

The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

Ratified in 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery except for those convicted of crimes.

Incarcerated people have been required to perform labor including field work on former plantations such as at Angola Prison; a range of daily necessities including meal preparation, laundry, groundskeeping, maintenance, and clerical work; producing goods sold to the public; and fighting wildfires in California.

California state inmates are paid 8 to 95 cents per hour.

California courts have ruled that incarcerated people may be required to work and are not protected against involuntary servitude. Failure to work can result in disciplinary actions including solitary confinement and loss of privileges.

With the rise of mass incarceration, the number of incarcerated people has grown more than 700% since 1970, from about 300,000 to 2.2 million. There are more people incarcerated today than the number of enslaved people in the United States at the end of the Civil War. The U.S. incarcerates more African-Americans today than South Africa did at the height of apartheid.

Essential Viewing: *The Thirteenth* by Ana DuVernay

How to Support: Visit <https://abolishslavery.us> a national coalition fighting to abolish constitutional slavery and involuntary servitude in all forms, for all people

From *Solitary*, by Albert Woodfox:

"Angola looked like a slave plantation, which it once was....African American prisoners did 99 percent of the fieldwork by hand, usually without gloves or proper footwear. White guards on horseback rode up and down the lines of working prisoners, holding shotguns across their laps and constantly yelling at the men..."