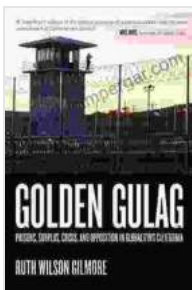


# Prison Surplus Crisis and Opposition in Globalizing California America

The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, with over 2 million people behind bars. California is one of the states with the highest incarceration rates, with over 160,000 people in prison. This mass incarceration has created a "prison surplus crisis," in which there are more people in prison than there are beds to hold them.



## Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California (American Crossroads Book

21) by Ruth Wilson Gilmore

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2456 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 418 pages
Lending	: Enabled



The prison surplus crisis has had a devastating impact on California. It has led to overcrowding, violence, and unsanitary conditions in prisons. It has also cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

In recent years, there has been a growing movement to resist the prison surplus crisis in California. Activists and community organizations have

fought to reduce the number of people in prison, improve conditions in prisons, and end the use of mass incarceration.

This book explores the prison surplus crisis in California and the opposition to it. It examines the historical, political, and economic factors that have led to the mass incarceration of people in the state, and the ways in which activists and community organizations have fought to resist this trend.

## **Historical Roots of the Prison Surplus Crisis**

The prison surplus crisis in California has its roots in the state's long history of racism and discrimination. California was founded as a white settler colony, and the state's early laws were designed to disenfranchise and control people of color. These laws included the Black Codes, which restricted the rights of African Americans, and the Chinese Exclusion Act, which banned Chinese immigration.

In the early 20th century, California began to adopt a series of policies that led to the mass incarceration of people of color. These policies included the "three strikes" law, which imposed life sentences on people convicted of three felonies, and the "war on drugs," which led to the disproportionate arrest and incarceration of Black and Latino people.

These policies had a devastating impact on communities of color in California. By the 1990s, California had one of the highest incarceration rates in the country, and the vast majority of people in prison were people of color.

## **The Political Economy of the Prison Surplus**

The prison surplus crisis in California is not simply a product of racism and discrimination. It is also a product of the state's political economy.

California has a large and powerful prison industry. The state spends billions of dollars each year on prisons, and this money generates jobs and profits for a variety of companies. These companies have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo, and they have lobbied against reforms that would reduce the number of people in prison.

The prison industry is also supported by a number of powerful politicians. These politicians have received campaign contributions from the prison industry, and they have supported policies that benefit the industry.

The result is a political economy that is stacked against reform. The prison industry and its allies have a strong interest in maintaining the status quo, and they have the power to block reforms that would reduce the number of people in prison.

## **Resistance to the Prison Surplus**

In recent years, there has been a growing movement to resist the prison surplus crisis in California. This movement includes activists, community organizations, and even some politicians.

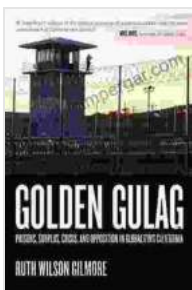
Activists have organized protests, rallies, and marches to demand an end to mass incarceration. They have also lobbied for reforms that would reduce the number of people in prison, improve conditions in prisons, and end the use of the death penalty.

Community organizations have also played a vital role in the resistance to the prison surplus. These organizations have provided support to people who have been impacted by mass incarceration, and they have worked to build alternatives to prison.

Even some politicians have begun to speak out against the prison surplus. In 2016, Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill that reduced the number of people who could be sentenced to life in prison. This bill was a small step, but it was a sign that the political tide may be turning against mass incarceration.

The prison surplus crisis in California is a complex problem that has its roots in racism, discrimination, and the political economy of the state. However, there is a growing movement to resist this crisis. Activists, community organizations, and even some politicians are working to reduce the number of people in prison, improve conditions in prisons, and end the use of mass incarceration.

This book tells the story of the prison surplus crisis in California and the opposition to it. It is a story of struggle, hope, and resistance. It is a story that is still unfolding, but it is a story that is worth telling.



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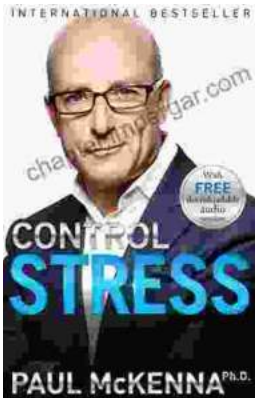
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