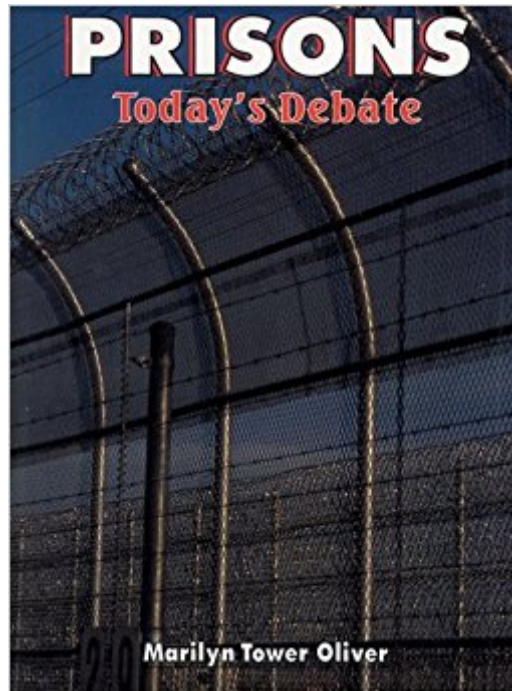




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Prisons: Today's Debate (Issues In Focus)



Synopsis

Discusses problems relating to prisons, examines the controversy of whether prisons should rehabilitate or punish, and looks at possible alternatives to the current prison system.

Book Information

Series: Issues in Focus

Library Binding: 128 pages

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Grade 7 Up. A broad overview that explores the numbers of facilities being built, the costs involved, and if and when incarceration is the appropriate punishment for a crime. Oliver looks at the history of prisons in America and at the treatment of prisoners throughout the Western world. She devotes one chapter to juvenile detention and another to providing a look at life inside a correctional institution. The death penalty is also briefly discussed. The remainder of the book focuses on a discussion of related issues: whether or not harsh sentences deter crime; if the objective of imprisonment should be rehabilitation or punishment; what rights, if any, prisoners should have; and whether parole should be an option. Alternatives to prisons such as boot camps and work-release programs are also addressed. The author writes in a straightforward, objective style, presenting both sides of some emotionally charged topics. The material is logically organized, which makes it easy to access. Black-and-white photographs complement the text. This book will satisfy the needs of students doing reports and general readers looking to formulate opinions. —Edward Sullivan, New York Public Library
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