



The Toughest Beat: Politics, Punishment, and the Prison Officers Union in California (Studies in Crime and Public Policy)

Joshua Page

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In America today, one in every hundred adults is behind bars. As our prison population has exploded, 'law and order' interest groups have also grown -- in numbers and political clout. In *The Toughest Beat*, Joshua Page argues in crisp, vivid prose that the Golden State's prison boom fueled the rise of one of the most politically potent and feared interest groups in the nation: the California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA). As it made great strides for its members, the prison officers' union also fundamentally altered the composition and orientation of the penal field. *The Toughest Beat* is essential reading for anyone concerned with contemporary crime and punishment, interest group politics, and public sector labor unions.

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