

WHY THE CAPITALIST STATE WANTS YOU TO THINK AMERICA'S
PRISONER WAREHOUSING SYSTEM IS AN INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX WHEN IT'S NOT

If you can control the meaning of words,
you can control the people who must use the words.

- Phillip K. Dick

The capitalist masters running the spectacle, the Scum-In-Charge of the Kleptocracy (SICK), are very adept at manipulating reality through the manipulation of the language we use. Thus, they have created the shibboleth of the "Prison Industrial Complex." A misnomer that did not originate among prisoners inside America's prisons, which has little to do with what really goes on behind these walls and fences.

This misnomer deceives people into thinking prisons are a productive industry when, to the contrary, all they do is take away money from government programs that benefit people and their communities - education, healthcare, job creation, infrastructure, etc. - thus, facilitating the infamous school-to-prison pipeline currently decimating poor, predominantly minority, communities across America. NAACP, "Misplaced Priorities: Over Incarcerate, Under Educate," April, 2011.

Basically, the capitalist system controls the manufacture, delivery, sales, and storage of commodities. In the context of Milton Friedman's Chicago School economics - soi disant laissez faire that amounts to a state-sanctioned free trade free-for-all of unregulated businesses, the largest of which are contradictingly supported by billions in tax-dollar subsidies - it serves the agenda of the state to mislabel the massive warehousing of 2.3 million human beings in America as a "Prison Industrial Complex." Thereby, implying it's a business when, in fact, it is a sickening system of human warehousing, with prisoners categorized according to multiple levels of control - minimum, medium, maximum and super-maximum. The reality is prisoners plus minimal programs, jobs and rehabilitation equals a Prisoner Warehousing System.

One could say the justice system manufactures prisoners, when it strips millions of American citizens of their rights by sentencing them to prison, but mostly it's just selling them out behind the facade of due process. It's common knowledge the majority of prisoners' so-called crimes are drug-related, with widely used, easily obtainable drugs like marijuana made illegal to preserve the monopolies of the alcohol, tobacco and pharmaceutical industries. However, the primary reason these drugs were outlawed was to enable the SICK to hold the hammer of the justice system over the heads of a significant portion of the population predisposed to use the outlawed drugs, creating a threat and a distraction, while they loot the planet of resources and rob us of the fruits of our labor. In sum, they label us "criminals" when, in fact, they're the criminals. Certainly, there are few more criminal than the likes of Bill Gates, Lloyd Blankfein or the Waltons, or criminal gangs bigger than the U.S. military and Homeland Security.

To be clear, the justice system could arguably be considered a "Prisoner Industrial Complex" because it manufactures prisoners, but it's inarguable the prison system, run by the federal Bureau of Prisons and various states' Departments of Corrections, can only be considered a Prisoner Warehousing System because "warehousing" is what it does. Something prisoners have long known and it's time those outside of these walls and fences know it as well.

For example, the Pelican Bay State Prison - Security Housing Unit (PBSP-SHU) Short Corridor Collective Representatives' 5 September 2013 notice of the suspension of their recent hunger-strike states: "Those in power promote mass warehousing to justify more guards, more tax dollars for 'security,' and spend

mere pennies for rehabilitation...." Drawing an identical conclusion, Michelle Alexander, the author of The New Jim Crow, stated in a February New York Times article that: "For the prison system to warehouse human beings, prisoners must cease, in the minds of the public, to be human beings." (Emphases supplied.) Further, the U.S. Supreme Court explicitly recognized the warehousing of California's prisoners in its decision in Brown v Plata, 131 S.Ct. 1910 (2011).

Unable to convince those inside prisons they're part of a so-called "Prison Industrial Complex," the state seeks to convince everyone else that prisons in America are just bustling with productivity. A sure sign is its repeated use, ad nauseam, in the mainstream media and, unfortunately, by some in the alternative media, in a concerted effort to sell the fiction that prisons are profitable, when nothing could be further from the truth.

Regardless of the media clamor from some on the left about an expanding prison "industry" behemoth, the percentage of America's 2.3 million prisoners that are employed is decreasing, with less than 5% employed in manufacturing. Most prisoners don't have jobs, while those who do earn a \$1 a day, less, or nothing at all, at jobs involving a prison's operation - custodial, maintenance, laundry, food service, grounds-keeping, etc. Since, there's no way the state can profit from this labor except in reduced operational costs, why aren't the taxpayers benefiting? "Report: Total State Prison Costs at Least \$5.4 billion Over Budget Nationwide," PLN, April 2013, pp12-13.

This year California's Prison Industry Board (PIB) reported the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) lost \$24 million in two years while employing approximately 7,000, out of 133,000 (now 120,000), prisoners in "manufacturing, service, and consumable factories" at 24 facilities. As "service" does not constitute manufacturing, this is less than 4% of California's prisoners. "California Prison Authority Loses \$24 Million in Last Two Years but Reduces Recidivism," PLN, April 2013, p56. In June 2009, a report revealed the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Bureau of Correctional Industries (BCI) lost over \$7 million between 2004 and 2008. Michigan Office of the Auditor General, "Performance Audit of the Bureau of Correctional Industries, Department of Corrections," June 2009. This "industry" primarily manufactures and launders prisoner clothing, and employs less than 2% of Michigan's 43,000 prisoners.

The facts do not support the existence of a "Prison Industrial Complex" within the meaning of those words. The definition of industrial is "of or relating to industry." The primary definition of industry is "the commercial production and sale of goods," with the secondary and tertiary definitions emphasizing manufacturing. The American Heritage Dictionary, 4th Ed. (2000), p895. The definition of complex is "consisting of interconnected or interwoven parts, composed of two or more units." Ibid., p377.

Consequently, former president Dwight D. Eisenhower's much-vaunted "Military Industrial Complex" is correctly applied to the interwoven parts of military equipment manufacturers and the American military, which buys and uses the equipment, while "Prison Industrial Complex" is incorrectly applied to prisons which manufacture little or nothing and, therefore, cannot be interwoven with a buyer or consumer in a "complex." State and media notwithstanding, all those opposed to the corporate terrorist state's warehousing of prisoners should stop calling it what it isn't - a "Prison Industrial Complex" - and start calling it what it is - a Prisoner Warehousing System.

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