Incarcerations & the Media

Spencer Graves
NAACP of Johnson County, KS
2017-04-01
Bottom Line:

- Turn off ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC, Fox, cable television.
- Get high speed Internet
- Support noncommercial investigative journalism with transparent funding that puts everything they produce on the web in the public domain.
Incarceration rate in the US

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Combined</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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White are more likely to commit drug crimes. The primary target of the penal system is defined largely by race.
Why the jump 1975-2000?

- Male
- Female
- Combined

1925 1950 1975 2000
War on Drugs

“Get tough on crime”

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Driven by changes in the media

- Media organizations sell changes in audience behavior to funders
- Investigative journalism threatens people with power
- If it bleeds, it leads
Driven by changes in the media

- Investigative journalism threatens people with power
- You can libel and slander poor people with impunity
- Focus on the police blotter
- Cut costs, increase audience
This exploits

- Defects in how people think
- To benefit people with power over the media
Daniel Kahneman

- Research psychologist
- Won the 2002 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics
- For experiments showing the standard economists’ models of how people think are *wrong*. 
People make most decisions quickly, effortlessly, based on what comes readily to mind.

We can invest research and thought in a decision,

But too often fail to do so
Les Moonves, CEO of CBS

- On February 28, 2016, Moonves told an investor conference,
- the Trump campaign "may not be good for America, but it's damn good for CBS. ...
- The money's rolling in, and this is fun.”
Terrorism deaths worldwide

- Oil companies advertise.
- Media have a conflict of interest in reporting anything that might offend major advertisers.
Terrorism deaths worldwide

- Oil companies advertise.
- The Sept. 11 attacks would not have occurred without US troops on Saudi soil.
Terrorism deaths worldwide

- “Winning the War on Terror”
- Wikiversity
- EffectiveDefense.org
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Chenoweth 3.5% rule

- Erica Chenoweth and Maria Stephan created a database of all the major violent and nonviolent governmental change efforts of the 20th century -- over 300 of them.
- 25% of the violent and 54% of the nonviolent ones were successful.
- More importantly, when they looked at the impact on democracy, they found that violence supports tyranny, while nonviolence builds democracy.
Chenoweth 3.5% rule

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- When they looked at the impact on democracy, they found that violence supports tyranny, while nonviolence builds democracy

- Every campaign that got the active support of at least 3.5% of the population was successful.
Chenoweth 3.5% rule

- Every campaign that got the active support of at least 3.5% of the population was successful.

- Yes, we can --- Sí, se puede.
Tech committee for JCNAACP

- To help people upgrade their computer hardware and skills.

- ConnectingForGood.org: low-cost computers & free classes
  - NE Wyandotte County Computer Center
  - 2006 North 3rd St.
  - Kansas City, KS 66101, Ph: 913-730-0677
Tech committee for JCNAACP

- Johnson County Library: jocolibrary.org
  - Free classes

- Social media training:
  - Socialmovementtechnologies.org
  - Contact Spencer Graves to access it for free.