

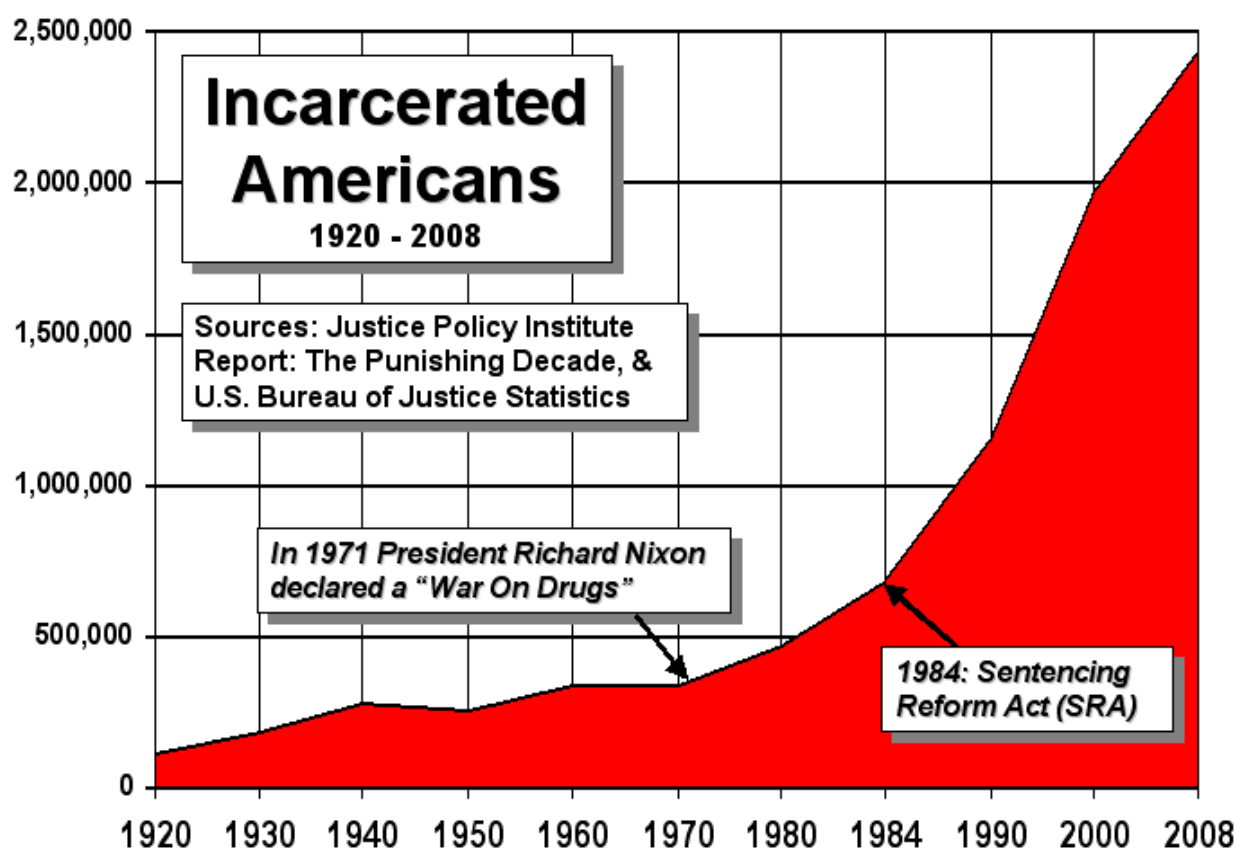
I) - A repressive and violent anti-crime policy

- **Opération Interception - September 21, 1969** : announced by surprise, its aim was to combat cannabis trafficking by searching every vehicle crossing the border with Mexico.
- **Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act - October 15, 1970** : allow to temporarily seize the assets of an accused person and thus prevent him from transferring his assets in order to escape potential confiscation.
- **Law of 27th of October 1970** : increased the penalties for drug trafficking, gives states agents the power to enter homes without warning to prevent the destruction of evidence.
- **Press conference of June 1971** : Nixon announced a “ war on drugs ”.
- **Création of the Drug Enforcement Administration - July 1973** : major resources were allocated to this federal agency.

II) - The starting point for mass incarceration

Particularly from the Nixon 1971 press conference, the incarceration rate rose sharply. The Nixon’s announcement of the “ war of drugs ” was a major factor in the mass incarceration.

Thus, Nixon was the **driving force behind mass incarceration** in the United States, even though other subsequent events obviously also contributed to this high level of incarceration.



Nixon’s repressive policies, were widely criticised. Firstly, some have accused it of being **ineffective**. Also, some people who noted that black people are more systematically sentenced to prison than white people denounce the **racist** nature of this type of repressive policy.