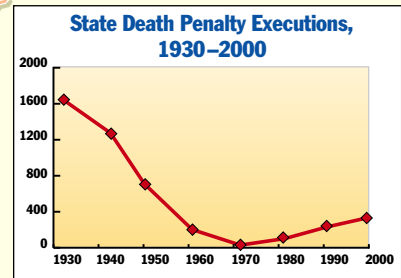
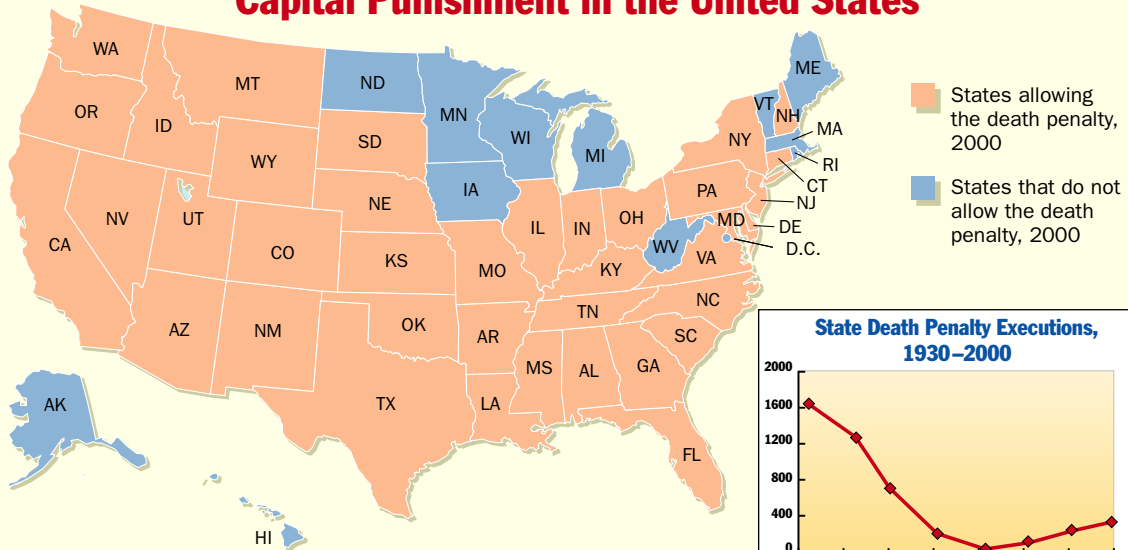




Capital Punishment in the United States



Sources: Stanley and Niemi, *Vital Statistics on American Politics, 1997-1998* (Washington, D.C.: CQ Inc., 1997); U.S. Department of Justice; Death Penalty Information Center, 2001.

Critical Thinking

The Supreme Court has ruled capital punishment legal, as long as cases are considered on an individual basis. **What principle of the Constitution permits states to allow or not allow the death penalty?**