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Imaging punishment: an introduction / Charles Ogletree, Jr., and Austin Sarat -- Redeeming the lost war: backlash films and the rise of the punitive state / Lary May -- Better Here than There: Prison Narratives in Reality Television / Aurora Wallace -- The Spectacle of Punishment and the "Melodramatic Imagination" in the Classical-Era Prison Film: I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang (1932) and Brute Force (1947) / Kristen Whissel -- "Deserve Ain't Got Nothing to Do with It": The Deconstruction of Moral Justifications for Punishment through The Wire / Kristin Henning -- Rehabilitating Violence: White Masculinity and Harsh Punishment in 1990s Popular Culture / Daniel LaChance -- Scenes of Execution: Spectatorship, Political Responsibility, and State Killing in American Film / Austin Sarat, Madeline Chan, Maia Cole, Melissa Lang, Nicholas Schcolnik, Jasjaap Sidhu, and Nica Siegel -- The pleasures of punishment: complicity, spectatorship, and Abu Ghraib / Amy Adler -- Images of Injustice / Brandon L. Garrett.

Sommario/riassunto

"The way a society punishes demonstrates its commitment to standards of judgment and justice, its distinctive views of blame and responsibility, and its particular way of responding to evil. Punishment in Popular Culture examines the cultural presuppositions that undergird America's distinctive approach to punishment and analyzes punishment as a set of images. It recognizes that the semiotics of punishment is all around us, in both 'high' and 'popular' culture iconography, in novels, television, and film. This book brings together distinguished scholars of punishment and experts in media studies in an unusual juxtaposition of disciplines and perspectives. Americans continue to lock up more people for longer periods of time than most other nations, to use the death penalty, and to racialize punishment in remarkable ways. How are these facts of American penal life reflected in the portraits of punishment that Americans regularly encounter on television and in film? And how are images of punishment received by their audiences? It is to these questions that Punishment in Popular Culture is addressed"--Unedited summary from book cover.