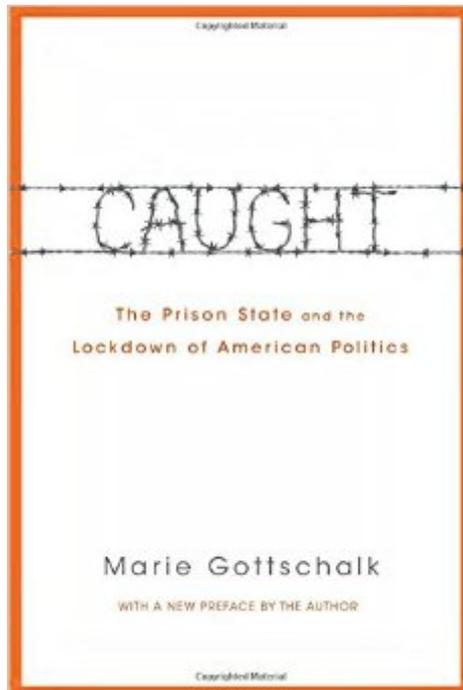


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# Caught: The Prison State And The Lockdown Of American Politics



## Synopsis

The huge prison buildup of the past four decades has few defenders, yet reforms to reduce the numbers of those incarcerated have been remarkably modest. Meanwhile, an ever-widening carceral state has sprouted in the shadows, extending its reach far beyond the prison gate. It sunders families and communities and reworks conceptions of democracy, rights, and citizenship--posing a formidable political and social challenge. In *Caught*, Marie Gottschalk examines why the carceral state remains so tenacious in the United States. She analyzes the shortcomings of the two dominant penal reform strategies--one focused on addressing racial disparities, the other on seeking bipartisan, race-neutral solutions centered on reentry, justice reinvestment, and reducing recidivism. With a new preface evaluating the effectiveness of recent proposals to reform mass incarceration, *Caught* offers a bracing appraisal of the politics of penal reform.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a truly excellent study on the forces behind the prison-industrial complex--- the ideology and economics of neoliberalism. It also shows how American society has become a police state and the economic beneficiaries are the Wall Street thieves. Our nation is being destroyed by those who care nothing about human rights, civil liberties, or the dignity of the person. The "prison state" is an affront to democracy and this is the book that shows why that is the case. Significantly, the role of economics and greed has so disrupted the proper functioning of constitutional democracy and fidelity to the Bill of Rights that the entire judicial system should be called into question. The callous

disregard of persons for the sake of private profit --- from human injustice and social misery --- points to the disparities of the American class structure. Inequality and growing disparities between classes point toward the death of American democracy. The middle-class is virtually gone and a long list of social expulsions from the centers of decision-making regarding the investments of wealth and economic distribution, have all combined to create a corrupted judicial system and punitive laws that punish the poor (social costs) and reward the rich (socialized benefits for the elite). The ONE PERCENT have corrupted American democracy with the ideology of neoliberalism and buying off politicians to rewrite laws to protect the vested interests and remove protections that should be in place for everyone else.

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