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Impact of Colonialism on a States' Punitive Policies

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The Impact of Colonialism on State's Punitive Policies

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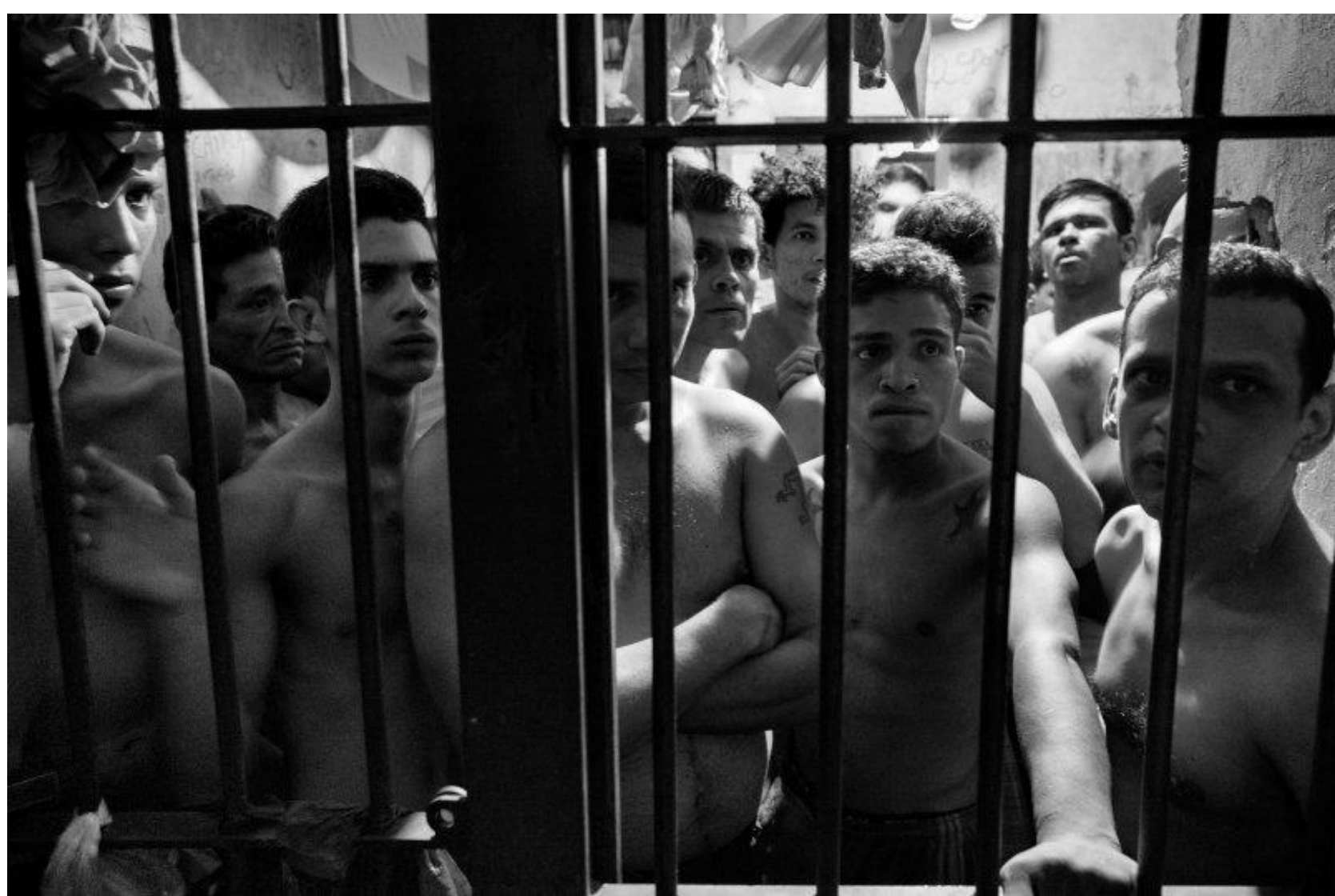
Deanna Ciacciarelli

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Currently, **over 10 million people** are being held in prisons worldwide. (1)

A large portion of prisons worldwide have **inadequate living standards**. (2)

Acts of torture are **rising globally** in penal centers (2)



METHODS

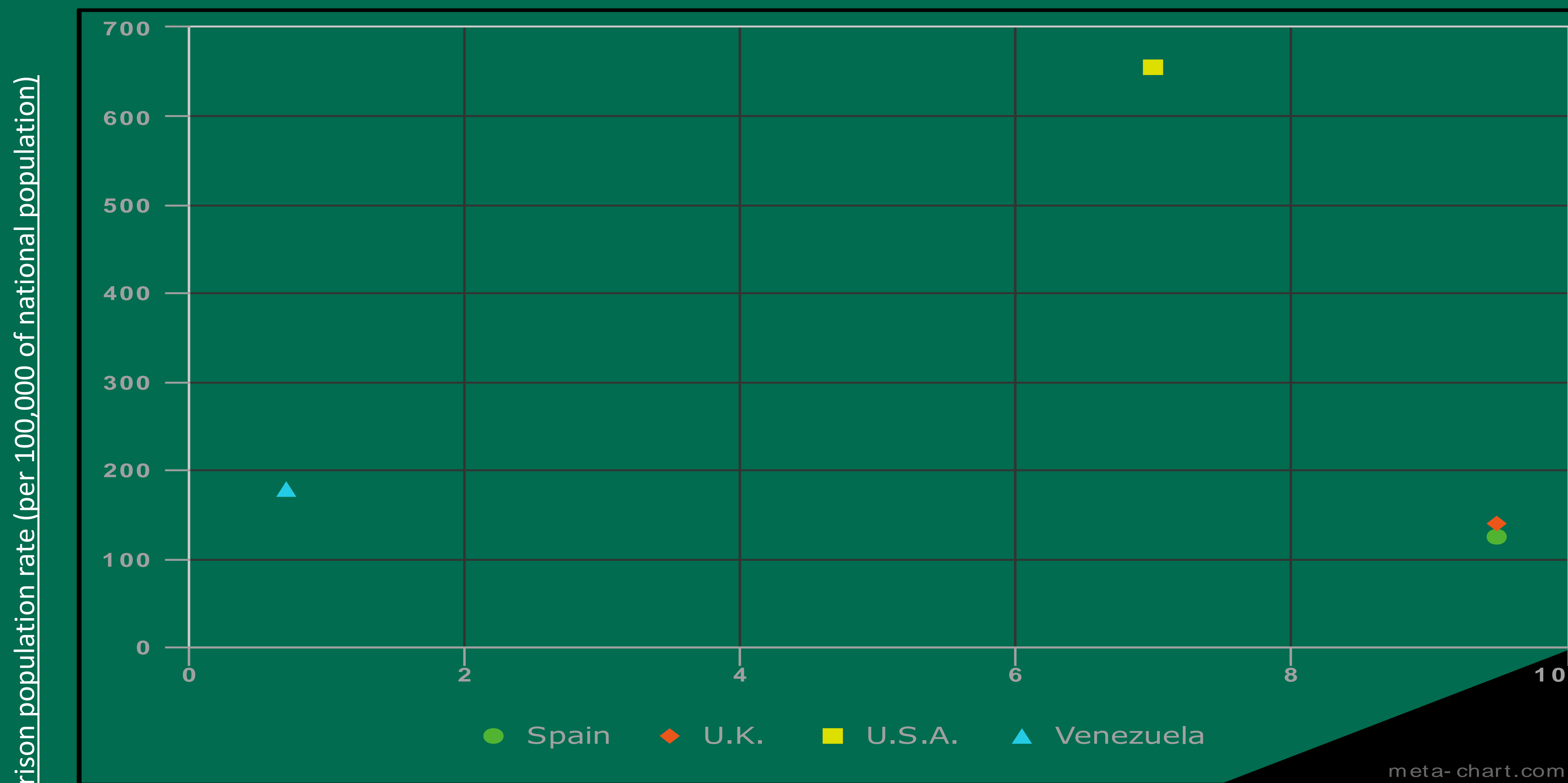
1. Pick four countries to compare as test subjects, two former colonies and two long standing colonizers.
 - One of these colonizers left peacefully
 - The other colonizer left very violently

2. Utilize the quantifiable data from Dr. Cingranelli's prison rights coding as an initial marker for how each countries prisons currently operate.

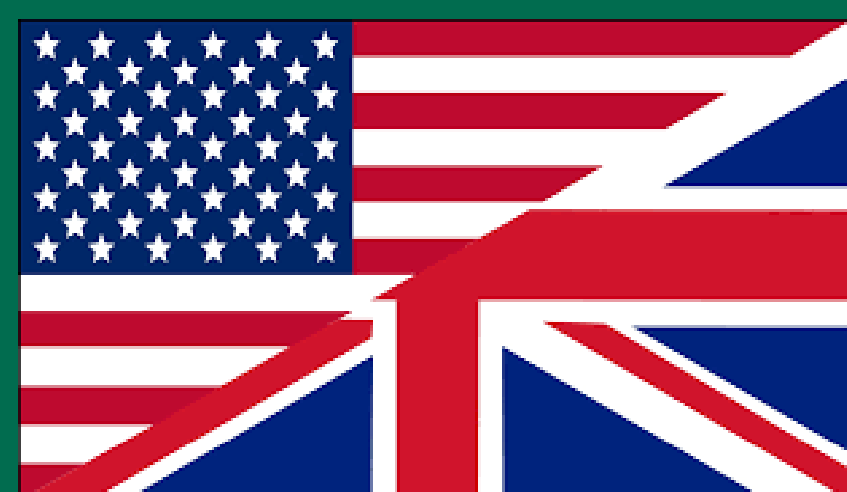
3. Analyze literature and legal bodies to use to compare each countries prison history post-colonization and compare imprisonment rates

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Spain	United Kingdom	Venezuela	USA
Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population): 124	Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population): 139	Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population): 178	Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population): 655
Score (0-14) on Dr. Cingranelli's prison rights coding scale 2019: 9.5	Score (0-14) on Dr. Cingranelli's prison rights coding scale 2019: 9.5	Score (0-14) on Dr. Cingranelli's prison rights coding scale 2019: .75	Score (0-14) on Dr. Cingranelli's prison rights coding scale 2019: 7



Score (0-14) on Dr. Cingranelli's prison rights coding scale 2019:



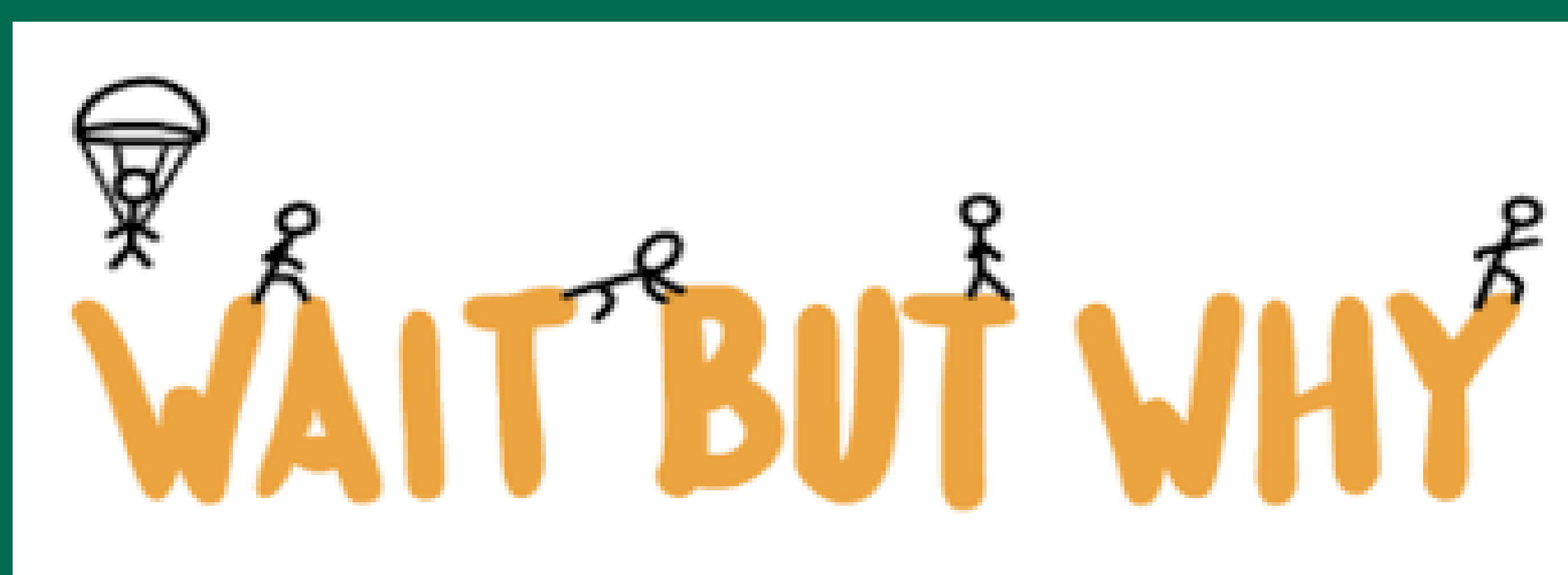
Historically, the US and Venezuela share similarities. Both nations started off as European colonies. Both gained independence within 15 years of each other. Both nations left their ruling crown **VIOLENTLY** and **IN WAR** **HOWEVER...**



-The USA attempted to leave the British crown much sooner, there was a longer struggle for power and without emulating other nations successes (3)

-Venezuela only decided to go against the Spanish crown, after Spanish collapse in 1808. There was a shorter power struggle. They knew about the success of US war. (3)

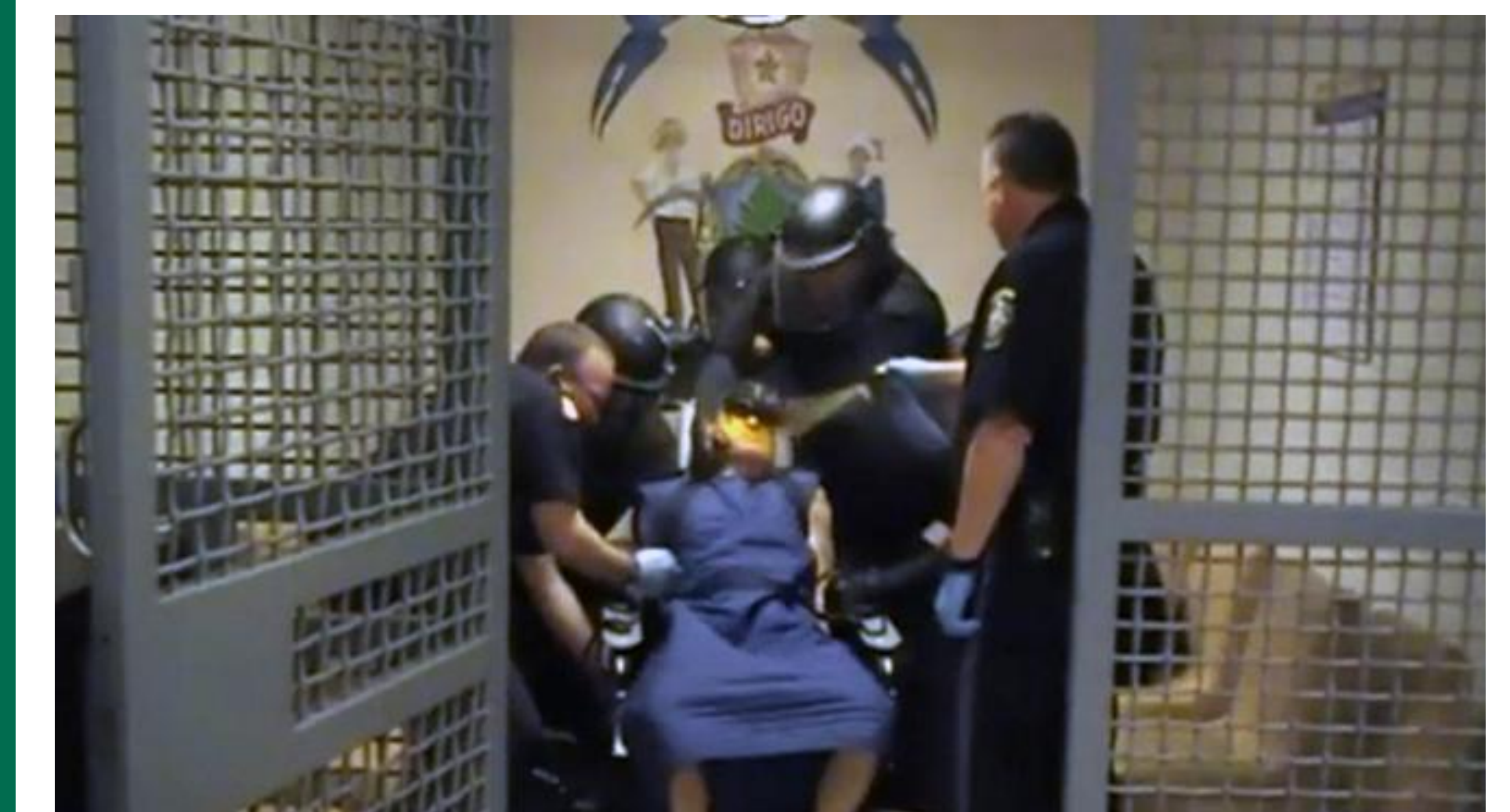
The results of the graph, show that both nations have significantly higher prison populations/worse prison conditions than their colonizer.



"If human rights are most likely respected in countries with high-quality institutions (or institutions of a certain type), and high-quality institutions persist over time, then respect for human rights in the past should predict respect for human rights today." (Chilton and Posner)

MEANING:

We can **conclude** that a country that begins as an entity **by conducting acts of violence** to achieve a goal, **will continue with a pattern** of inhumanity. The easiest, and most socially acceptable way to continue this is **through the treatment of the incarcerated prison system**. The colonizers have existed and reformed enough internally to minimize their violence in comparison to the colonized.



Today:

- "Spanish prisons are amazing compared to US prisons", Maritheresa Frain, US Consular Agent for the US State Department for Western Andalusia told The Local. "They are very liberal. The prisoners can wear regular street clothes and do art and language classes. (Mills)
- Venezuelan prisons are currently often at double intended capacity (50,000 people being held in 20,000 person facilities). Hundreds of prisoners died due to violence yearly (Grillo and Benezra)
- U.S. officers have consistently employed inhumane torture tactics such as waterboarding and abusing prisoners in U.S run prisons worldwide, despite denying its usage. (Clarke)
- In December 2018, UK prison rate were at the lowest they have been since 2012, showing a decreasing trend (Sturge)

REFERENCES

Walmsley, Enggist et al. Rodriguez , Chilton and Posner, Prison Studies,, U.S Department of State, Mills, Grillo and Benezra, Clarke, Sturge