

**THE
FACE
OF
HUMAN
RIGHTS**

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This “self-evident” character of the prison, which we find so difficult to abandon, is based first of all on the simple form of “deprivation of liberty”. How could prison not be the penalty par excellence in a society in which liberty is a good that belongs to all in the same way and to which each individual is attached, as Duport put it, by a “universal and constant” feeling? Its loss has therefore the

same value for all; unlike the fine, it is an “egalitarian” punishment. The prison is the clearest, simplest, most equitable of penalties. Moreover, it makes it possible to quantify the penalty exactly according to the variable of time.

Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison, translated from the French by Alan Sheridan, London 1977