack of education, resources and job opportunities led to an overburdening of the prison systems. This financial and educational disenfranchisement influences the crime rates in Jamaica because the lack of financial support from governing bodies induces poverty, resulting in some children not being able to afford education. Dispute resolution, without resorting to violence, is often taught in schools. However, with a lack of education and parental guidance, children often resort to gang violence, which is the most criminal activity in Jamaica, or become involved in the corruption within the political system²⁰.

Overburdened Prison Systems

To summarize, a result of increasing criminality and poverty coupled with a broken economy will directly or indirectly create an excess of inmates in Jamaican prisons. This is detrimental because of the country's sensitive economy, which would force the government to juggle funds to compensate for the increased representation in prison system. Therefore, this leads to a lack of funds to be used towards social and community reform. Another result of the high number of prisoners in Jamaica's prison systems is the lack of policy enforcement and protection within the prisons. Prisoners are getting access to smuggled items such as phones, which enable prisoners to maintain communication with family members and community

¹⁸ "The Role of the Church in Helping to Reduce the Levels of Crime and Violence in the Jamaican Society." 11

¹⁹ Ibid, 14. See Appendix C.

²⁰ "Jamaica 2015 Crime and Safety Report." The Overseas Security Advisory Council. March 11, 2015.

members outside of the prisons²¹. The issue with this is that crimes can then be delegated from within prison. Inhumane physical conditions are also evident through released cellphone videos from within prison walls. Ineffective security guards are unable to protect prisoners from such conditions as well as from one another, which demonstrates another downfall within the prison and criminal justice system²².

Lack of Proper Protection

The ineffectiveness of the security guards to protect the prisoners in Jamaican jails is similar to that of the police force outside of the prisons. Police enforcers often turn a blind eye to issues crime such as drug and murder offenses. According to the book *Cocaine and Heroin Trafficking in the Caribbean: The Case of Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Guyana*,

‘Hard Core’ is the term which police officers often use to describe the following crime reduction tactics. Build close relationships with the leading dons in the community, work out a live and let live relationship with them and delegate routine (and some not so routine) ‘law’ enforcement to them at the community level, also, find ways of contributing to community projects sponsored by the don, although not directly to protection, turn a blind eye to extortion as long as this is within customary norms and powerful business persons do not lay a specific charge, tolerate trafficking in ganja as long as this does not get out of hand. In other words, this model of crime reduction is one of the partnership between the most aggressive street smart police and the leading community gangsters.²³

In addition to this, on an annual basis police are only capable of making arrests in 45 percent of homicides, and only seven percent of the perpetrators in homicide cases are convicted²⁴. As a result, the Jamaican public continues to distrust the efficacy of the criminal justice system due to the corruption within the ties between the police and political parties. Most civilians fear that the

²¹ "Prison Gold - Smartphones Still Popular behind Bars despite Efforts to Keep Them out."

²² Prison Selfies ... a glimpse behind bars in Kingston.

²³ Figueira, Daurius. *Cocaine and Heroin Trafficking in the Caribbean: The Case of Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Guyana*. New York: IUniverse, 2004. 101

²⁴ "Jamaica 2016 Crime and Safety Report." The Overseas Security Advisory Council.

authorities cannot protect them from organized criminal elements, and some would go so far as to say that the authorities are conspiring with criminals (Detective Sergeant Michael Sirjue, for instance, reportedly tampered with evidence and fraudulently incriminated the accused persons in a case²⁵). This climate leads citizens to avoid giving evidence or witness testimonies, which further perpetuates crime and intensifies the cycle of violence.

Targeting the Homosexual Community

Though the criminal justice system in the U.S. as well as Jamaica tend to target certain “minority” groups over others, there is no comparison to the U.S. in terms of race because of the homogenous nature of the people. Furthermore, people of color are targeted within the U.S. criminal system while the homosexual community is targeted in Jamaica. This anti-homosexual stance has an historical context. As previously mentioned, during slavery black men were raped in Jamaica by white slave masters. In addition, it is believed within the Christian religion, which is practiced by 64 percent of the Jamaican population²⁶, that homosexuality is against God and shall be eradicated.

The general disdain towards the homosexual community, which is echoed in dance hall music, the media, and within the church, is palpable in the streets of Jamaica²⁷. Throwing stones at men who identify as gay and/or transgendered is a common practice in the country and the police to do little or nothing to stop the constant harassment²⁸. In retaliation, the attacked gay men often throw stones back. In the Youtube video *Jamaica's Underground Gays*, there was a scene in which police officers arrived during a brawl between gay men who were retaliating

²⁵ "Cop Who Fabricated Evidence against Murder Accused Flees Island - Latest News."

²⁶ "Jamaica." U.S. Department of State.

²⁷ "Jamaica's Underground Gays" - video depicting a minority of gays living in Jamaica.

²⁸ "Young and Gay: Jamaica's Gully Queens (Full Length)."

against their attackers. One officer said that the gay men initiated the brawl by throwing stones and were therefore the cause of the commotion. Many homosexual people suppress their identity because of the perception of them within Jamaica. This clearly demonstrates the intolerance of homosexuality and the ineffectiveness of police protection for the homosexual community. Therefore, the human rights of the homosexual community are neglected, especially when members of this population face violence.

Pratt & Morgan V Attorney-General For Jamaica [1993]

Another example of an unjust aspect of the criminal justice system is the way in which cases are handled. For example, the landmark case *Pratt & Morgan V Attorney-General For Jamaica* of 1993 led the way to an investigation of the judiciary system in Jamaica²⁹. The case concerned delays in the sentencing of two men, Earl Pratt and Ivan Morgan. These extensive delays led to a backlog of cases, overburdening the system. In addition, the delay in trials resulted in inhumane treatment of the convicted men. Both men, Pratt and Morgan, had their cases overruled due to the extreme delay of their trials and the harsh treatment they endured. Unjustly postponed hearings and inhumane treatment are but two examples of how the criminal-justice system disenfranchises the Jamaica population. This is due in part to the lack of modern technology and computerization within the criminal justice system as a result of poor budgeting within the political systems.

Conclusion—Action towards Reform

²⁹ Hight, Keith, George Kahale, and Barry Phillips. "Pratt & Morgan v. Attorney General for Jamaica." *The American Journal of International Law* 88, no. 4 (1994): 776

All in all, the corruption embedded in Jamaica's political system deeply affects the criminal-justice system by perpetuating violence and crime, which leads to an excessive burden on the prisons. Lack of policy enforcement inside and outside the prisons also contributes to the high crime rates, and the absence of updated equipment within the court system results in failure within the criminal-justice system. To combat the injustices that take place within the political system, there are human rights groups such as Indecom, a watchdog group that focuses primarily on Security Forces, Correctional Officers, and Public Officers³⁰ in an attempt to lessen corruption within police enforcement, and there is also the influence of the church. According to an article in *The Sunday Gleaner* called "The Church in the Nation," it was stated by a Mrs. Esther Tyson, Principal of the Ardenne High School and a weekly columnist, that:

The Church in Jamaica is the most powerful non-governmental organization in this nation. She stated that there are more churches per square mile in this country than in any other. Mrs. Tyson felt that as a nation, we are in a state of crisis: economically, socially, morally and spiritually, and that the high levels of crime and violence have affected every aspect of our society. She gave the call that if we are to survive as a people, the Church needed to begin to take a more proactive approach in affecting what is happening in the nation³¹.

This shows that despite the high level of corruption that takes place and affects various aspects of Jamaican society, there are social and community initiatives that are in place to move Jamaica forward toward justice.

STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

The list of black men that were imprisoned and killed for unfair reasons continues to rise. Although crime rates have fluctuated over the last decade, the number of black males held in incarceration is steadily increasing. Black communities in both the United States and Jamaica

³⁰ "The Independent Commission of Investigations." The Independent Commission of Investigations.

³¹ "The Role of the Church in Helping to Reduce the Levels of Crime and Violence in the Jamaican Society."

need more access to trade schools, rehabilitation clinics, community outreach centers, and other positive and educational self-help resources to give them an alternative to the guns, drugs, and liquor stores that permeate their neighborhoods. With the expanding information and statistics on this demographic, people are beginning to have more of an understanding of the circumstances that many of these young black men are born into, especially since many of them have a common background of poverty and drug abuse. Researching this information reinforced what I already knew about the role of race in contemporary U.S. and Jamaican society and further supported my knowledge with facts and statistics. I was also able to expand my knowledge and cohesively explain the role race plays in the criminal-justice systems of U.S. and Jamaican society; I came up with three factors: 1) Racism (whether dealing particularly with race or a classification of a group of people) can and has been reinforced through structural implications that uphold certain standards of society, 2) The implementation of race in institutions within society offers a clear depiction of who are deemed superior and inferior, and 3) historical context plays a significant role in how race is perceived and handled in today's society. Systematic racism in institutions, such as in education, government programs, the workplace, and law enforcement, is conditioned and engrained in society, which is why the human rights of prisoners are often ignored because they are dehumanized for their actions. Diminishing the negative association of black males to crime would lessen trauma put on the black society and keep more young black men out of prisons in the U.S. and Jamaica.

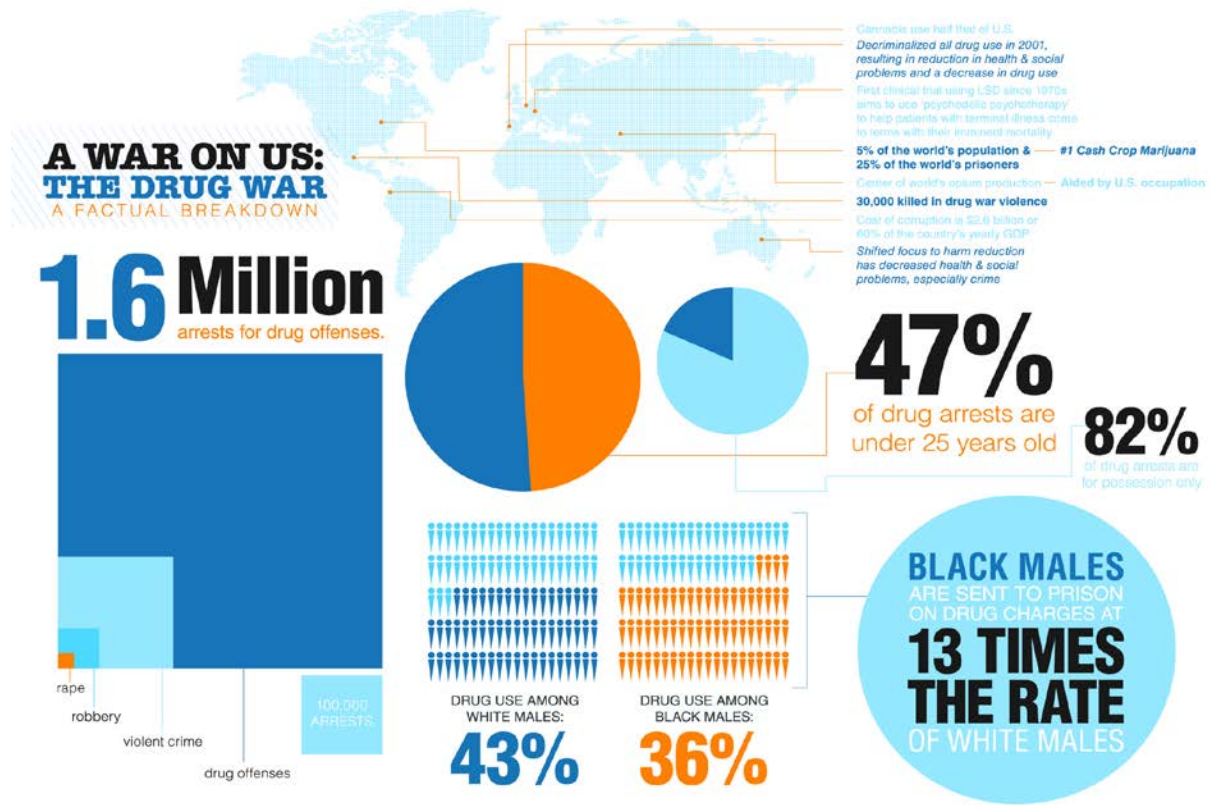
APPENDICES

Appendix A

1	Arcees, Nat.	White	Escambia	Adultery	April 5, 90	30	66 55	7	12	J. B. McClellan.	204
2	Cason, Sarah	..	..	Adultery	Sept. 25, 90	30	53 25	5	24	Jacob Gilmore.
3	Carter, Albert	Negro	..	Perjury	Oct. 2, 89	2	99 85	11	3	F. J. McCrary.	
4	Clansell, Rebecca	..	..	Adultery	Sept. 17, 90	30	31 30	3	15	J. M. Babb.
5	Dacus, Walker	..	..	Carrying concealed pistol	April 5, 90	20	78 90	8	..	C. C. Harold.
6	Hodge, Amos	..	..	Assault and battery	April 13, 90	6	75 95	8	..	E. M. Lovelace.
7	Hunter, Charlie	..	..	Burglary	Oct. 5, 89	2	67 40	7	15	Sloss Company.
8	Harris, Charlie	..	..	Adultery	Sept. 17, 90	30	31 30	3	15	J. M. Babb.
9	Jackson, Jack	..	..	Carrying concealed pistol	Sept. 25, 90	..	78 20	8	..	..
10	Jackson, Lizzie	..	..	Assault with knife	Aug. 19, 90	10	33 10	3	21	..
11	Jackson, Miles	..	..	Ass't and bat. with weap.	July 21, 90	60	21 50	2	12	Not given.
12	Lassiter, William	..	..	Manslaughter	April 5, 90	10	207 85	8	..	E. L. McMillan.
13	Lovelace, Yancy	White	..	Abusive language	Sept. 5, 90	6	100 90	..	..	John L. Bass.
14	McElroy, Edward	..	..	Ass't and bat. with weap.	July 14, 90	60	42 10	4	21	Sloss Company.
15	Spriggs, A. C.	Negro	..	Ab. lan. res. off. & escape	Jan. 8, 90	18	21 10	..	72	..	
16	Stephens, Henry	..	..	Burglary	Oct. 5, 89	2	59 10	6	17	..
17	Travis, Anthony	..	..	Escape	Aug. 18, 90	6	23 60	2	19	..
18	Tipton, Jim	..	..	Assault and battery	Sept. 18, 90	10	26 10	2	27	Washington Smith.
19	Webb, Willie	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	Allsop, Dave	Negro	Etowah	Assault with weapon	Aug. 30, 90	6	26 00	..	85	Sloss Company.	205
2	Bradford, Robt.	..	..	Grand larceny	Feb. 26, 90	2	61 60	..	205	..
3	Grant, Tom	..	..	Petit larceny	..	1	31 90	..	106	..
4	Hale, Jim	..	..	Burglary	..	2	94 60	..	315	..
5	Hale, Bud	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6	Jones, Will	..	..	Petit larceny	April 27, 89	4	134 20	..	447	..
7	Jones, Will	..	..	..	Aug. 1, 90	6	19 29	..	31	..
8	Johnson, Henry	..	..	..	Sept. 10, 90	6	24 75	..	82	..
9	King, Will	..	..	Abusive language	July 25, 90	1	103 95	..	346	..
10	Lester, J. W.	White	..	False pretenses	Feb. 25, 90	1	22 75	..	76	..	
11	Logan, Charlie	Negro	..	Car. concealed pistol	May 14, 90	110	40 00	..	133	..	
12	McMahan, Joe	..	..	Petit larceny	Dec. 24, 89	6	35 00	..	116	..
13	Starkie, Jessie	..	..	Car. concealed knucks	Feb. 28, 90	3	49 00	..	163	..
14	Smith, Henry	..	..	Petit larceny	June 23, 90	90	6 10	..	20	..
15	Smith, T. J.	..	..	..	Aug. 4, 90	12	6 50	..	26	..
16	Thomas, Jim	..	..	Abus. lan. & car. con. W	Feb. 28, 90	1	68 95	..	229	..
17	Vaughn, John	White	..	Petit larceny	April 27, 89	1	107 00	..	356	..	
1	Hackleman, Ino, W.	Negro	Fayette	Burglary	March 3, 90	2	38 95	4	10	Tennessee Company.	
2	McGee, Alfred	..	..	..	..	2	40 45	4	15	..
1	Bates, Ed.	..	Franklin	Ob. goods by false pro.	Sept. 16, 90	..	20	39 85	..	133	
2	Collier, Jesse	..	..	As. with pis. & C. C. W.	May 1, 90	..	40	82 40	..	275
3	Gandy, Jim	..	..	Ob. goods by false pro.	Sept. 24, 90	..	60	24 00	..	82
4	Sledge, Riley	..	..	Petit larceny	March 12, 90	7	19 50	..	85	..
1	Butler, Bill	..	Greene	Fal. pre. & rem. mor. prop	Nov. 25, 89	2	137 52	12	32	..	
2	Cookrill, Alfred	..	..	Burglary	Nov. 28, 89	1	80 00	6	12	..
3	Childs, Young	..	..	Petit larceny & false pre	May 7, 90	3	23 20	2	17	..
4	Davis, Dave	..	..	Grand larceny	June 5, 89	15	55 45	5	7	..
5	Davis, Will	..	..	..	May 29, 90	1	55 70	5	9	..
6	Evans, Wiley	..	..	Burglary	Nov. 25, 89	1	61 40	5	26	..
7	Gordon, Walter	..	..	Grand larceny	June 3, 89	18	44 60	4	7	..
8	Kirkland, Abe	..	..	Cruelty to animals	Aug. 11, 90	..	19 85	..	64	..
9	Lucius, Jim	..	..	Grand larceny	June 3, 89	15	63 20	..	6	..
10	Lucius, Lewis	..	..	Assault and profanity	March 10, 90	..	180	25 70	..	74

Alabama County Convict report of 1890, retrieved from PBS.org Historic Documents.

Appendix B



“The War on US: The Drug War, A factual breakdown” retrieved from ssdp.org (Students for Sensible Drug Policy)

Appendix C

Table 4. Major crimes reported for the period Jan 1st – Dec 31st for 2004–2009

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
MURDER	1471	1674	1340	1583	1618	1680
SHOOTING	1675	1646	1341	1448	1528	1667
RAPE	860	746	708	712	849	673
CARNAL ABUSE	409	346	434	508	610	511
ROBBERY	2103	2210	2009	1601	2660	3004
BREAK IN	2044	1653	1297	1493	2449	3780
LARCENY	238	186	112	99	325	511

Source: Government of Jamaica, Jamaica Constabulary Force, Statistics Unit.

²⁷ The Jamaican Police Watchdog, <http://www.jamaicanpolice.com>, (accessed June 1, 2009).

Major Crimes Reported for the period of January 1–December 31 for 2004–2009, retrieved from jamaicanpolice.com (The Jamaican Police Watchdog).

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