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**Grey House Publishing Announces the Seventh Title in the
Opinions Throughout History Series: *The Death Penalty***

The Death Penalty is the seventh volume in the new series, *Opinions Throughout History*. Each volume in the series is designed to follow the evolution of public opinion on a current and controversial topic that has changed throughout history. Each volume discusses important primary and secondary documents such as newspaper and magazine articles, speeches, court decisions, and other legislation. Accompanied by expert commentary and analysis, these documents showcase the changing attitudes on these important issues of public interest over time.

The Death Penalty provides readers with an in-depth exploration of capital punishment—an issue that has forced Americans, and people around the world, to confront fundamental questions about morality, and the role of the state. Expert writers trace the path of public opinion on one of the most controversial topics in American history, providing insightful and thought-provoking commentary. Nearly thirty chapters delve into discussions such as abolition, the introduction of the gas chamber, support for the death penalty and its future, and many more.

The time period covered is sweeping, tracing the history of capital punishment from the ancient Babylonian Code of Hammurabi to U.S. Attorney General William Barr’s recent directive to the federal government to resume capital punishment after a 16-year hiatus, highlighting the deep moral divide between supporters of the death penalty and those who oppose it.

This volume includes a wide variety of primary and secondary sources, including opinion essays, editorials, speeches, journal articles, court cases, and legislation. Documents are reprinted – entirely or excerpted – and supported by detailed narratives. These important documents are the cornerstone of each chapter, which features:

- An informative **Introduction** that sets up the focus of the chapter, highlighting the primary source that is analyzed;
- A list of **Topics Covered** in the chapter;
- The **Primary Source Document**, clearly indicated and fully cited;

- Thoughtful **Analysis**, averaging 1,500 words – that digs into specific sections of the document;
- **Sidebars** that offer valuable background information;
- **Photos, cartoons, posters** to support the topic and provide fun and informative visuals;
- A **Conclusion** that summarizes the chapter and reiterates main points;
- **Discussion Questions** to help guide further conversation and debate about these topics;
- **Works Used** to make additional research easy.

In addition, front matter of *Opinions Throughout History* includes a detailed **Timeline** of significant events that impacted policy and public opinion, and back matter includes an extensive **Historical Snapshot** that offers an interesting list of significant firsts – events, books, movies, legislation, trends – offering a snapshot of what was happening in the U.S. while public opinion was evolving – a **Glossary** of terms related to national security, and a **Bibliography**. A detailed **Index** closes the volume.

This exciting new series offers a wide range of insights into long-standing issues that Americans are most concerned about and those that have encouraged vigorous debate among politicians and citizens at large. Using carefully-chosen original documents that cover a wide time span, *Opinions Throughout History* weaves a thoughtful and easy-to-understand analysis of how public opinion is formed and evolves, starting the discussion at an historical, seminal moment, and ending with where we stand today.

This comprehensive, timely volume is a must for large public libraries, university libraries, and social science departments, along with high school libraries.

“(...) each chapter details a specific legal debate, controversy, law enactment, or supreme court decision... There are many black-and-white pictures throughout the book, along with discussion questions for classroom and homework assignment use... a **timely** reference work with a wealth of historical information and detail on these topics.”

– *American Reference Books Annual*
(on *Opinions Throughout History: National Security vs. Civil & Privacy Rights*)

FREE ONLINE ACCESS

Buyers of *Opinions Throughout History: The Death Penalty* receive FREE ONLINE ACCESS on the popular Salem Press Platform, <https://online.salempress.com>. With unlimited users and remote access included, your students and researchers can now search this amazing collection of data, anytime & anywhere, all just a click away.

This series is a must-have source for high school and undergraduate libraries, history collections, criminal justice collections, and public libraries of all sizes.

Opinions Throughout History: The Death Penalty

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