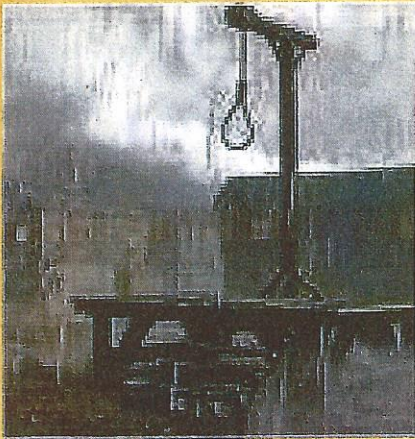


Capital Punishment in the UK



Introduction

Capital Punishment was present in the UK until quite recently and was at the time by the noose, but there were many other dreadful ways of putting people to death, in comparison the noose could be regarded as humane? (Clark 2004).

Theory

The theory behind execution was as the most severe form of punishment, to act as a deterrent to others and an end to the perpetrator, Justice was seen to be done, be it by the rope or the axe.

Method

Many methods were used in the UK throughout history, some of the most revolting nature such as hanging, drawing and quartering, usually reserved for the traitors, Other methods included, boiling alive, burning at the stake and beheading which could take several blows to do the job, as was the case with Mary Queen of Scots. Scott (1939), Abbot (2008), Yarwood (2001)



Reasons

There were many reasons people could be put to death, in recent times this was for murder; but before this a person could be put to death for something as trivial as having a sooty face on a highway, stealing a loaf of bread or taking a yard of cloth. Many crimes were just an excuse to eradicate the poor as this mainly affected them and this continued until transportation was seen as a better option. Giddens (1989), Bailey (1991).

Conclusion

Whether Capital Punishment was a deterrent is debatable, execution as a form of social control which was a way of dealing with the UK's poor is abhorrent, the poor being blamed for being poor by a rich elite, but this was yesterday, unfortunately, parallels can be seen today with the continued ill treatment of the poor. Have we moved on.....!! Independent(2015), Dickens C (1860).

References

- Abbot G(2008), *Severed Heads*. London: Penguin
- Bailey B(1991), *Hangmen of England*. London: Collins
- Clark R(2004), *Capital Punishment in Britain*. London: OUP
- Dickens C (2015) (*Independent Newspaper*). London
- Giddens A (1989), *Sociology*. Cambridge: Polity
- Scott G R (1939), *History of Torture*. London: Senate
- Yarwood D (2001), *Cheshires Execution Files*.

