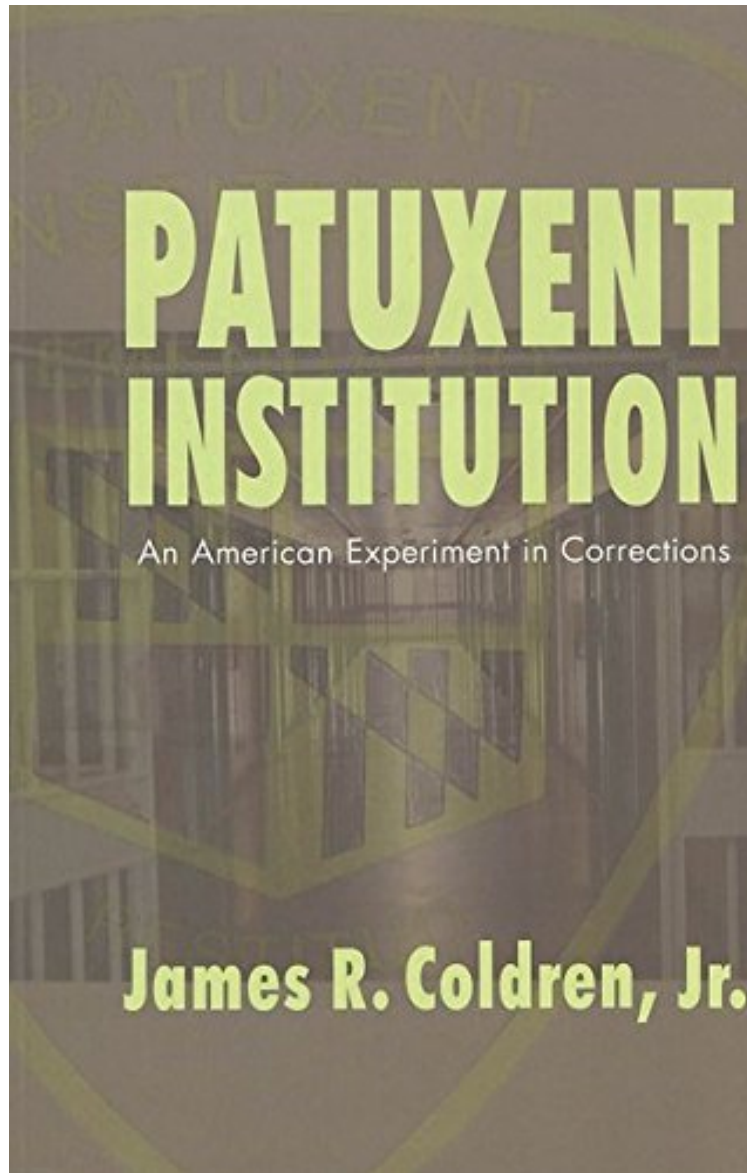


[Pdf free] Patuxent Institution: An American Experiment in Corrections (Studies in Crime and Punishment) (v. 6)

Patuxent Institution: An American Experiment in Corrections (Studies in Crime and Punishment) (v. 6)

James R. Coldren Jr.

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The author had been employed at PAX then went back to research the facility's history and evolution. As a defense attorney practicing in Maryland, PAX has always been a bit of a mystery and this book helps with understanding PAX's mission, procedures and treatment philosophies. The book may only be of interest to those Marylanders who practice law, administer correctional facilities or counsel inmates.
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Review of Patuxent Institution
By Kevin W. Whiteacre
Coldren's analysis of Patuxent Institution's 50 year history provides a useful case study of America's ambivalence toward rehabilitation in corrections. Primarily concerned with understanding how Maryland's maximum-security rehabilitative prison has survived the swings of competing attitudes towards coerced treatment, the book thoughtfully covers the many legal, political, and administrative questions such treatment rightfully raises. Most importantly, Coldren presents the institution's troubled history - it has been called the country's most sued correctional facility - without the customary ideological distortions or agendas. He presents with sensitivity the very real difficulties of trying to provide services for a difficult population under the often hostile gaze of media, prisoners, correctional administrators, politicians of different stripes, and the larger community. As the late great Norval Morris writes in the book's forward, "This is an important book for anyone who realizes just how bad American imprisonment policies have become and is interested how a very difficult group of prisoners can be sensibly handled."
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This book does an excellent job of explaining the external influences that shape the course of a correctional institution, and given its emphasis on remediation, Patuxent shines as a beacon of hope in the face of a punitive atmosphere even if its ideal types of therapy are not fully realized. Well organized and easy to read, this book is a must read for those wishing to understand the complex processes that influence organizations such as correctional facilities.

Is rehabilitation dead in American corrections? This socio-political analysis of the fifty-year history of Patuxent Institution, a treatment-oriented maximum security prison in Maryland, studies the organizational challenges faced by this unique American prison, and the social and political forces that work to ensure its survival.