

"In **Private Prisons in America**, Michael Hallett offers a concise and compelling account of how race (and class) continues to shape the march toward greater investment in imprisonment. As Hallett demonstrates convincingly, people of color (and the poor) serve as raw material for a prison industry that produces a generous windfall for private corrections firms."--Michael Welch, Rutgers University, author of *Ironies of Imprisonment*

In a damning critique of the surge towards incarceration, especially among the African American population, Hallett locates race at the centre of the trend towards privatization of the US prison industry. Private prisons in the USA, Hallett argues, are best understood not as the product of increasing crime rates (they have been falling for many years), but instead as the latest chapter 'in a larger historical pattern of oppressive and legal discrimination aimed primarily at African American men' (p. 9). This book has much to offer the non-US reader. As a reader coming from a country which does not (yet) have any private prisons, but which has in recent years seen a large increase in the incarceration of ethnic minorities, this book is a timely reminder of the past, present and possible future of imprisonment internationally. \* *Punishment & Society: International Journal of Penology*

In sum, if you are interested in learning more about the historical development of the prison, with insights on the politics and the philosophy that have propelled the reemergence of privatization (from a critical race perspective), this book is a very good read. \* Robert L. Bing III - *Criminal Justice Review*

Overall, this is a very readable, engageable book that will hopefully draw attention to the history of racial discrimination in the criminal-justice system and warn about the danger of the prison system, public and private, having the potential to further victimize the African-American population. - *International Social Science Review*