

Death Penalty - Summary

In my thesis I focused on one of the most discussed and one of the oldest institutes of criminal law - the death penalty. Despite the fact that the death penalty was abolished in most of countries (as a result of the abolitionist movement), some countries still continue to apply it. Also public opinion on this issue is not constant. The purpose of this research is not just to explore all aspects of capital punishment in the modern world, but also to reach a subjective opinion on this issue.

This thesis is composed of five chapters. Each deals with the different aspects of the capital punishment. In the first chapter, I focused on the history of capital punishment in the world, from ancient world to the early 20th century. Chapter describes the application of the death penalty in different times and different cultures. I analyze the laws of different nations and countries and describe the methods of executions. I also pay attention to the opinion of well known authors (philosophers and politicians).

The second chapter describes the history of the death penalty in Czech Republic, from the early beginning until abolition of death penalty in 1990.

The third chapter is devoted to analysis of the current situation in the world. It describes laws and methods of executions in the countries which still use death penalty. This chapter is divided into several parts, each of them describes situation in the specific region - Asia, the Middle East, Africa, countries on the territory of the former Soviet Union, Japan and the United States of America.

The fourth chapter describes important international documents about the death penalty. This chapter is divided into two parts: the first one is devoted to documents of United Nations, and the second part describes the documents of the Council of Europe.

The fifth chapter is devoted to analysis of the most important arguments of proponents and opponents of the death penalty. Including economical aspects and the risks of judicial errors.

The conclusion evaluates the current situation of the death penalty in the world. Also I explain my own view on the issue. After exploring the issues and aspects of capital punishment, I agree with the arguments against the absolute punishment. I regard it as an anachronism, and I think that the abolitionist movement will become

stronger in the following years. I see no possibility death penalty can be restored in modern European countries.