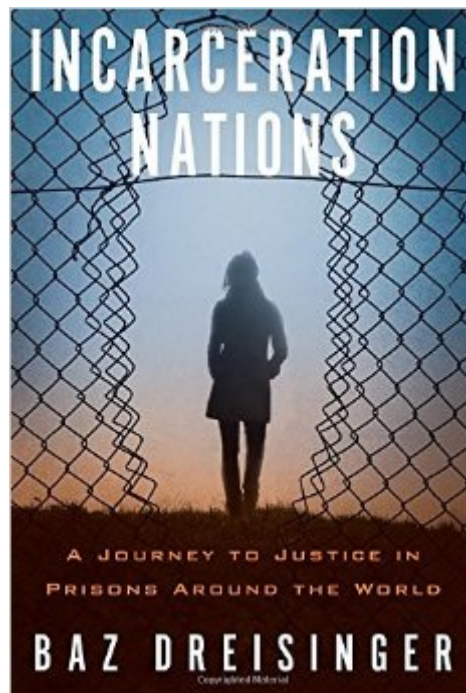


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Incarceration Nations: A Journey To Justice In Prisons Around The World



Synopsis

Baz Dreisinger travels behind bars in nine countries to rethink the state of justice in a global context. Beginning in Africa and ending in Europe, *Incarceration Nations* is a first-person odyssey through the prison systems of the world. Professor, journalist, and founder of the Prison-to-College-Pipeline, Dreisinger looks into the human stories of incarcerated men and women and those who imprison them, creating a jarring, poignant view of a world to which most are denied access, and a rethinking of one of America's most far-reaching global exports: the modern prison complex. From serving as a restorative justice facilitator in a notorious South African prison and working with genocide survivors in Rwanda, to launching a creative writing class in an overcrowded Ugandan prison and coordinating a drama workshop for women prisoners in Thailand, Dreisinger examines the world behind bars with equal parts empathy and intellect. She journeys to Jamaica to visit a prison music program, to Singapore to learn about approaches to prisoner reentry, to Australia to grapple with the bottom line of private prisons, to a federal supermax in Brazil to confront the horrors of solitary confinement, and finally to the so-called model prisons of Norway. *Incarceration Nations* concludes with climactic lessons about the past, present, and future of justice.

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The American criminal justice system is undergoing a reevaluation at many levels. In recent years, drug prosecutions, imposition of the death penalty, wrongful convictions and the militarization of our police have all been placed under the microscope of public discontent. Inevitably these discussions lead to one fact that cannot be avoided: the realization that America imprisons more of its citizens

than any other nation in the world. Despite being only five percent of the world's population, America has nearly 25 percent of the world's adult prisoners. More than half of those inmates are serving lengthy terms for the sale of drugs. In California alone, 3,700 inmates who never committed a violent crime are serving sentences of 25 years to life. After decades of advocating for longer prison sentences, Americans have come to the realization that they are not the answer. At the same time, there are no easy solutions to solving the problems created by the modern prison system. Professor Baz Dreisinger teaches in the English department at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She is the founder and Academic Director of the Prison-to-College-Pipeline, which offers college courses and reentry programs to incarcerated men throughout New York State and seeks to increase access to higher education for individuals during and after incarceration. In *INCARCERATION NATIONS*, Dreisinger undertook a journey to the prison communities of nine countries around the world. Her goal was to determine how prisons are functioning. She wanted to discover what might make prisons successful, as well as reflect on the injustice and inhumanity that too often seems to be the common thread of incarceration regardless of national origin.

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