

Capital Punishment

Hello! Today I am going to talk about capital punishment, and I must warn you this is a very serious issue, and this text is not for people under 16 years of age. There are 56 countries in the world, where **capital punishment**, which is the **death penalty**, exists now and is not going to be **abolished** in any foreseeable future; USA, Singapore, Taiwan are among them. There are 106 countries where the death penalty has been abolished. The world is clearly divided on this, and what are the arguments of each side?

Many people oppose capital punishment on moral grounds. They say such a barbaric way to deal with crimes, even the most **horrendous** ones, simply can not exist in a modern, developed society. Another argument is that there is always a chance that a person is accused wrongly, and if killed, such a death becomes an unforgivable error. One of the major arguments against the use of capital punishment in the United States is that there has been a long history of **botched executions**. A botched execution is the one that involves unanticipated problems or delays that cause unnecessary agony for the prisoner. It is estimated that about 3% of US executions in the period from 1890 to 2010 were botched. When an execution goes wrong, the inmates may catch fire while being electrocuted, strangled during hangings (instead of their necks broken) or administered the wrong dosages of lethal injections. So, I have just mentioned the main methods of execution: **lethal injection**, **electrocution**, **hanging** and I will also add **death by firing squad** or **by gunshot** to the list.

On the contrary, those who support capital punishment claim that it **deters crime**, improves the community by eliminating **recidivism**, and it provides “closure” to surviving victims or loved ones. That is a quote from Wikipedia.

Personally, I tend to oppose capital punishment as a penalty, because living without freedom, living in a cell, in a cage for life is worse than death. I also believe that there is always a chance of a **judicial error**, and anyone who has not **admitted one’s guilt**, must have a chance.

And what is your opinion? Are you for or against the capital punishment, and why? Please write your comments below.

Now let’s take a look at some of the vocabulary from this podcast.

Capital punishment, the death penalty – punishment by killing for a crime

Abolish – stop, put an end to

Horrendous – shocking, horrible

Botched execution – an execution that involves unanticipated problems or delays causing the prisoner to suffer

Lethal injection – injecting lethal dosages of drugs for execution

Electrocution – killing by electricity

Hanging – killing by suspending a person by the neck on a rope

Death by firing squad or by gunshot – killing by bullet

Deter crimes – discourage from committing a crime

Recidivism – committing crimes repeatedly

Judicial error – a mistake by a judge or court

Admit one's guilt – to agree that you are guilty

This is all for today. I hope you have found this podcast useful, and if you have any questions or want to leave a comment, please, do it on my website, www.nmodel.net, or you can also do it on the platform that you are using to listen to my podcast.

Goodbye!

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