

The thesis *Disfranchising Prisoners in the U.S. – New Means of Segregation?: Case Study of Commonwealth of Virginia* deals with the equality of the criminal justice system in Virginia. The goal of this thesis is to determine, whether the criminal justice system in the Commonwealth of Virginia is used to discriminate against minorities and if the laws and practices are creating a group of second-class citizens out of African Americans. The first chapter will be devoted to the data and history of disenfranchisement, the second chapter will deal with the consequences of a felony conviction, such as the loss of the right to vote, loss of employment and loss of social benefits and parental rights. In the last chapter of my thesis, I will analyze the possibilities of a future reform and its main sources, such as court decisions, the ratification of a constitutional amendment to the Virginia Constitution, and gubernatorial action by the Governor of Virginia. The findings of this thesis show that the criminal justice in Virginia is used to discriminate against African Americans and that the laws and practices are creating a group of second-class citizens out of African Americans.