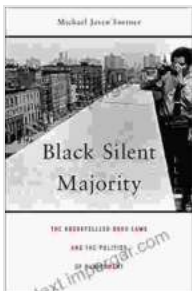


The Rockefeller Drug Laws: A Legacy of Punishment and Injustice

By John Ehrlichman

The Rockefeller Drug Laws, enacted in the 1970s, have had a devastating impact on the lives of millions of Americans, particularly Black and brown communities. These laws have led to mass incarceration, the criminalization of poverty, and the erosion of civil liberties. In this groundbreaking book, author John Ehrlichman takes a deep dive into the history and consequences of these draconian laws, arguing that they are a product of racism, classism, and political opportunism. Ehrlichman also offers a path forward, calling for the repeal of the Rockefeller Drug Laws and the implementation of a more just and equitable criminal justice system.



Black Silent Majority: The Rockefeller Drug Laws and the Politics of Punishment by Michael Javen Fortner

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 962 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 187 pages
Lending : Enabled



The History of the Rockefeller Drug Laws

The Rockefeller Drug Laws were enacted in the 1970s as part of a nationwide crackdown on drug use. These laws were particularly harsh, and they imposed mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses. The laws were named after Nelson Rockefeller, the then-governor of New York, who was a strong advocate for tough drug laws.



The Rockefeller Drug Laws had a devastating impact on the United States. The number of people incarcerated for drug offenses skyrocketed, and the majority of those incarcerated were Black and brown people. The laws also led to the criminalization of poverty, as many people were arrested and convicted for drug offenses simply because they were poor and could not afford to pay for drug treatment.

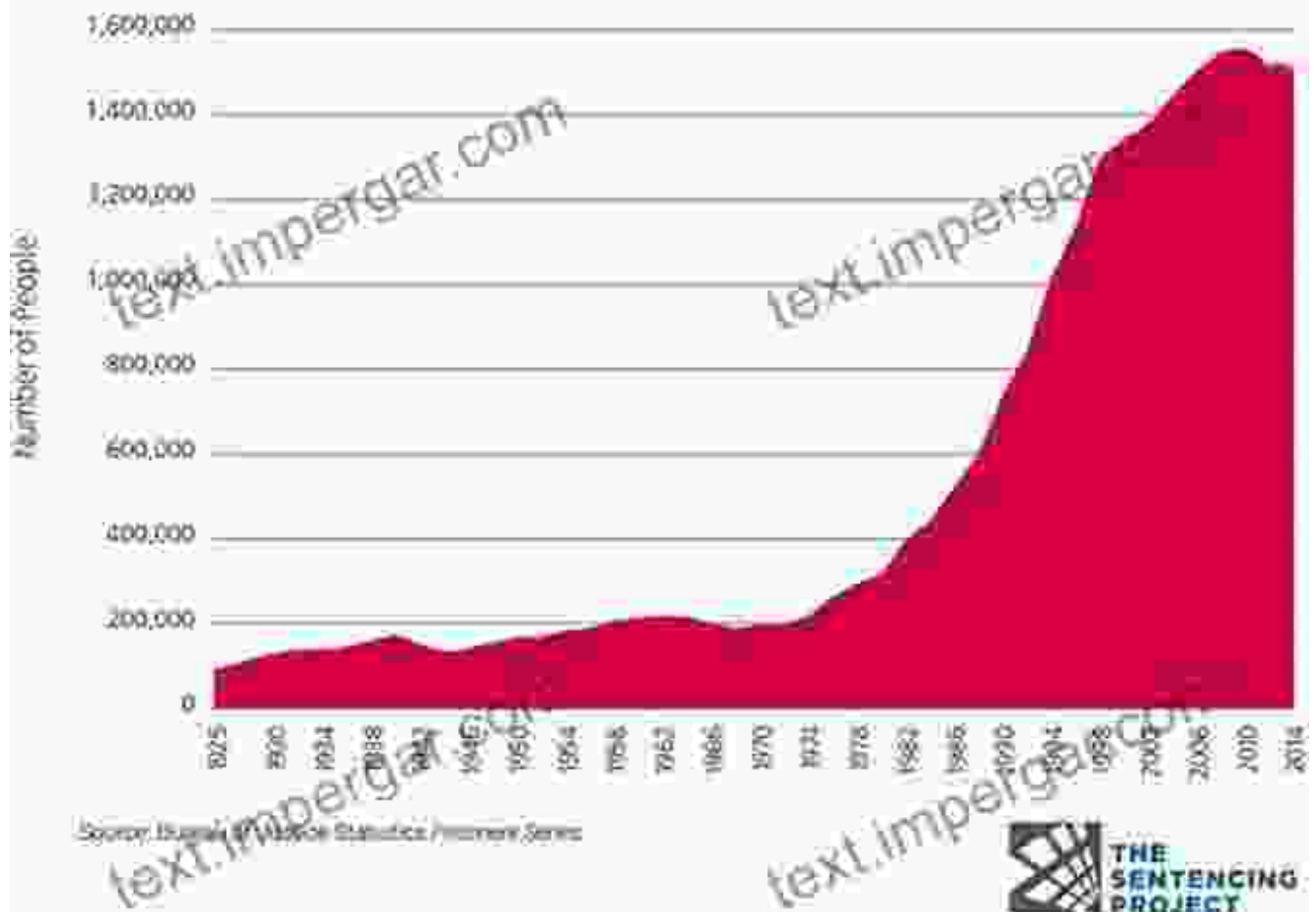
The Consequences of the Rockefeller Drug Laws

The Rockefeller Drug Laws have had a number of negative consequences for the United States. These laws have led to mass incarceration, the criminalization of poverty, and the erosion of civil liberties.

Mass Incarceration

The Rockefeller Drug Laws have led to mass incarceration in the United States. The number of people incarcerated for drug offenses has skyrocketed since these laws were enacted. In 1970, there were approximately 200,000 people incarcerated for drug offenses. By 2010, that number had grown to over 500,000. The majority of people incarcerated for drug offenses are Black and brown people.

U.S. State and Federal Prison Population, 1925-2014



Mass Incarceration

Mass incarceration has had a number of negative consequences for the United States. It has led to the breakup of families, the loss of jobs, and the erosion of communities. Mass incarceration has also cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

The Criminalization of Poverty

The Rockefeller Drug Laws have also led to the criminalization of poverty. Many people are arrested and convicted for drug offenses simply because

they are poor and cannot afford to pay for drug treatment. This is a form of discrimination that has had a devastating impact on poor communities.



The criminalization of poverty has led to a number of negative consequences. It has made it more difficult for poor people to get jobs, housing, and education. It has also led to the erosion of civil liberties for poor people.

The Erosion of Civil Liberties

The Rockefeller Drug Laws have also led to the erosion of civil liberties for all Americans. These laws have given law enforcement broad powers to stop and search people without probable cause. This has led to a number of cases where innocent people have been arrested and convicted for drug offenses.



The Erosion of Civil Liberties

The erosion of civil liberties has had a number of negative consequences. It has made it more difficult for people to exercise their rights to free speech, assembly, and privacy. It has also made it more difficult for people to hold the government accountable.

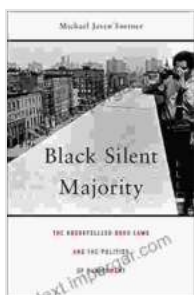
The Path Forward

The Rockefeller Drug Laws are a failed policy that has had a devastating impact on the United States. These laws are a product of racism, classism, and political opportunism. They have led to mass incarceration, the criminalization of poverty, and the erosion of civil liberties.

It is time to repeal the Rockefeller Drug Laws and implement a more just and equitable criminal justice system. This will require a fundamental shift in the way we think about crime and punishment. We must move away from a system that is based on punishment and retribution, and towards a system that is based on rehabilitation and restorative justice.

We must also invest in education, job training, and drug treatment programs. These programs will help to reduce crime and poverty, and they will make our communities safer for everyone.

The Rockefeller Drug Laws are a stain on



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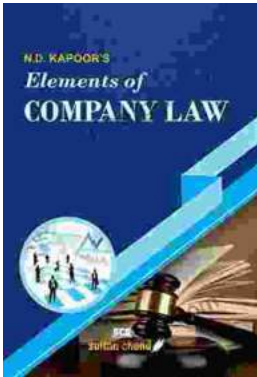
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