

“Payback” (2012)—Documentary Review Sheet

1. What is the Kanun code?
2. In your opinion, what is meant by the phrase “crime does not pay”?
3. Does society owe a “debt” to prisoners? Explain your answer.
4. Has the plight of Immokales farm laborers made you question where your food comes from?
5. Conrad Black remarks in the film that we no longer bother trying to reform prisoners; instead, we ostracize them. Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. Do you agree with Karen Armstrong, that all societies are unjust because they are all based on the oppression of large numbers of people?
7. What does William Rees mean by the terms “biological deficit” and “ecological debt”?
8. According to Casi Callaway, why was the use of chemical dispersants the worst possible solution to the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico?
9. Do you agree with the statement that “capitalism rests on the assumption of the infinite capacity to expand”? If so, do you believe that capitalism is dead? Explain your answer.
10. The fisherman interviewed for the film remarks that those who use powdered laundry detergent, which acts as a chemical dispersant, to disperse oil and gasoline spills are fined by the United States Coast Guard for doing so. Yet the federal government allowed BP (British Petroleum) to use chemical dispersants throughout the Gulf of Mexico to disperse the massive oil spill there. How can you explain this inconsistency?