

Name

Instructor

Course

Date

Slavery as Incarceration

The US has the tragic experience of having had slavery exist within it at the legislative level. Since it formed a considerable portion of the national economy, the rejection and criminalization of slavery were rather long in emerging. Furthermore, these processes faced considerable opposition, and it took a great deal of time and effort for them to arrive at their current forms. Slavery existed for centuries, and because of that, the value of its abolishment should not be diminished.

The abolition of slavery started during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. The renowned Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution officially started freeing the enslaved people. In 1865, Congress passed it, making the US one of the last nations in the Americas to outlaw slavery (Hannah-Jones et al. 21). Formerly enslaved people were given freedom, and many later formed communities to make life with no masters easier. Nevertheless, former slave traders refused to cope with the new living standards and tried to circumvent or file appeals against the 13th Amendment.

Slavery justifiably intersects with many adverse deprivations, and one of the most appropriate is incarceration. Particularly, the concept of slavery is deeply connected to that of freedom, movement, and the restriction of life. Moreover, it is unnatural and immoral, since no one law, constitution or faith supports any of its principles. This idea is vividly represented in the

film *12 Years a Slave* by the words of Samuel Bass “...there is no justice nor righteousness in slavery (12 Years a Slave 01:43:13-01:43:18).” Every kind of servitude is mostly about full or partial imprisonment. One either has no right to do anything on their own will or has a strict life schedule they are forbidden from deviating from on pain of punishment or even death.

To sum up, abolishing such social phenomenon as slavery is nothing but a massive victory for common sense and humanity. It is hard to imagine it existing nowadays, and thanks to our predecessors, it has not survived through its previous years up to the 21st century. Freedom is everyone’s right and necessity so that no one can take it away.

Works Cited

Hannah-Jones, Nikole, et al. "The 1619 Project." *New York Times*, 18 Aug. 2019, pp. 4–98.

McQueen, Steve, director. *12 Years a Slave*. Dec. 2013, Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation.