

More Executions, Fewer Murders

by Earl P. Holt III

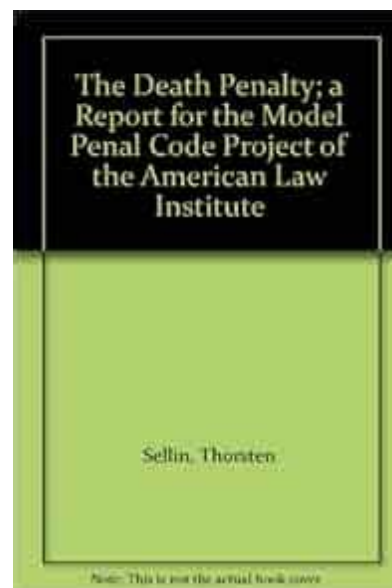
Violent crime in our large, urban areas has increased so dramatically, that many of these cities no longer submit their crime data for inclusion in the FBI's annual *Uniform Crime Reports* (UCR.) In fact, 30 percent of U.S. cities don't report their crime statistics to the FBI any longer. (Weihua Li & Jasmine Ricard. "[Why We Should Worry About Missing Crime Data.](#)" *The Marshall Project*, July of 2023.)

This has been the case for several years, but it resurfaced when Trump raised the issue during his debate with Kommie Harris last September, and was immediately *fact-checked* by the so-called "*moderator*," David Muir of the *Ashkenazi Broadcasting Corporation*. **BLUE** cities where most violent crimes occur -- like L.A., Chicago, New Orleans, San Francisco and New York -- no longer furnish complete crime data to the FBI, lest their residents discover how poorly they are protected.

Exacerbating the many insane "*justice reforms*" adopted by these **BLUE** cities, none of them has used capital punishment in decades. Their refusal to apply capital punishment is a complete triumph of ideology over empirical evidence. In light of accelerating levels of murder and mass shootings, lawmakers would be wise to reconsider capital punishment as a general deterrent to murder. Facing the likelihood of a firing squad or "*the needle*," its application has usually proved to be very effective at discouraging murderers.

The debate surrounding the effectiveness of capital punishment's deterrent effect is a settled fact. Yet, the Jews' Media and academia have relentlessly tried to obscure the evidence surrounding the **deterrent effect** of capital punishment for decades, although it is nearly beyond dispute. Their motive is clearly censorship and the desire to "*filter*" all news and facts that undermine their Marxist ideology.

Origins of the Lie: The quaint notion that capital punishment is not an effective general deterrent to murder came as a result of some very flawed research done in the late 1950s by a leftist Sociologist named Thorsten Sellin. As is often the case, he sacrificed objective truth to the "loftier" goals of ideology. That is, Sellin candidly acknowledged that he set out to "prove" that capital punishment did not deter murder in the U.S., and his bias was immediately evident in his results.



Sellin's flawed "methodology" compared U.S. murder rates in states with capital punishment statutes "**on their books**," against murder rates in states **without capital punishment statutes** of any kind. Using a simple-minded correlation technique, Sellin found no significant difference between these two categories of states. (Thorstein Sellin. **The Death Penalty**. American Law Institute, Philadelphia, 1959.)

The flaw in Sellin's methodology was the fact that many states with capital punishment statutes *on their books* never actually used them, and some – particularly in New England -- had not carried out an

execution for 50 years or more at the time of his study in 1959. This created a **fraudulent contrast** between these two categories of states, and obscured any deterrent effect that might have existed.

Naturally, empty-headed leftists in academia and the fake news media seized on and perpetuated Sellin's erroneous conclusions by engaging in a massive disinformation campaign. This ensured that the public has remained egregiously misinformed about the true deterrent effect of capital punishment for more than 60 years.

Ehrlich to the Rescue: Those who value objective truth as well as good government are forever indebted to an economist named Isaac Ehrlich, who reexamined the deterrent effect of capital punishment following the Supreme Court's ill-considered decision in ***Furman v. Georgia*** (1972,) which instituted a "*moratorium*" on executions in the United States.

In a more elegant and sophisticated design than that of Thorsten Sellin, Ehrlich's model created three categories of states: First, states that had capital punishment statutes and which actually **used them**; Second, states which had capital punishment statutes but **never used them**; And, third, states which **had no** capital punishment statutes of any kind on their books.

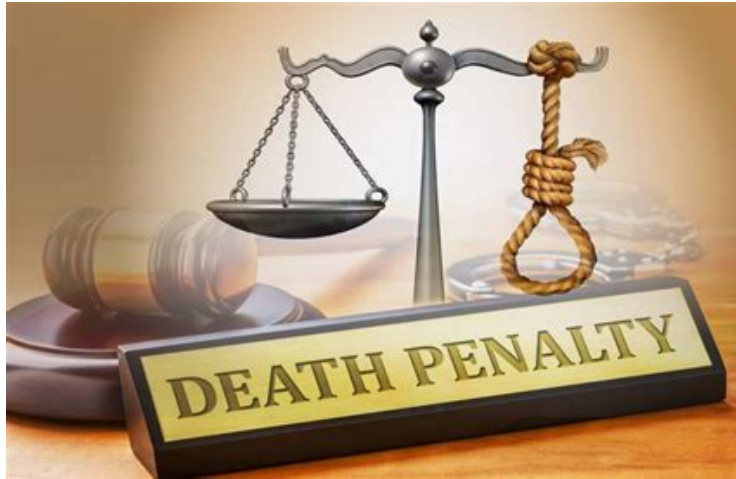
Using a far more sophisticated ***Simultaneous Equation-Regression Analysis***, Ehrlich found that the application of capital punishment has a demonstrable and powerful general deterrent effect upon the crime of murder. In fact, Ehrlich found that **FOR EVERY PERSON EXECUTED FOR THE CRIME OF MURDER IN THE UNITED STATES, IT SPARED THE LIVES OF BETWEEN SEVEN AND EIGHT INNOCENT VICTIMS.** (Isaac Ehrlich. "*The Deterrent Effect of Capital Punishment.*" **AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW**, June of 1975.)

Ehrlich based his theory of criminal deterrence on a model first popularized by *Nobel Laureate* Gary Becker, which theorized that

criminals respond to costs and benefits in the commission of their crimes, just as most people do in every other aspect of their lives. Even criminals are not exempt from weighing the costs and benefits of a given behavior, even if that behavior happens to be murder.



Isaac Ehrlich



Ehrlich's hypothesis was fairly straightforward: increasing the severity of a given punishment to potential murderers -- in combination with the likelihood of its application -- should result in a lower incidence of the behavior studied, in this case, the crime of murder.

Interestingly, Ehrlich's later use of identical methodologies to study the incidence of other, non-capital crimes, generated little controversy within legal and so-called *scientific* circles. This proves that the true opposition to his capital punishment research was political and ideological in nature, rather than scientific.

Several more recent studies in this century have demonstrated a stunning vindication of Isaac Ehrlich's original research, and many show

an even greater deterrent effect from capital punishment than that first demonstrated by Ehrlich in his pioneering study in 1975.

Hence, **Dezhbakhsh and Shepherd** found that each U.S. execution for the crime of murder **SAVED THE LIVES OF 18 INNOCENT VICTIMS** by virtue of its general deterrent effect. (H. Dezhbakhsh and J. Shepherd. "The Deterrent Effect of Capital Punishment." *Economic Inquiry*, Vol 44, July of 2006.)

Cloninger and Marchesini found that the 13-month Texas Death Penalty Moratorium (From January of 1996 to February of 1997) **PRECIPITATED THE MURDERS OF 90 ADDITIONAL VICTIMS**, whereas reinstating executions "significantly" reduced the Texas murder rate. (D. Cloninger and R. Marchesini. "Execution Moratorium is No Holiday for Homicides." 35 *Applied Economics* 569 -- 2001.)

Paul Zimmerman, a former Reagan Administration Economist, found that each U.S. execution **SPARED THE LIVES OF 14 INNOCENT VICTIMS** as a result of capital punishment's deterrent effect. (P. Zimmerman. "State Executions, Deterrence, and the Incidence of Murder." *Journal of Applied Economics*, Vol. VII, May of 2004.)

Conclusive Evidence: In his review of the most recent studies on the deterrent effect of capital punishment for the **Senate Judiciary Committee** on February 1, 2006, former Reagan Economic Adviser Paul Rubin summarized the literature in this manner:

"The literature is easy to summarize: almost all modern studies and all the refereed studies find a significant deterrent effect of capital punishment. Only one study questions these results. To an economist, this is not surprising: we expect criminals and potential criminals to respond to sanctions, and execution is the most severe sanction available."

There's an old adage bemoaning the fact that *“A lie is half-way around the world before the truth can get its boots on...”* This is particularly true in the case of the Jews' Media and the Social Sciences, which have been largely subverted by Cultural Marxists in the course of their *“long march through the institutions.”*

If individual states are *REALLY* concerned about deterring accelerating rates of mass shootings and murders, they should begin by resurrecting capital punishment statutes. Otherwise, their efforts will remain just the usual empty rhetoric of feckless politicians.