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Difference in Prison Philosophies: The Danish Prison System vs. the US Prison System

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Abstract

Gaining new knowledge and obtaining a different understanding for how other cultures view the US criminal justice system became important since we, as humans can be blind to our own mistakes. To learn about the criminal justice system from a non-American Professor's point of view, I become a student at the Danish Institute of Study Abroad for the spring semester of 2014. I discovered that the Danish prisons are known around the world to be some of the most favorable and ideal prisons for rehabilitating criminals (Bergeson, Skov, n.d., 2). My curiosity ignited from Denmark's reputation on prisons and philosophies, which seemed much different than those in the US. This paper is an exploratory analysis of the Danish prison system and the US prison system. It will discuss how philosophies of punishment impact both the environment of prisons and the programming available to incarcerated individuals.