

My thoughts,

The sin of GREED has infected a multifarious of souls throughout America. Not only that, the level in which sin has corrupted their minds has become immeasurable. Take-a-look at the version of usury discussed in the third paragraph. (no wonder it was banned from every country in the world; beginning with the Roman Empire and ending with the collapse of the Christian Church). These already rich corporations and bankers are so greedy by nature that even when some shit-bag country like Libya has laws installed preventing usury (they did so because it's banned by the true religion of Islam and also by the true Catholic Church) they bomb it to Oblivion. Who else doesn't allow usury? Oh yeah, it just happens to be Iran and N. Korea, the two countries we're attacking next.

After war as the Rothchild debt-based banks become installed, they'll receive a nice junk, out of every citizens pay-checks from there on out. Dare I ask, what do the dead soldiers get? Better yet, what do the alive soldiers get? What about all the people who're disgusted by this behavior, yet at the same time mock Christianity?

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“Consider this: despite the fact that violent crime in America [has been on the decline](#), the nation's incarceration rate has [tripled](#) since 1980. Approximately 13 million people are introduced to American jails in any given year. Incredibly, more than [six million people](#) are under “correctional supervision” in America, meaning that one in fifty Americans are working their way through the prison system, either as inmates, or while on parole or probation. According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the majority of those being held in federal prisons are [convicted of drug offenses](#) — namely, marijuana. Presently, [one out of every 100 Americans](#) is serving time behind bars.

Little wonder, then, that public prisons are [overcrowded](#). Yet while providing security, housing, food, medical care, etc., for six million Americans is a hardship for cash-strapped states, to profit-hungry corporations such as Corrections Corp of America (CCA) and GEO Group, the leaders in the partnership corrections industry, it's a [\\$70 billion gold mine](#). Thus, with an eye toward increasing its bottom line, CCA has floated a proposal to prison officials in 48 states offering to buy and manage public prisons at a substantial cost savings to the states. In exchange, and here's the kicker, the prisons would have to contain [at least 1,000 beds](#) and states would have agree to maintain a [90 percent occupancy rate](#) in the privately run prisons for at least 20 years.

The problem with this scenario, as Roger Werholtz, former Kansas secretary of corrections, [recognizes](#) is that while states may be tempted by the quick infusion of cash, they “would be obligated to maintain these (occupancy) rates and subtle pressure would be applied to make sentencing laws more severe with a clear intent to drive up the population.” Unfortunately, that's exactly what has happened. Among the laws aimed at increasing the prison population and growing the profit margins of special interest corporations like CCA are three-strike laws (mandating sentences of 25 years to life for multiple felony convictions) and [“truth-in-sentencing” legislation](#) (mandating that those sentenced to prison serve most or all of their time).

And yes, in case you were wondering, part of the investment pitch for CCA and its cohort GEO Group include the profits to be made in building “kindler, gentler” minimum-security facilities designed for detaining illegal immigrants, especially low-risk detainees like women and children. With immigration a persistent problem in the southwestern states, especially, and [more than 250 such detention centers](#) going up across the country, there is indeed money to be made. For example, GEO's new facility in Karnes County, Texas, [boasts](#) a “608-bed facility still smelling of fresh paint and new carpet stretch[ing] across a 29-acre swath of farmland in rural South Texas. Rather than prison cells, jumpsuits, and barbed wire fencing, detainees here will sleep in eight-bed dormitory-style quarters,

wearing more cozy attire like jeans and T-shirts. The facility's high walls enclose lush green courtyards with volleyball courts, an AstroTurfed soccer field, and basketball hoops, where detainees are free to roam throughout the day." All of this, of course, comes at taxpayer expense.

"And this is where it gets creepy," [observes](#) reporter Joe Weisenthal for *Business Insider*, "because as an investor you're pulling for scenarios where more people are put in jail." In making its pitch to potential investors, CCA points out that private prisons comprise a unique, recession-resistant investment opportunity, with more than 90 percent of the market up for grabs, little competition, high recidivism among prisoners, and the potential for "accelerated growth in inmate populations following the recession." In other words, caging humans for profit is a sure bet, because the U.S. population is growing dramatically and the prison population will grow proportionally as well, and more prisoners equal more profits.

In this way, under the pretext of being tough on crime, state governments can fatten their coffers and fill the jail cells of their corporate benefactors. However, while a flourishing privatized prison system is a financial windfall for corporate investors, it bodes ill for any measures aimed at reforming prisoners and reducing crime. CCA understands this. As it has warned investors, efforts to decriminalize certain activities, such as drug use (principally possession of marijuana), could cut into their profits. So too would measures aimed at reducing the prison system's disproportionately racist impact on minorities, given that the incarceration rate for blacks is [seven times](#) that of whites. Immigrants are also heavily impacted, with roughly [2.5 million people](#) having been through the immigration detention system since 2003. As private prisons begin to dominate, the many troubling characteristics of our so-called criminal justice system today — racism, economic inequality, inadequate access to legal representation, lack of due process, etc. — will only become more acute.

Doubtless, a system already riddled by corruption will inevitably become more corrupt, as well. For example, consider the "kids for cash" scandal which rocked Luzerne County, Penn., in 2009. For ten years, the Mid Atlantic Youth Service Corporation, which specializes in private prisons for juvenile offenders, paid two judges to jail youths and send them to private prison facilities. The judges, who [made over \\$2.6 million](#) in the scam, had more than 5,000 kids come through their courtrooms and sent many of them to prison for [petty crimes](#) such as stealing DVDs from Wal-Mart and trespassing in vacant buildings. When the scheme finally came to light, one judge was [sentenced to 17.5 years](#) in prison and the other [received 28 years](#), but not before thousands of young lives had been ruined.

In this way, minor criminals, from drug users to petty thieves, are being handed over to corporations for lengthy prison sentences which do nothing to protect society or prevent recidivism. This is the culmination of an inverted justice system which has come to characterize the United States, a justice system based upon increasing the power and wealth of the corporate-state.

No matter what the politicians or corporate heads might say, prison privatization is neither fiscally responsible nor in keeping with principles of justice. It simply encourages incarceration for the sake of profits, while causing millions of Americans, most of them minor, nonviolent criminals, to be handed over to corporations for lengthy prison sentences which do nothing to protect society or prevent recidivism. This perverse notion of how prisons should be run, that they should be full at all times, and full of minor criminals, is evil."

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