

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



2

---

---

---

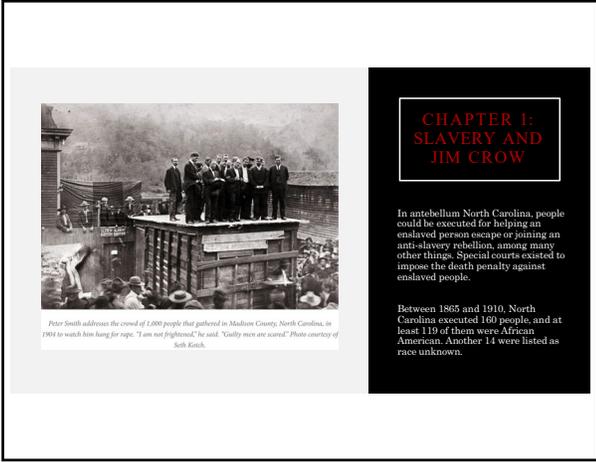
---

---

---

---

---



3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





**CONTINUED MYTH OF  
CRIMINALITY AND DANGER**

- In March 1910, Walter Morrison, a Black man convicted of rape in Robeson County, became the first to die by electrocution.
- In 1951 in North Carolina, a Black man was prosecuted for assault with intent to rape for allegedly looking at a seventeen-year-old white girl inappropriately — from seventy feet away.
- Today, if a defendant is accused of killing a white victim, they are two times more likely to receive a death sentence.

*The Birth of a Nation*, a 1915 film that idolized the Klu Klux Klan, perpetuated the stigma and fear that the Black community was a danger to white morals, often portraying Black men as a threat to a white woman's virtue

7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**1994: A JUROR'S VIEW ON  
THE DEATH PENALTY**

24 REMEMBER, THAT WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I WAS BROUGHT UP THAT  
25 WAY. AND I CAN REMEMBER WHEN A MAN RAPED A GIRL, THAT  
1 THEY'D TAKE HIM OUT AND KILL HIM - I MEAN MOBS WOULD LIKE MY  
2 DADDY--- OF COURSE, THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION, BUT I MEAN  
3 IT'S TIME THAT - IF THE COURT DON'T DO IT, I DON'T KNOW.

8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**CHAPTER 3: BACKLASH TO *JURMAN***

By the 1950s, North Carolina had succeeded in depriving African Americans of all meaningful civil rights and relegating them to second-class citizenship. As Jim Crow became firmly entrenched, the death penalty was less necessary as a symbolic tool and fell into disuse. After 1961, state executions in North Carolina stopped altogether.

The Civil Rights movement picked up national attention, shining light on the Jim Crow practices of the South and inciting calls for change.

In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court capped a series of polarizing decisions — including desegregating schools and outlawing poll taxes — by striking down the death penalty nationwide

*The Greensboro Place in 1960, at the Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in that sparked a national movement.*

9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### FURMAN AND REINVIGORATING THE DEATH PENALTY

"Law and order" became the rallying cry for those opposed to the Civil Rights Movement. Support for capital punishment, which had been plummeting nationally, suddenly spiked.

In 1976, the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty, stating it was necessary to avoid "the seeds of anarchy — of self-help vigilante justice, and lynch law."

In *McCleskey v. Kemp*, the court acknowledged the death penalty's racially disproportionate impact but allowed executions to continue anyway.

Juries began sentencing people to die at rates that outpaced almost every other state in the nation. North Carolina now has one of the largest death rows in the country.



10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### CHAPTER FOUR: MASS INCARCERATION

*"In our courts, African-Americans are more harshly treated, more severely punished and more likely to be presumed guilty."* — North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice, Cheri Beasley



11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### THE MODERN DEATH MACHINE



Death row cell room. Drawing by Ryan Garell, who is incarcerated on death row.

- The criminal punishment system became a primary tool of white supremacy, the new Jim Crow, with the death penalty as the ultimate punishment.
- North Carolina's death row residents are disproportionately black and almost exclusively poor. Most are accused of crimes against white victims. Many had all-white juries. And the state continues its fight to execute them.
- In Rutherford County between 1990 and 2009, prosecutors sought the death penalty in every single case in which a defendant of color was accused of killing a white victim. Ryan Garell was one of them. By contrast, prosecutors held capital trials in only 6 percent of other cases.

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

