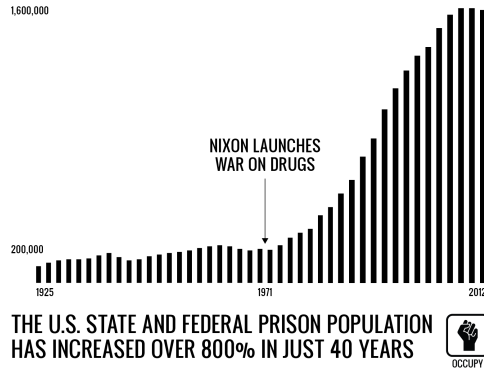




# The Jail Industry



The imprisonment of human beings has lately reached **record levels** in the USA – an increase directly connected to the **criminalization of drug use** since the 1960s. Mass incarceration was turned into a business as early as **1983**, when **CoreCivic** (formerly the **Corrections Corporation on America**) was established in Nashville, Tennessee. Since its establishment the company has grown and expanded, and it currently manages **65 correctional and detention facilities in 20 US States** with a revenue estimated around **\$1.7 billion** in 2012. Supposedly, privately-run prisons should weigh more lightly on **taxpayers**, but actually this is not the case, as data show that private prisons cost as much as government prisons do. In addition, in order to prevent losses private jails' contracts have **occupancy clauses** with **capacity quotas** that, when unmet, result in **fines** to the state government. This also explains why private jail inmates are given twice as many infractions as they are on average in regular jails, thus extending their jail term.

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