

## **PRISON USA :**

Reflections on Correctional Facilities in the 'Land of the Free'



**Kris:** America has 5% of the world's population, but 25% of its prison population. Is that not ironic in for a country claiming to be “the land of the free”?

**Ted:** Indeed. Freedom is but a myth for many segments of its population.

**Tim:** (sighing) The prison industry today resembles the slavery industry of yesterday. Those behind bars are systematically exploited, underpaid, and deprived of basic rights.

**Terri:** Sure. However, we must not forget what is profitable for a few is often deleterious for society overall.

**Sam:** Agreed. However, is there actually any way to end this dystopia?

**Ted:** (pausing) Hmm. In my view, America has become so dysfunctional that it's no longer redeemable. Perhaps a radically different approach to governance is needed?

**Kris:** Or perhaps computers could do a better job than mere humans? History reveals that humans are often irrational and short-sighted. Perhaps cool, dispassionate silicon chips would offer a better solution . . .

**- T Newfields**

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