

Commentary: Capital Punishment

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Capital Punishment

- After reviewing our assigned readings and the corresponding powerpoint presentation, I understand *capital punishment* to be a state or established union's authority to execute one of its citizens.
- How many non-citizens have been subject to a state sanctioned execution in the United States?
- Is the death penalty a human rights violation?
- I do not have the answer to these questions but they are worth consideration.



Big Pun's Capital Punishment

obscurity

The streets are deadly and everybody's a
desperado

I guess the motto we promise to let you
homage in death your motto

Like Zorro, I mark my territory with a symbol
Not with a Z, but a P, cause Punishment's
what I resemble

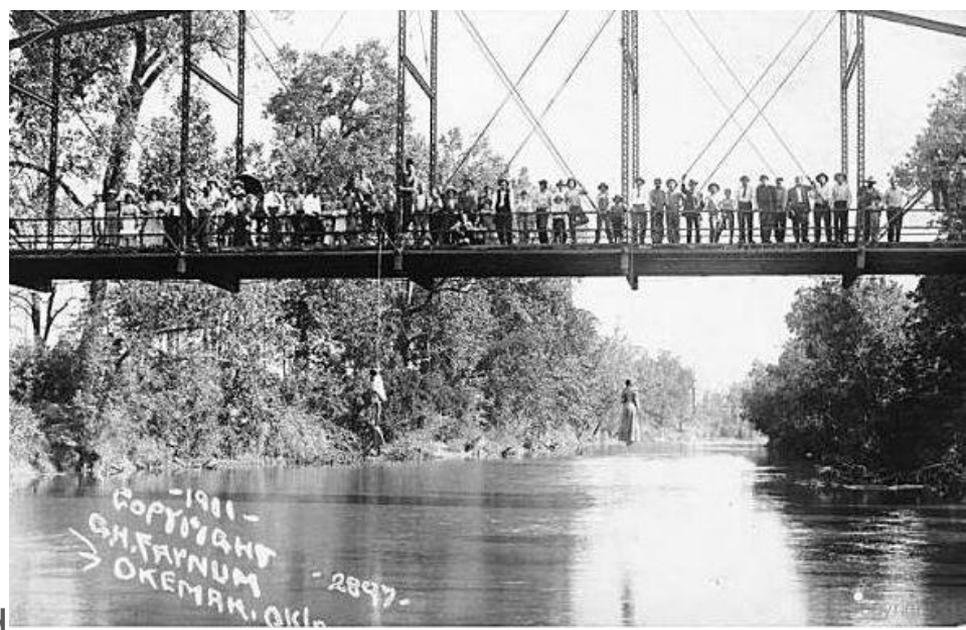
I lend you this if it expands yours, for you
and yours

Big Pun's Capital Punishment cont. (Notable Lyrics)

- “I’ve seen child blossom to man/ Some withered and turned to murderers/ Led astray by the liars and death glorifiers observin’ us”
 - This could be addressing the criminalization and demonization of youth contributing to the school to prison pipeline.
- “Throw us in jail, million dollar bail, left there to rust/ Let’s call in order, give ourselves a chance to enhance broader/ Advance to where minorities are the majority voter.”
 - This addresses a potential explanation for racial bias in incarceration: political power.
 - Almost half of black men in Alabama have been disenfranchised.
- “Judge singin’ death penalty like it’s his favorite f*ckin’ song/ Word is bond, taking my life you know they lovin’ it”
 - This indicates that agents in the system take some sort of medieval pleasure in executing Big Pun. This could also indicate an overall desensitization toward death enhanced by popular culture that would make the death penalty socially acceptable.

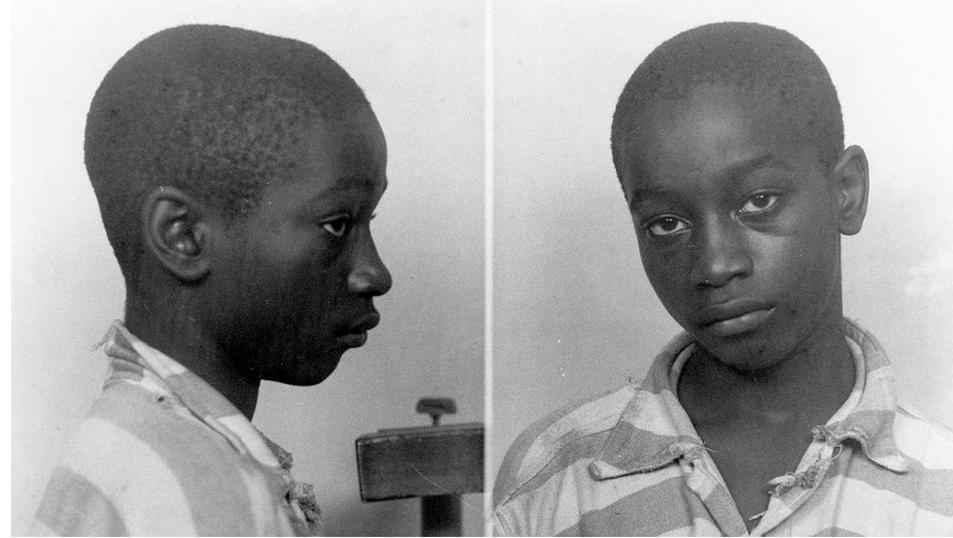
Lynchings

- Historically in the United States, lynchings have been a tool used to maintain white supremacy.
- Although lynchings in the United States were not officially sanctioned by the state, they were not prevented either.
 - With this in mind, this could arguably be considered a form of capital punishment.
- They were even promoted as a public spectacle.



George Stinney Jr.

- George Stinney Jr. is the youngest person to be convicted of murder and executed in the United States
 - At the time of his execution George Stinney Jr. was 13 years old.
- GSJ's execution was the result of a racially-biased trial.
- GSJ was executed in 1944



Works Cited

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