Mass imprisonment, the rise of the detention rate and the perception of insecurity in western society.
A special analysis of Chile

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Silvio Cuneo holds a PhD in Law from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) and from the Universitá degli Studi di Trento as well as a Master’s degree in Law from UPF. He teaches Criminal Law at the Universidad Central de Chile and is presently a Visiting Scholar at John Jay College in City University of New York.


The excessive and selective use of the withdrawal of liberty has become a controlling tool, filling our prisons with those excluded from society. After a general analysis, we will investigate the causes of mass imprisonment: the social dissembling (followed by tougher punishment) and punitive populism (result of a vindictive demagogic attitude). We believe that the selection by which it operates, the effects that it produces and the resulting advantages for the privileged minorities, make this not only illegitimate but also intolerable in a democratic society. We will conclude with a realistic proposal, an alternative to mass imprisonment, compatible with respect for human dignity.