

ETHICAL ARGUMENTS «FOR» AND «AGAINST» OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

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Today, the most relevant are the questions about the practice of the capital punishment. Supporters and opponents of it to actively continue to advance their arguments around the world, and the purpose of my discussion will be the ethical arguments “for” and “against” of capital punishment.

Capital punishments, first of all – it’s a murder, which is carried out by the state as a part of its rights to legitimate violence.

Despite the fact that European countries since the middle of the XIX century began to give up this penalty, a capital punishment is not fully eradicated.

The trend of development of this problem lies in the fact that over time changes the subjective attitude to a capital punishment. First, society unanimously recognized the need as well as the moral justification of the capital punishment.

But philosophers, scientists and public figures started to publicly express and defend opposing opinions approximately from the XVIII century.

Negative attitude to the capital punishment, arguing, first of all, ethical motives, was rapidly gaining strength.

The key of the ethical and moral arguments given that the capital punishment can be considered to be justified are the following.

1. Capital punishment – it’s a fair price paid as chastisement for the murder.
2. The capital punishment is justified because its deterrent effect which helps to prevent the commission of crimes by others.
3. The capital punishment rid society from dangerous criminals.

Ethical arguments «against» the capital punishment.

1. The capital punishment renders morally corrupting effect on human society.
2. The capital punishment is unfair and deceitful because it clearly violates the human limits of competence.
3. The capital punishment is impingement on fundamental moral principle of self-worth of the human person, its holiness.

In conclusion, it should be noted that, although the adduced ethical arguments in favor of the capital punishment and do not have a logical compulsion, but nevertheless they are seem to be quite convincing for a large number of people.