

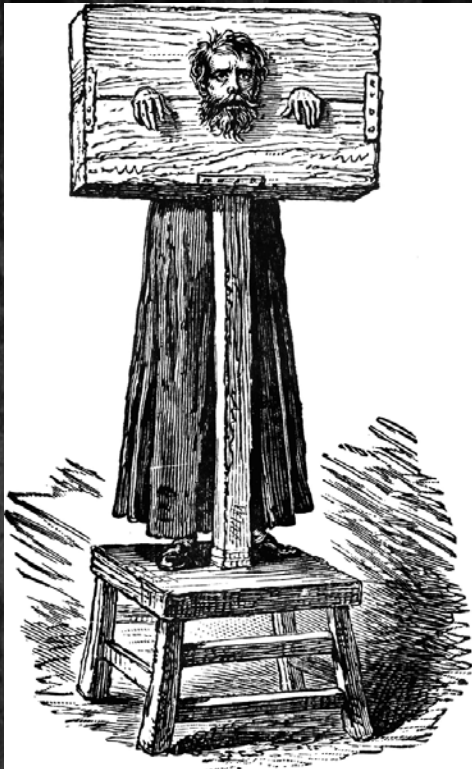
Dehumanization in “The Shawshank Redemption”

1. A Brief History of Prisons
2. Dehumanization
3. Institutionalization

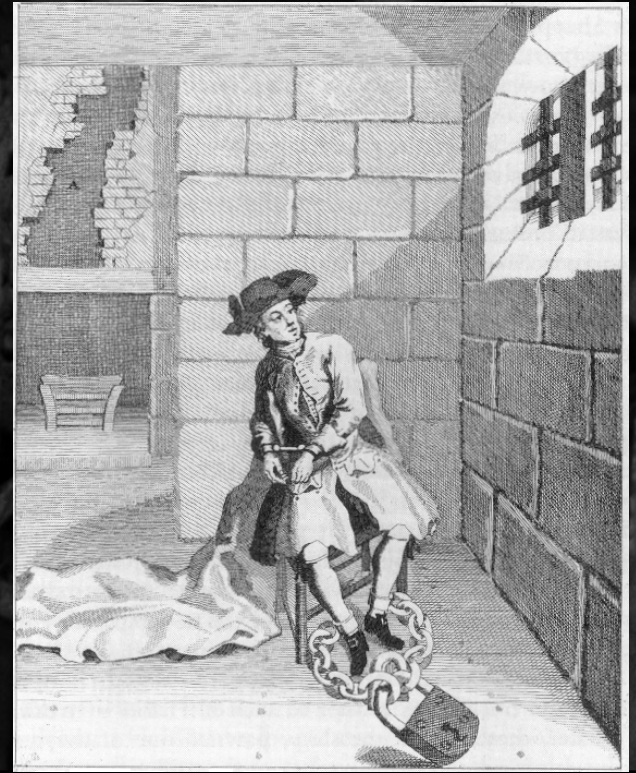
1. A Brief History of Prisons

- The modern prison is a relatively new concept
- Prisons as we know them have only existed for the last couple hundred years or so

- Before that, punishments for crime were usually physical or shaming punishments for petty crimes, or execution for more serious crimes



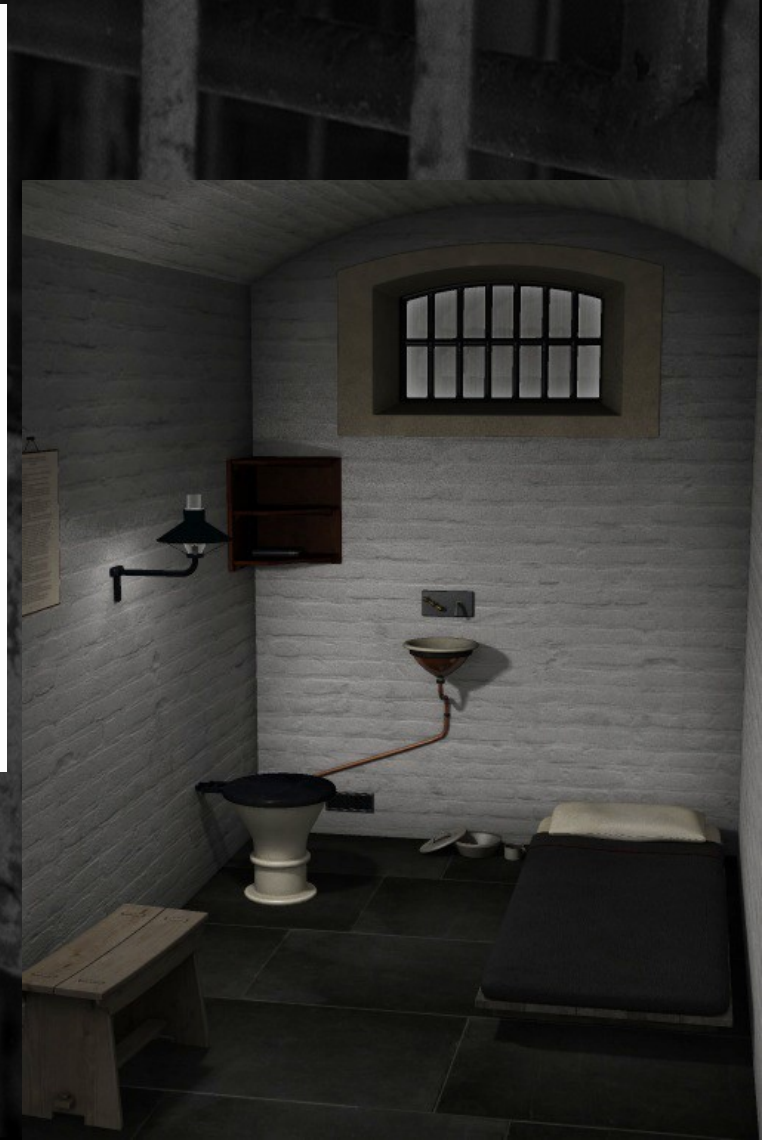
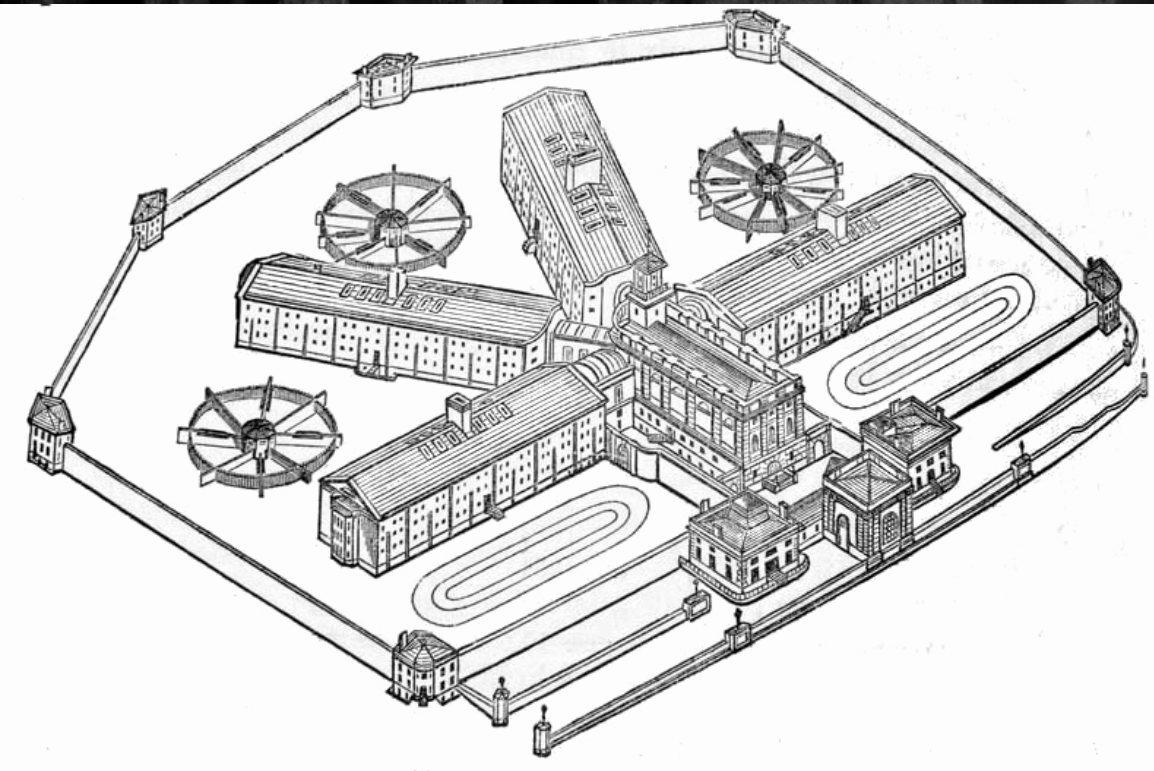
- Prisons existed at this time, but usually only as a holding place while someone was awaiting trial or punishment
- By the 18th century, opposition to such cruel forms of punishment led officials to find an alternative



- The modern prison became the primary form of punishment about 200 years ago
- To deter, or to reform?



- The design of prisons became pretty standard across the board



A Modern Prison



2. Dehumanization

- Whether or not the goal is deterrence or reform, the objective of most prisons is to break the person down so they can be built back up into a contributing member of society



- This dehumanizing process takes many forms, from subtle to extreme:
- Enforcing routines
- Forced labour
- Cell searches and confiscation of personal property
- Strip searches



Solitary Confinement: “The Hole”

- This form of punishment is still used despite concerns that it is an inhumane form of punishment



- Humans are social animals, and taking essential human contact away from somebody has been proven to have serious effects on the mind



3. Institutionalization

“These walls are funny. First you hate them. Then you get used to them. Enough time goes by you get so you depend on them. That’s institutionalized.”



Brooks Hatlen



Will Andy Dufresne hold up?



- Can students become “institutionalized” by being in school?



- It is important to try and retain and develop your sense of self in high school. When it's time to face the world outside of high school, you have to take many steps alone.

