

Is there a way to stop it?

Since society has become “civilized”, it seems that people have always tried to figure out how to stop atrocities before they ever occurred. From the infamous Salem witch trials to the Cesare Lombroso’s “born criminals” hypothesis, to the Nazis sterilization law for “undesirable citizens”, people have tried to label and identify others that they believe are criminals (cites). The desire to assess someone’s background, upbringing, appearance, characteristics, mannerisms, beliefs and be able to correctly identify them as criminals seems like a pipe dream for most but that has yet to stop us from trying.

As a child from a broken low-income household with a drug and alcoholic parent that is a minority, I have always seen illegal things being done so does that mean I will also eventually become a convicted felon too? When the safety of a society is put at risk, we tend to turn a blind eye to someone’s rights being violated, but how do we make sure that we get the right bad guy? There will always be a need for criminologists to try and establish a set of criteria that’s able to separate civilians from a potential mass murderer or serial killers.

However, historically we have seen different groups come into power and determine that the poor shouldn’t be allowed to reproduce, or mentally ill people should be removed from society and institutionalized, or the uneducated should be castrated so who and why should they be allowed to deem these groups of people as lesser? In a certain point in time my siblings and I may have been grouped in with criminals just based off our upbringing. My intention for this paper will be to try and discover how past events have led us into today’s mindset that we can put people on a potential criminal watch list.

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References

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4. *The Story of The Salem witch trials: "We Walked in Clouds and Could Not See Our Way"* LeBeau - Routledge – 2023
5. Song, H., Woo, Y., Lee, H. D., & Cochran, J. K. (2018). *The Dynamics of Intra-Family Relationships During Incarceration and the Implications for Children of Incarcerated Parents*. International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology, 62(12), 3775-3796. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X18755481>
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