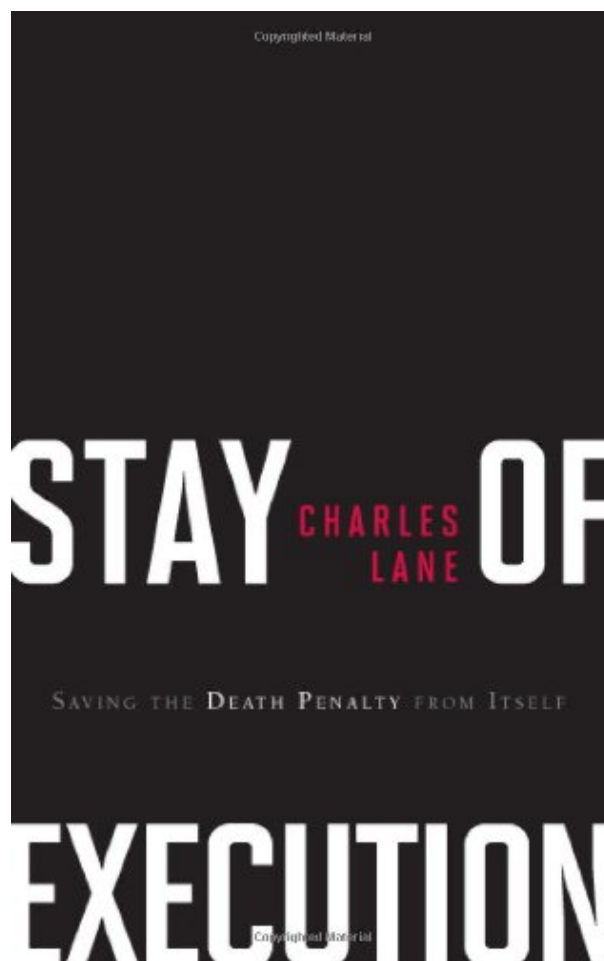


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The United States stands alone as the only Western democracy that still practices capital punishment. Yet the American death penalty has gone into noticeable decline, with annual death sentences and executions dwindling steadily in recent years. In *Stay of Execution*, Charles Lane offers a fresh analysis of this unexpected trend and its moral and political implications. Countering conventional wisdom that attributes the death penalty's decline to public rejection of the "ultimate sanction," he shows that it is instead related to the ebbing of violent crime itself. The death penalty is not only more popular than critics claim; it is also less flawed by wrongful executions or racial bias. Lane argues that capital punishment should be preserved, while proposing major reforms to address its real inequities and inconsistencies.

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A valuable reference - even if you don't agree

By Rogue States

Regardless of your stance on the death penalty issue - reasoned, opposing viewpoints, rationally and well argued, are valuable tools to consider for both sides. There is a flurry of books and media arguing against

capital punishment - most more emotion than science. This is the rational argument for the other-side - with facts, figures, support material, reason and logic.

It's a good book, in the common vernacular. Written by a journalist from the Washington Post. He often takes an argument against the issue, breaks down the "facts" behind said argument, and then reasonably presents the opposing viewpoint in easy to understand and comprehensible terms. The issues of Racism, deterrents, and costs are all addressed, with results often different - sometimes the same - from what has been presented in the media.

It may not change your mind, but however you feel about this issue, you need this book. If not to support your opinions, then to challenge them. And opinions are of little value if they cannot withstand scrutiny.

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Five Stars

By Counsellor

A must read on the subject.

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Tiresome pro-death penalty tripe

By T. Tucker

Lane is that worst species of death penalty supporter: one who won't admit that the execution of innocent people is deeply problematic. Frankly, I have more respect for death penalty supporters who deny (incorrectly) that any innocent person has ever been put to death. Lane admits that innocent people have been put to death and says essentially "meh".

Perhaps it would be possible for someone with such a disturbing attitude to write a good book about the death penalty, but this is not that book. It's a snooze, unconvincing, and I can't imagine who the audience for this stuff is.

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Washington Post editorial writer Charles Lane succinctly makes the case in this slim volume for shrinking the death penalty in order to save it. (Sunday Denver Post)

Lane makes sensible suggestions that would make the application of the death penalty a bit more fair. (The Federal Lawyer)

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