



## **The Big Book of Pain: Torture Punishment Through History**

*Mark P. Donnelly*

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This unique study offers a look at the punishments and tortures administered to offenders in all historical periods. They include the peculiar punishments known as the ducking stool, the Scottish maiden, the pillory, the drunkard's cloak, and the scold's bridle, and unsavory punishments such as death by pressing, hanging, and boiling.

## **The Big Book of Pain: Torture Punishment Through History Details**

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Author : Mark P. Donnelly

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## **From Reader Review The Big Book of Pain: Torture Punishment Through History for online ebook**

### **Jennifer Daniel says**

I am one sick individual. Had I been around in the middle ages when torture was at it's zenith, I would have been more inclined to put my engineering skills to work at, oh I don't know, indoor plumbing maybe? This is what happens in a society where women are repressed and men are allowed to run the world.

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### **????? ?????? says**

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### **Trinity says**

Incredible book, the fact that human king finds it so much easier to be evil then to be good and charitable is disgusting. I wonder how people come up with the many instruments used throughout the ages, What does it take to make a human being torture, maim and kill another or numbers of them? If we do not honour the past and learn from their mistakes then we are doomed to repeat it and the tortures and killing of millions of people throughout the ages cannot be repeated.

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### **Jc says**

This book solidified my belief that humanity is the cruellest species on this planet bar none. No other Earth-based species has the capacity to willfully inflict pain upon its own species and other species than homo homo sapiens.

Throughout recorded history, humans have inflicted vast amounts of pain and suffering on other humans for a variety of reasons. Torture, information gathering and pure enjoyment of causing pain seem to be common threads through history.

The authors discuss various aspects of pain through the ages. Highlighted in detail are the methods and implements used to create that pain. The more technologically advanced humanity has become has led to advancements in methods and implements used to torture, maim and kill humanity.

This book is shocking yet eerily enjoyable. From the political, military and religious standpoints, infliction of pain for information gathering purposes serves little useful purpose. Yet, how many thousands of people have perished because of these standpoints.

The Salem witch trials, instigated by a few trouble causing female teenagers, resulted in how many unnecessary deaths. What happened to the teenagers who started all of this nonsense? I do not know because I have never been able to find that information.

Overall, I liked this book. The sequence of events flowed smoothly and the author wove together a great story of human-caused misery upon other humans.

This book is not for the faint-of-heart; but it should be read as a treatise on the depravity humans are capable of if allowed. We continue to see this depravity today.

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Happy Reading,

### **Steelwhisper says**

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Excellent resource! Superbly dry authorial voice, with lots of essential information and anecdotes.

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### **Katia M. Davis says**

A very interesting book detailing the types of torture device employed through history as well as looking into the concept of torture and its effectiveness. This book is not as gruesome as it sounds, but is rather a well thought out and researched exploration into the ways the human race has developed to hurt itself. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in interrogation, historical weaponry and the psychology of pain.

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### **Todd Martin says**

What could be more fun than an illustrated book about torture throughout the ages? Well, probably a lot of things actually, but *The Big Book of Pain* does offer insight into the vast amount creative energy that humans have expended in order to inflict suffering on one another. The book is historical in nature, focusing primarily on the time leading up to the middle ages.

While society has become somewhat more civilized in the intervening years (we no longer break people on the wheel or stretch them on a rack, for example), torture is still alive and well despite overwhelming evidence that it doesn't work. The rack, boot, thumb screws, garrote, stock and dunking chair may be obsolete, but in their place we have sleep deprivation, temperature extremes, isolation, loud music and waterboarding. And what would a secretive policy be without a creepy, Orwellian title ... *enhanced interrogation*.

Welcome to your annual proctological exam ... would you like the regular colonoscopy or the *enhanced colonoscopy*? Mwah ha haa ...

The other thing that has changed is that torture used to be a public spectacle on full display for the masses to witness. Today, state sponsored torture is done in secret away from the prying eyes of the public and media. It's almost as if they lack pride in their work.

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### **Rick Farmer says**

A good book to read if you're interested in just how messed up humanity was and still is to this day if you fuel the fire of paranoia, power and greed of political leaders. It's amazing what people will actually do if they are simply told by a higher power. Interesting read

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### **Sarah Hoov says**

I was pleasantly surprised by all the history this book covers. Not just the horrors of torture, but the psychology of why it happens, the politics behind it, the victims, the torturers, the cultures. The story behind the justice system and a brief history of how the modern one started.

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### **Helen says**

Fascinating history and I learned lots of handy tips and hints ... not that I'll ever need them, I'm sure ...

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### **Emma Sea says**

In ten weeks, despite much effort, I only made it to page 33, as the author's voice was not to my taste. But I'll keep it as a reference. I don't have enough knowledge to assess its depth, but it certainly seems extensive.

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**acetone2 says**

quite repetitive. the last 30% just goes over what has already been discussed in the first 70%. very interesting in parts. more case studies would have been nice. torture in the modern world is not discussed at all, no mention of guantanamo bay or any other atrocities committed in the last 15 years.

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**Hannah (Vamp of Savannah) says**

A very interesting look at the historical, political, sociological, and economical sides of torture as perceived justice and/or a means of information gathering through fear and physical coercion.

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**Rustin says**

The history of torture. Torture is most prevalent in kingdoms with a weak ruler who fears his people. It was also more prevalent before the 1700s when torture began to be outlawed throughout much of the world. It avoids mentioning how improved the world is now that torture is less prevalent stretching to find examples of modern torture. The authors go to great lengths to attempt to show that the world is still a painful place. In reality, they demonstrated so clearly how common place torture was in the past that their attempts to paint the current world as just as bad fell flat.

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**Mark Donnelly says**

Mark P DonnellyDaniel Diehl

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