



The Death Penalty : a French perspective

(FIU – September 26, 2011)



Literary perspectives - France

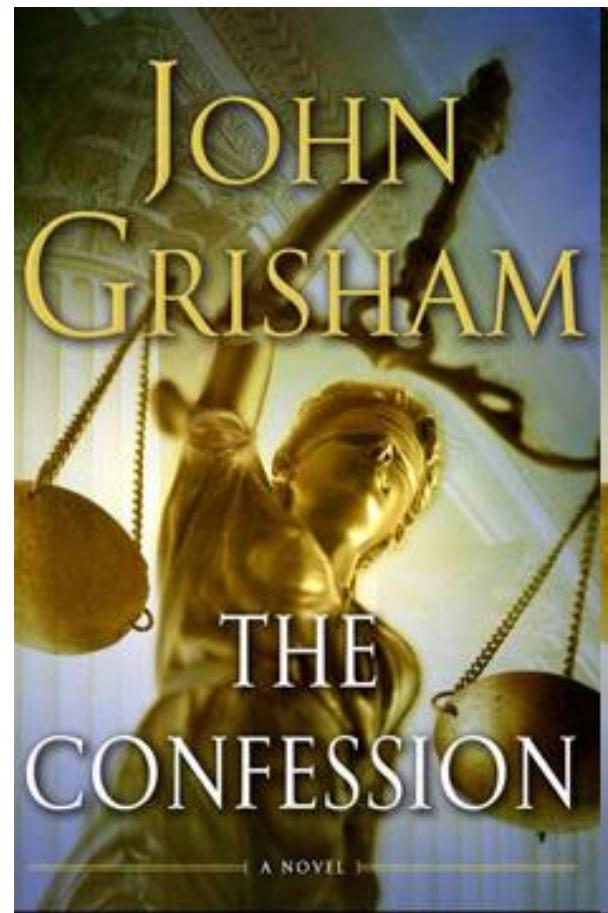


From Hugo
("The last day of a condemned man" - 1829) to...



...in the USA also, a growing debate...

John Grisham : « In this case, as in so many capital cases, the imposition of a death sentence had little do with fairness. Like other death sentences, it depended more upon the assignment of judge and prosecutor, the location of the crime, the quality of the defense counsel, the speed with which a co-defendant struck a deal, the quality of each side's experts and other such factors. » - September 12, 2010





September 18, 1981, a political choice Robert Badinter, at the National Assembly



363 votes against 117, but only 37% of the population...



French historical perspective

- ◆ Death penalty isn't a deterrent to homicide = 3066 murders between 1888 and 1897 (when death penalty was implemented), against 1068 between 1897 and 1907 (when clemency was in place);
- ◆ The risk of racism = On 36 death sentences imposed between 1945 and 1981, 9 fell on foreigners (25 %, while they represented at that time only 8 % of the population).



THE DEATH PENALTY IN FLORIDA

CHRISTOPHER SLOBOGIN

« Since 1972, when Florida's legislature reinstated the death Penalty, the state has averaged over thirty-eight death sentences a year and executed sixty-seven individuals. Close to four hundred people are currently imprisoned on Florida's death row (12% of the nation's total). »

(2008 - http://www.elon.edu/docs/e-web/law/law_review/Issues/Slobogin.pdf)



Florida & EU - 2011

The case of Manuel Valle

Excerpts of a letter of the EU Ambassador to governor Scott (August 19)

The European Union recognizes the extremely serious nature of the crime involved, and wishes to express our sincere sympathies to the surviving family and friends of the victim Officer Louis Pena.

The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and accordingly aims at its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step. We believe that the elimination of the death penalty is fundamental to the protection of human dignity, and to the progressive development of human rights.

The European Union considers the execution of a person who has not received a meaningful clemency process contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and is in contradiction of the minimum standards. Among these is the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 6.4, which states that '*Anyone sentenced to death shall have the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence*'.



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