
Session Two:

How We Got Here: Race and the Corporate Counter-Revolution

“There has been an enormous concentrated, coordinated business offensive beginning in the 70s to try to beat back the egalitarian efforts of recent decades.” – **Noam Chomsky**, *Requiem for the American Dream*

“In the late 1960s and early 1970s U.S. business elites feared that public opinion was turning dangerously against capitalism.... In response, they launched a counter-revolution.” – **Naomi Klein**, *This Changes Everything*

The Nation.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

The Powell Memo Helped Create Project 2025

A new investigative podcast shows the toxic legacy of the founding father of modern American plutocracy.

JEET HEER

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Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. announcing his retirement from the court.
(Diana Walker / Getty Images)

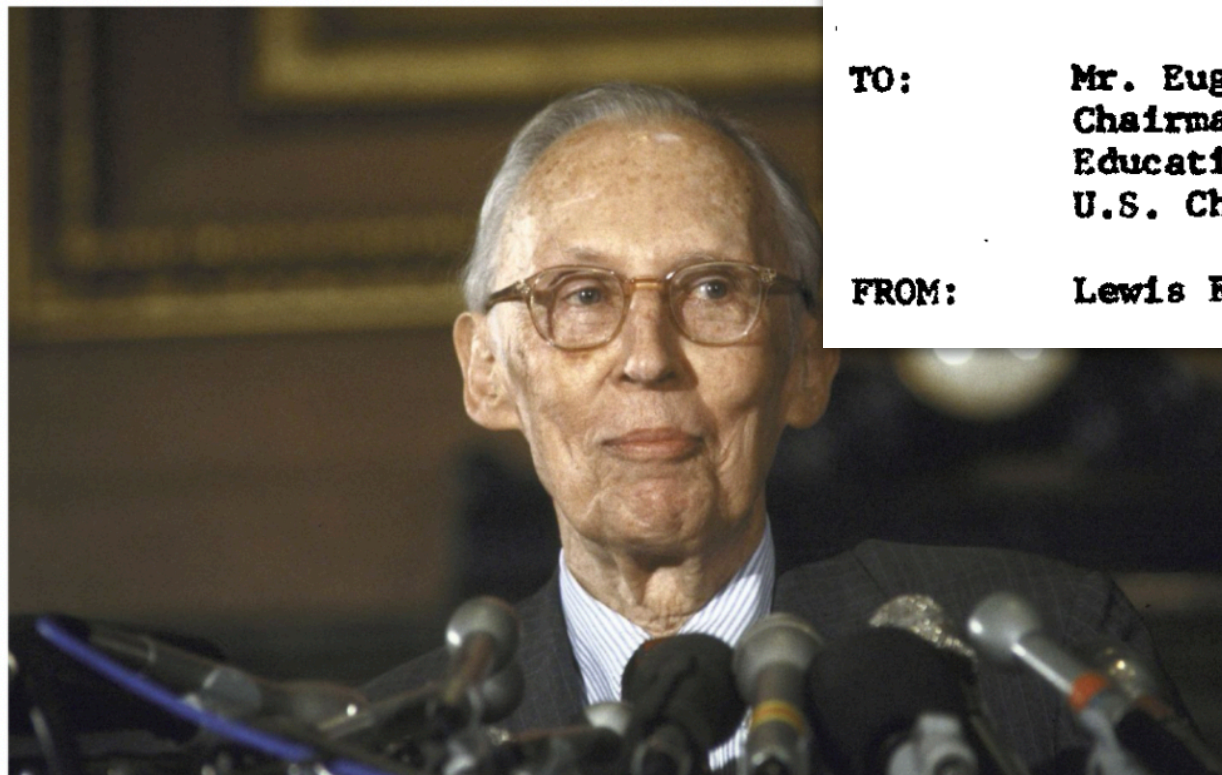
The Nation.

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(Diana Walker / Getty Images)

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

ATTACK ON AMERICAN FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM

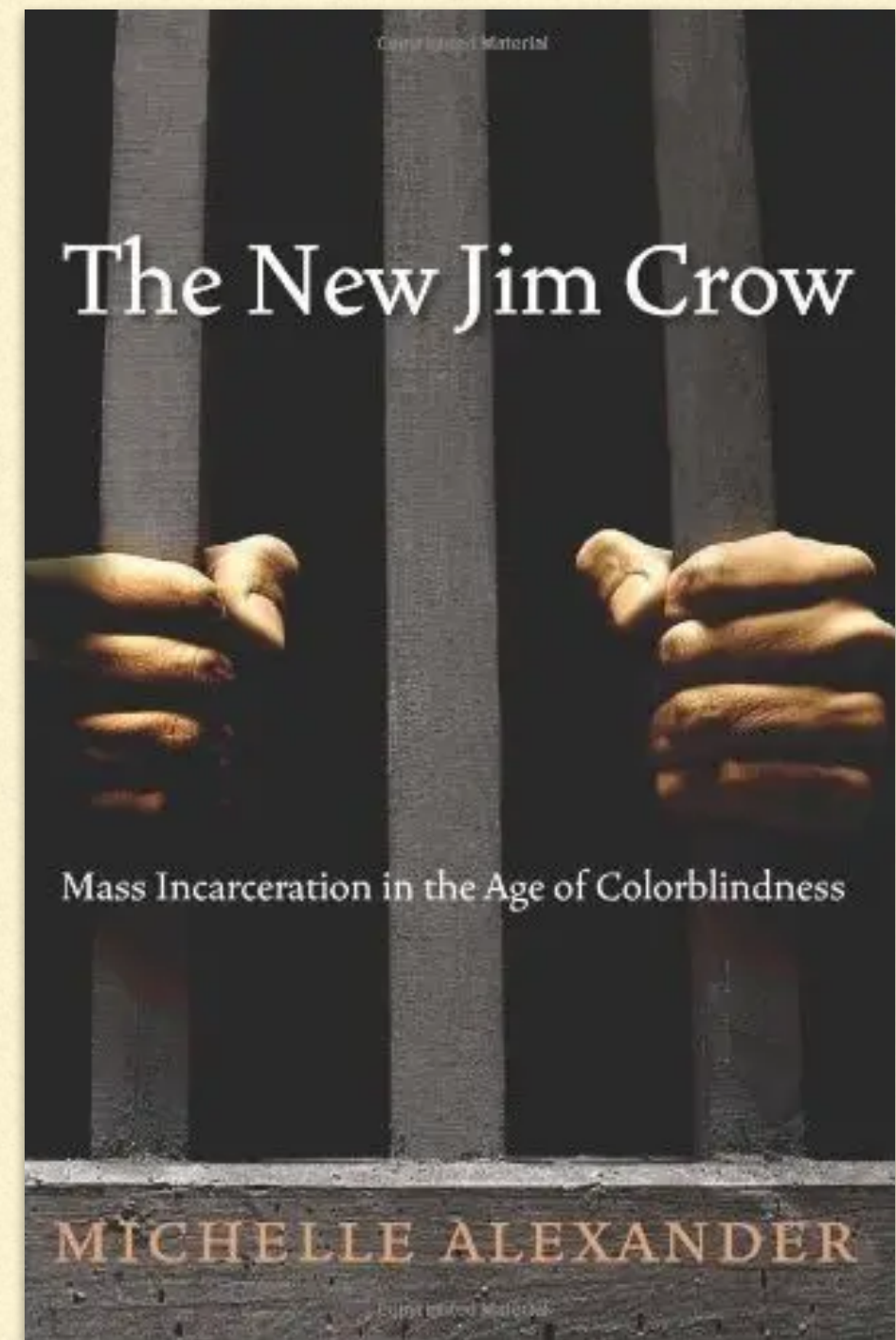
TO: Mr. Eugene B. Sydnor, Jr.
Chairman
Education Committee
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

DATE: August 23, 1971

FROM: Lewis F. Powell, Jr.

“Conservative white elites began, once again, to search for a new racial order that would conform to the needs and constraints of the time... [They] found they could install a new racial caste system... by demanding “law and order” rather than “segregation forever”... Race had become, yet again, a powerful wedge, breaking up what had been a solid coalition based on economic interests of the poor and the working and lower-middle classes.”

– **Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow***



\$7.95

MADISON BOOKS

A NEW ROAD FOR AMERICA

THE NEOLIBERAL MOVEMENT

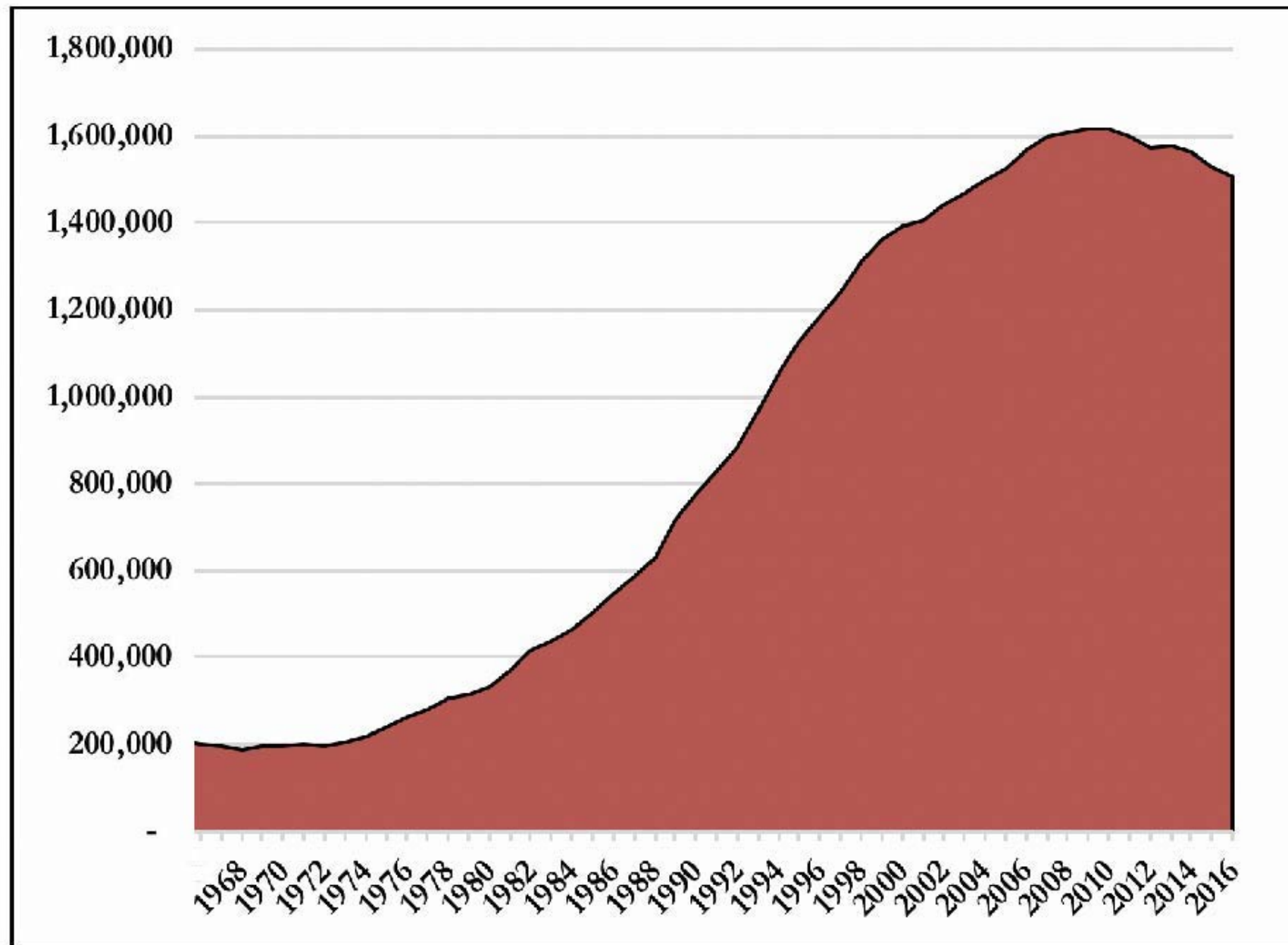
JONATHAN ALTER ★ KEN AULETTA ★ BRUCE
BABBITT ★ JAMES DAVID BARBER ★ PETER
BARNES ★ TAYLOR BRANCH ★ DONALD BURR
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JUSTICE RICHARD NEELY ★ MANCUR OLSON
CHARLES PETERS ★ DINA RASOR ★ EARL C.
RAVENAL ★ PAUL SAVAGE ★ PETER SHAPIRO
WALTER SHAPIRO ★ JAMES STEINBERG ★ PHILIP
STERN ★ KATHLEEN KENNEDY TOWNSEND
DANIEL YANKELOVICH

EDITED BY CHARLES PETERS
AND PHILLIP KEISLING

“We are liberals [who] still believe in liberty and justice and a fair chance for all, in mercy for the afflicted and help for the down and out. But we no longer automatically favor unions and big government or oppose the military and big business.”

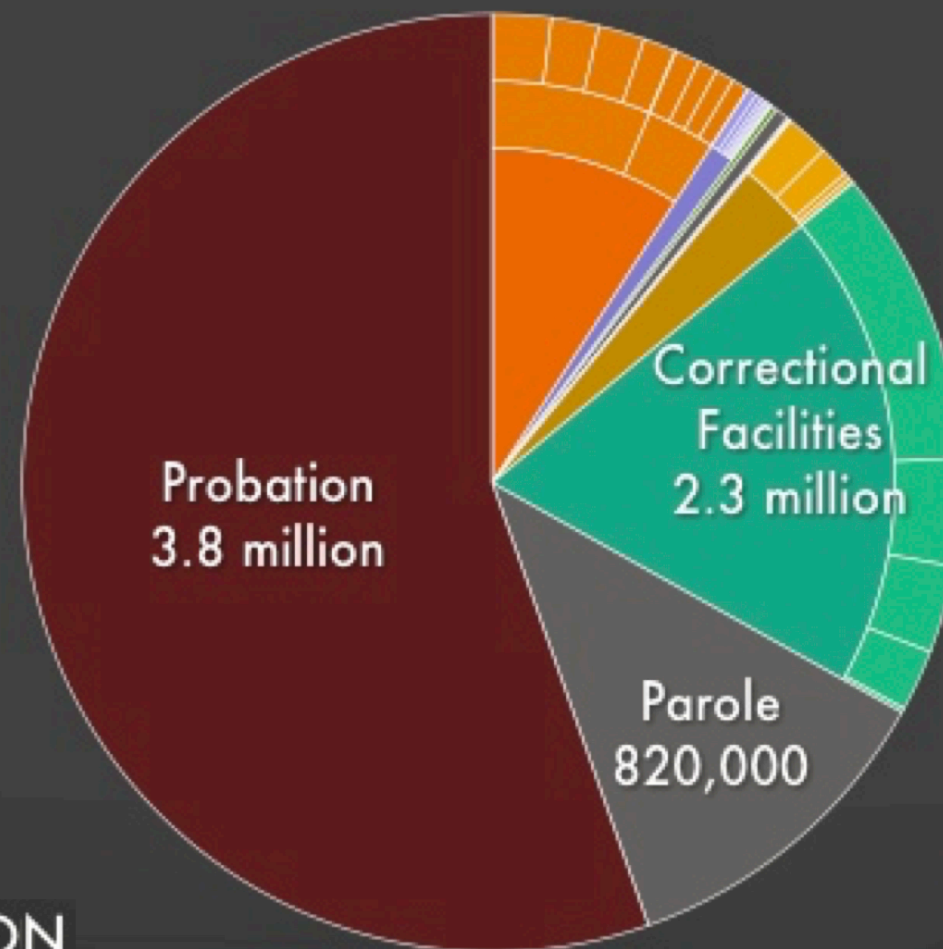
– Charles Peters

Prison System Growth



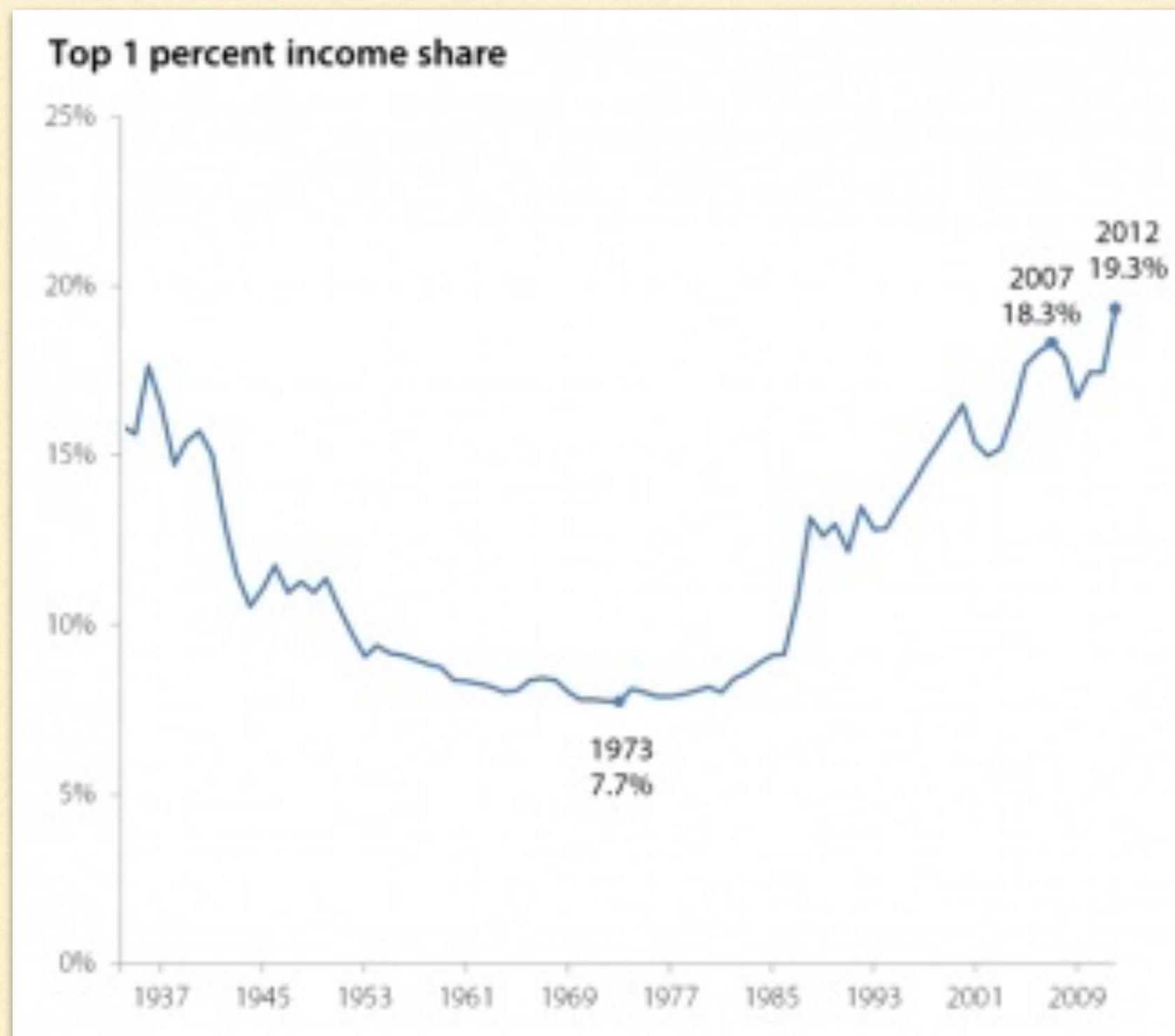
Confinement is just one slice of the correctional control pie

The U.S. justice system controls more than 7 million people, more than half of whom are on probation.



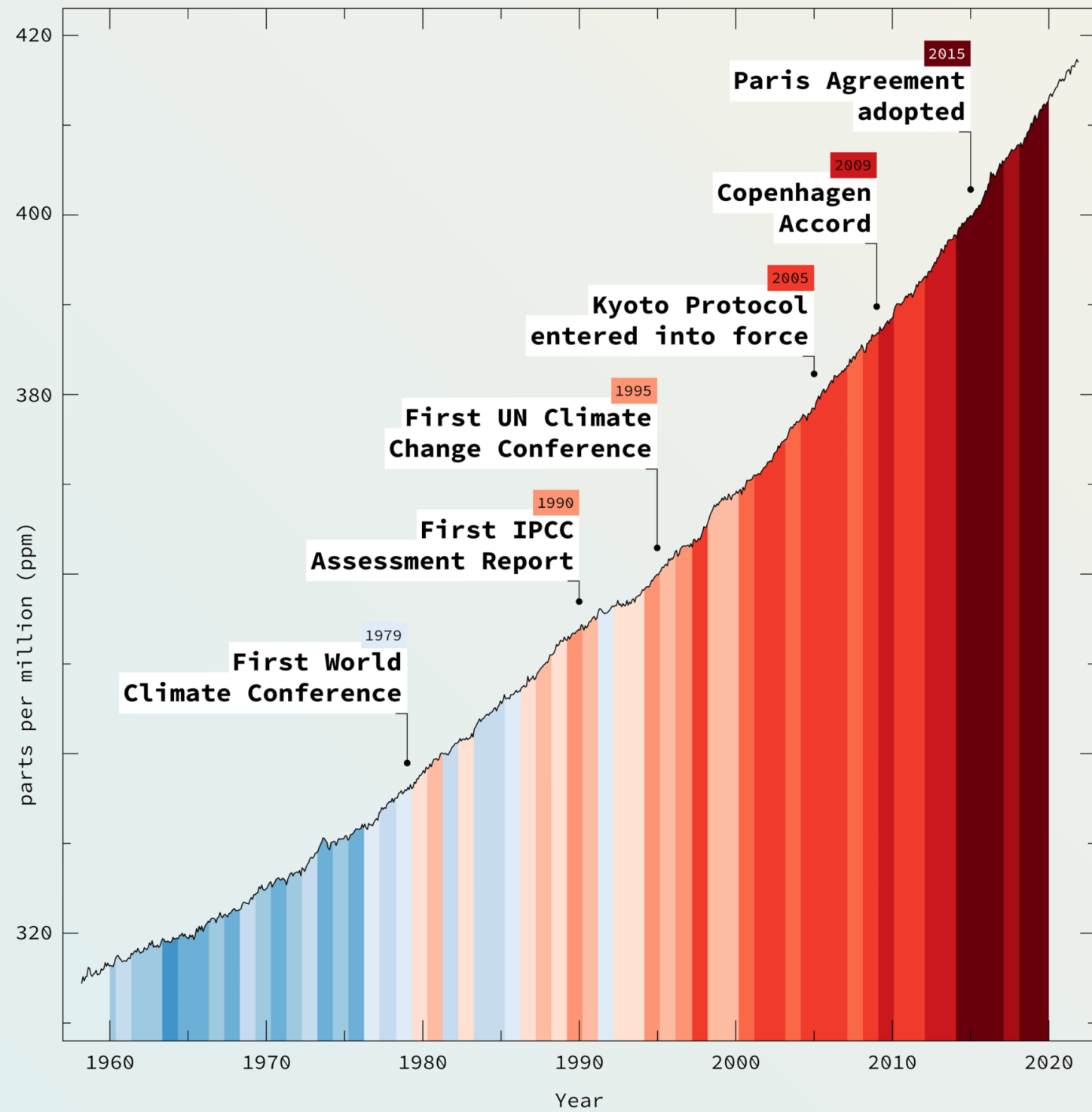
PRISON
POLICY INITIATIVE

Sources and data notes: See <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2016.html>



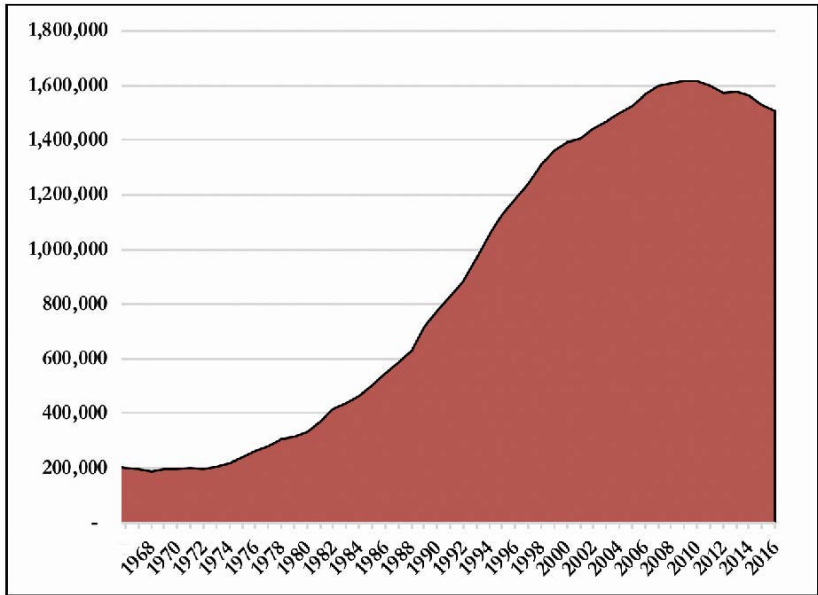
Trends in Atmospheric CO₂ vs Global Temperature Change

#climateINACTIONstripes

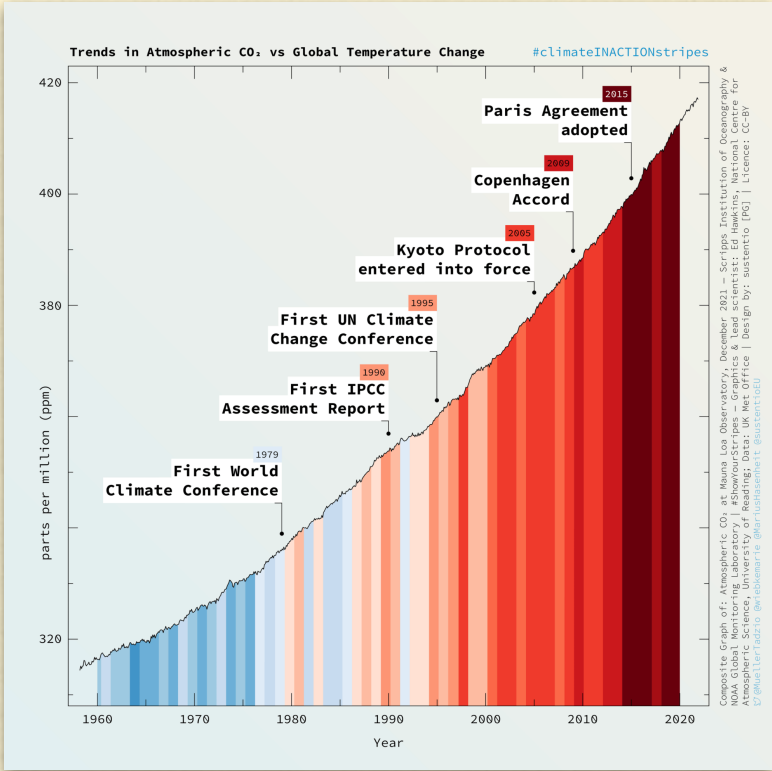


Composite Graph of: Atmospheric CO₂ at Mauna Loa Observatory, December 2021 – Scripps Institution of Oceanography & NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory | #ShowYourStripes – Graphics & lead scientist: Ed Hawkins, National Centre for Atmospheric Science, University of Reading; Data: UK Met Office | Design by: sustentio [PG] | Licence: CC-BY
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Prison System Growth

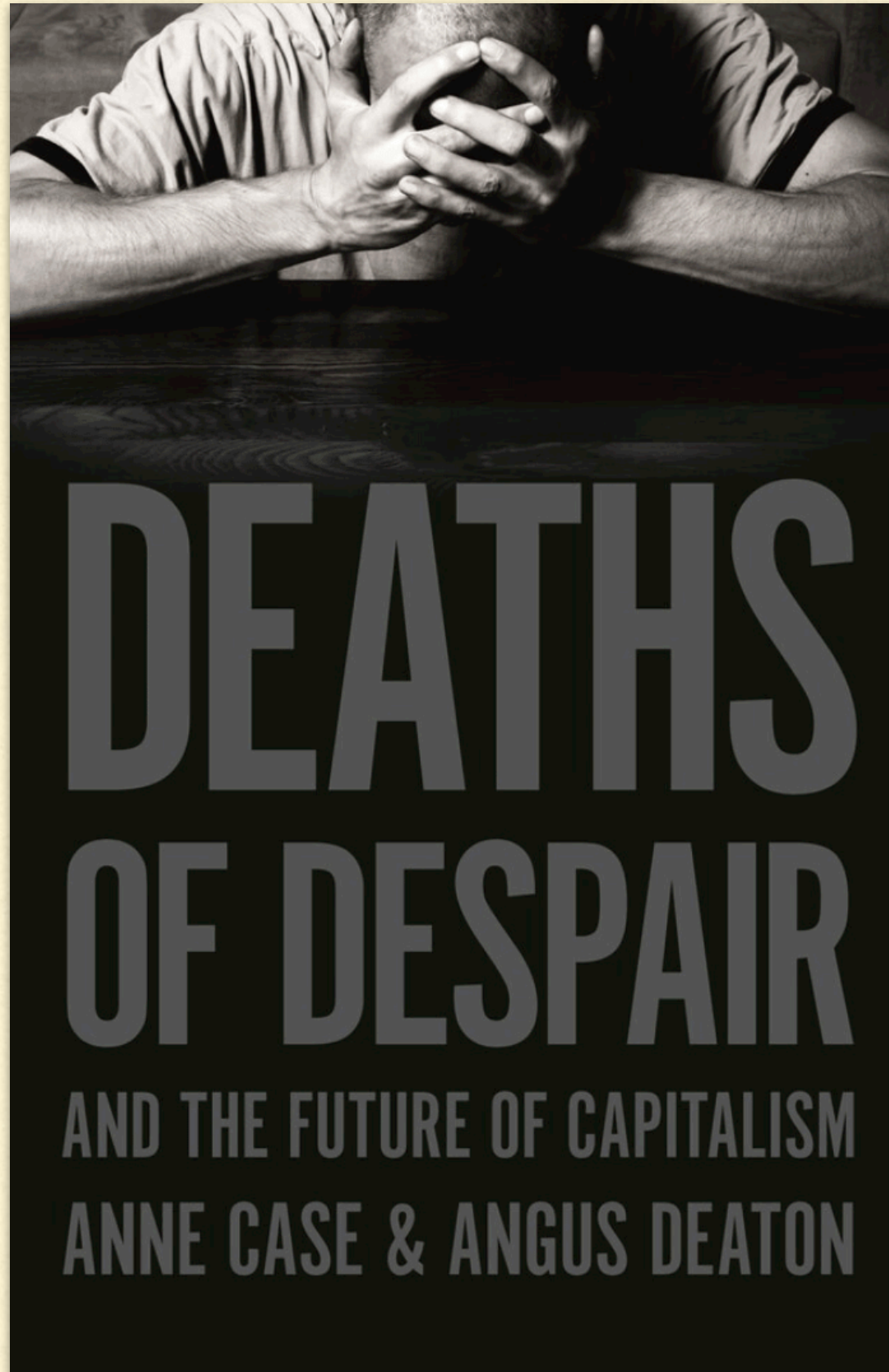


Top 1 percent income share



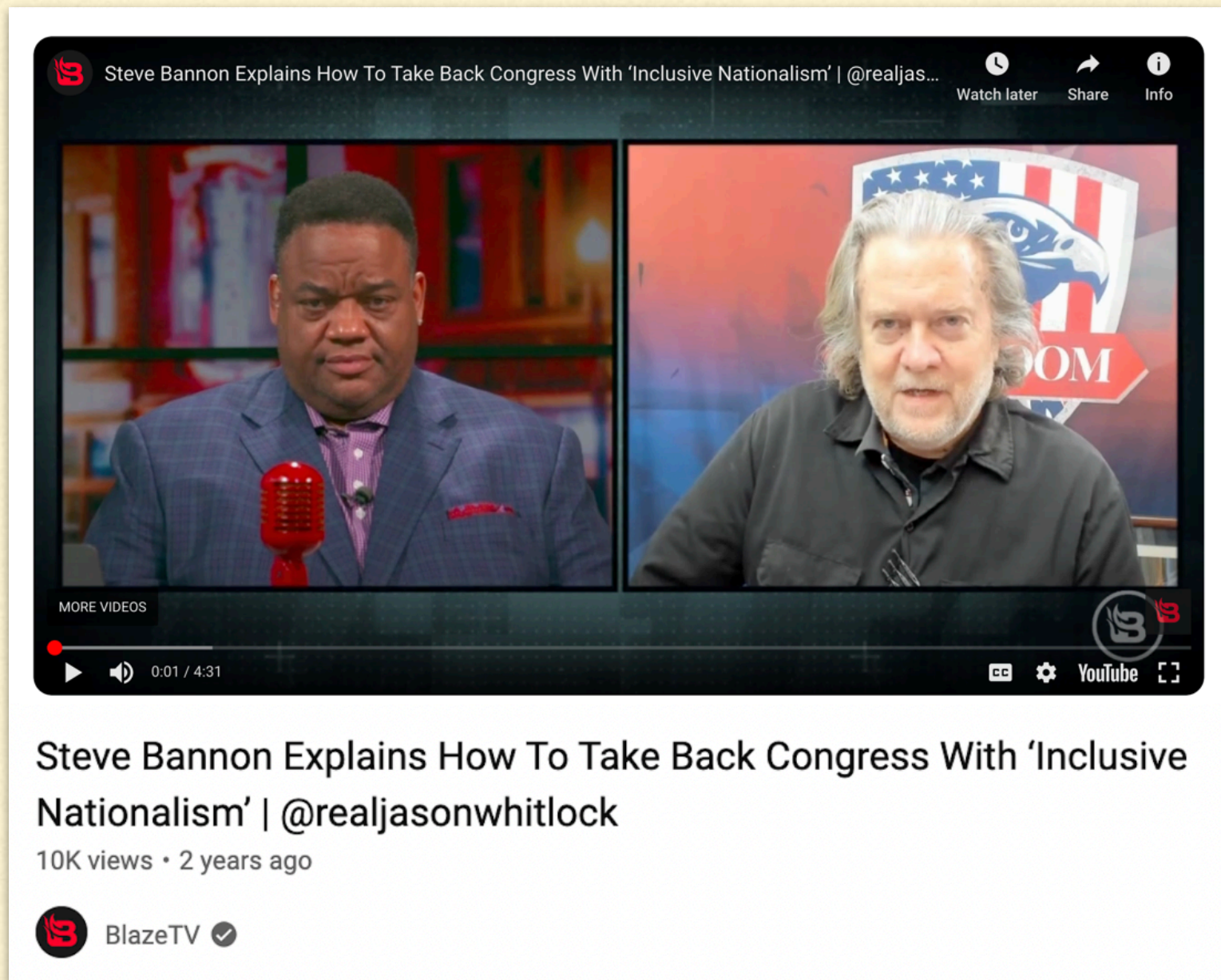
Coded Racism

- “Welfare Queens”
 - “Super-Predators”
 - “Thugs”
 - “Criminal, Job-stealing
Illegals”
 - “Terrorists”
 - “Law and Order”
 - “Hardworking
Americans”
 - “The Silent Majority”
 - “Forgotten Americans”
 - “Real Americans”
 - “The Heartland”
 - “Suburban voters
threatened by crime”
-

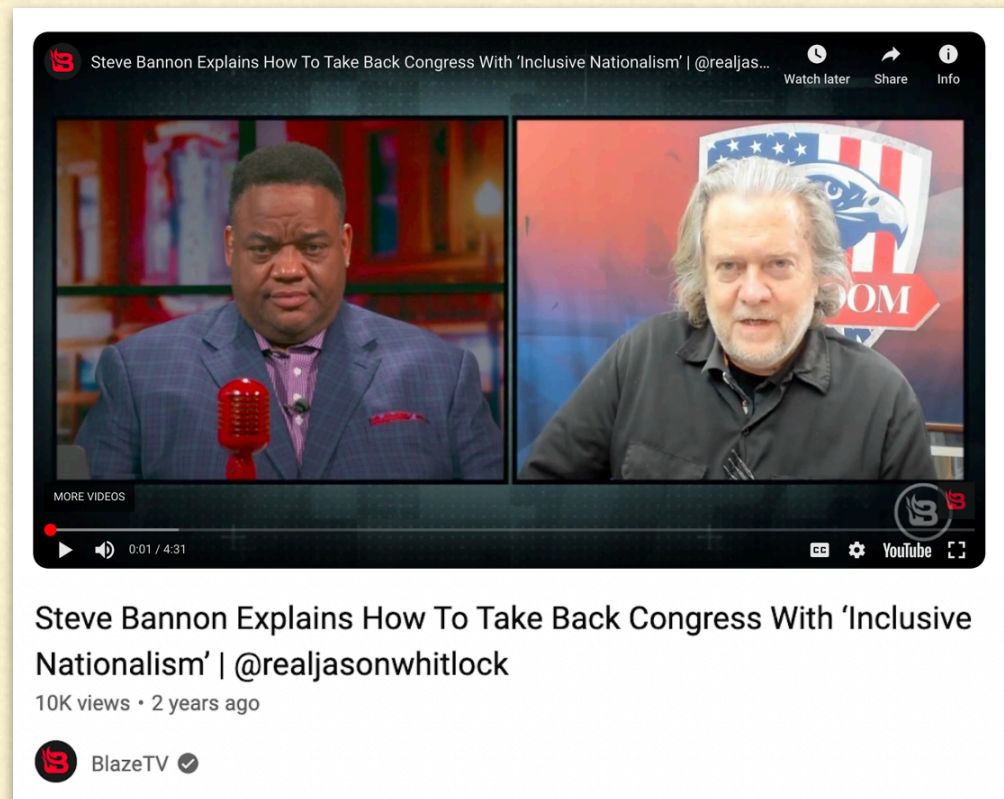


AND THE FUTURE OF CAPITALISM
ANNE CASE & ANGUS DEATON

“Inclusive Nationalism”



“Inclusive Nationalism”



*Primary focus on
Scapegoating of:*

- Immigrants
- Trans and Non-Binary People
- The “Woke Left”

