

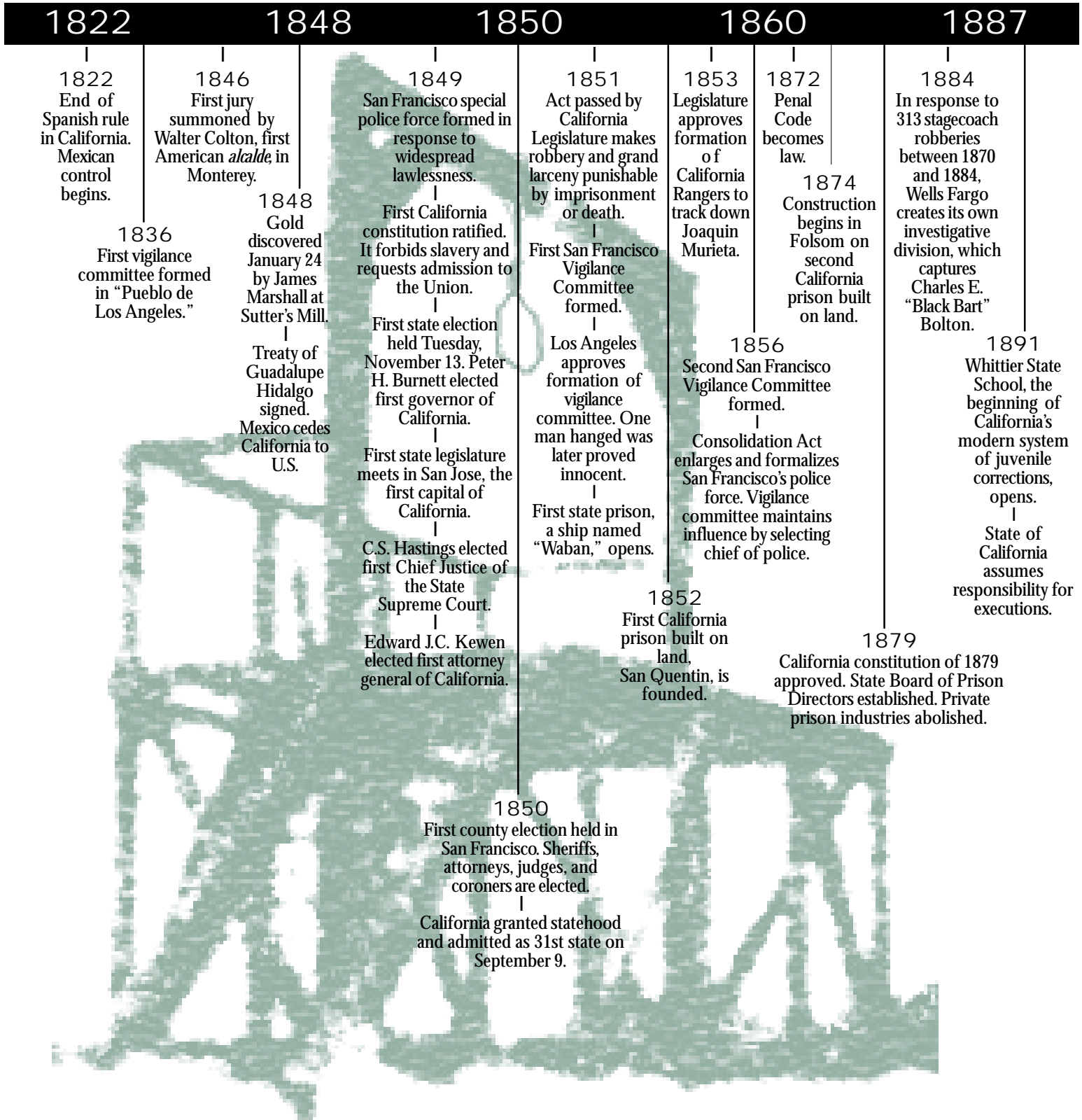
California Criminal Justice Time Line

1822-2000



California Department of Justice
 Division of Criminal Justice Information Services
 Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis
CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS CENTER
 Historical Research: Adele Spears
 Graphics: Rebecca Bowe
 Editor: Tad Davis

1850 Population 92,597	1860 Population 379,994	1870 Population 560,247	1880 Population 864,694	1890 Population 1,213,398
------------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------



1822

1822
End of Spanish rule in California. Mexican control begins.

|

1846
First jury summoned by Walter Colton, first American *alcalde*, in Monterey.

1848

1848
Gold discovered January 24 by James Marshall at Sutter's Mill.
|
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed. Mexico cedes California to U.S.

1850

1849
San Francisco special police force formed in response to widespread lawlessness.

|
First California constitution ratified. It forbids slavery and requests admission to the Union.

|
First state election held Tuesday, November 13. Peter H. Burnett elected first governor of California.

|
First state legislature meets in San Jose, the first capital of California.

|
C.S. Hastings elected first Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

|
Edward J.C. Kewen elected first attorney general of California.

1851
Act passed by California Legislature makes robbery and grand larceny punishable by imprisonment or death.

|
First San Francisco Vigilance Committee formed.

|
Los Angeles approves formation of vigilance committee. One man hanged was later proved innocent.

|
First state prison, a ship named "Waban," opens.

1860

1853
Legislature approves formation of California Rangers to track down Joaquin Murieta.

1856
Second San Francisco Vigilance Committee formed.

|
Consolidation Act enlarges and formalizes San Francisco's police force. Vigilance committee maintains influence by selecting chief of police.

1852
First California prison built on land, San Quentin, is founded.

1870

1872
Penal Code becomes law.

1874
Construction begins in Folsom on second California prison built on land.

1887

1884
In response to 313 stagecoach robberies between 1870 and 1884, Wells Fargo creates its own investigative division, which captures Charles E. "Black Bart" Bolton.

1891
Whittier State School, the beginning of California's modern system of juvenile corrections, opens.
|
State of California assumes responsibility for executions.

1879
California constitution of 1879 approved. State Board of Prison Directors established. Private prison industries abolished.

1850

First county election held in San Francisco. Sheriffs, attorneys, judges, and coroners are elected.

|
California granted statehood and admitted as 31st state on September 9.

1900
Population
1,485,053

1910
Population
2,377,549

1920
Population
3,426,861

1930
Prison
Population
7,071
Population
5,677,251

1940
Prison
Population
8,180
Population
6,907,387

1904 1912 1924 1932 1940

1893
California enacts its first parole law.

1905
California State Bureau of Criminal Identification created to maintain records on wanted persons and those already in confinement.

1910
Alice Stebbins Wells becomes first policewoman in California and the U.S.

1914
Los Angeles County creates Office of the Public Defender, the first of its kind in the U.S. Walton J. Wood becomes first public defender.

1917
California adopts indeterminate sentencing system.

1920
Volstead Act (Prohibition) takes effect.

1927
Division of Narcotic Enforcement created as part of the State Board of Pharmacy.

1931
Wickersham Commission cites need for more complete crime information. California becomes first state to establish a statewide reporting system to provide such data.

1935
Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Act distinguishes between drunk driving resulting in death or injury and all other types; also increases penalties for recidivism.

1938
First lethal gas execution carried out.

1942
Last official hanging occurs.

1903
Law enables counties to establish juvenile courts for delinquents and places restrictions on detention of juveniles with adults.

1909
Law requires California counties to maintain separate juvenile detention facilities.

Congress passes Harrison Act to regulate and tax production, importation, and manufacture of opium or coca leaves, their derivatives, etc.

1916
August Vollmer develops first formal, academic law enforcement program.

1926
Georgia P. Bullock elected judge of the Los Angeles Municipal Court. She is California's first woman to hold such a position.

Act regulating sale, possession, and transportation of machine guns approved.
California Legislature establishes Board of Prison Terms and Paroles.

1937
Law authorizes use of lethal gas as means of execution in California.

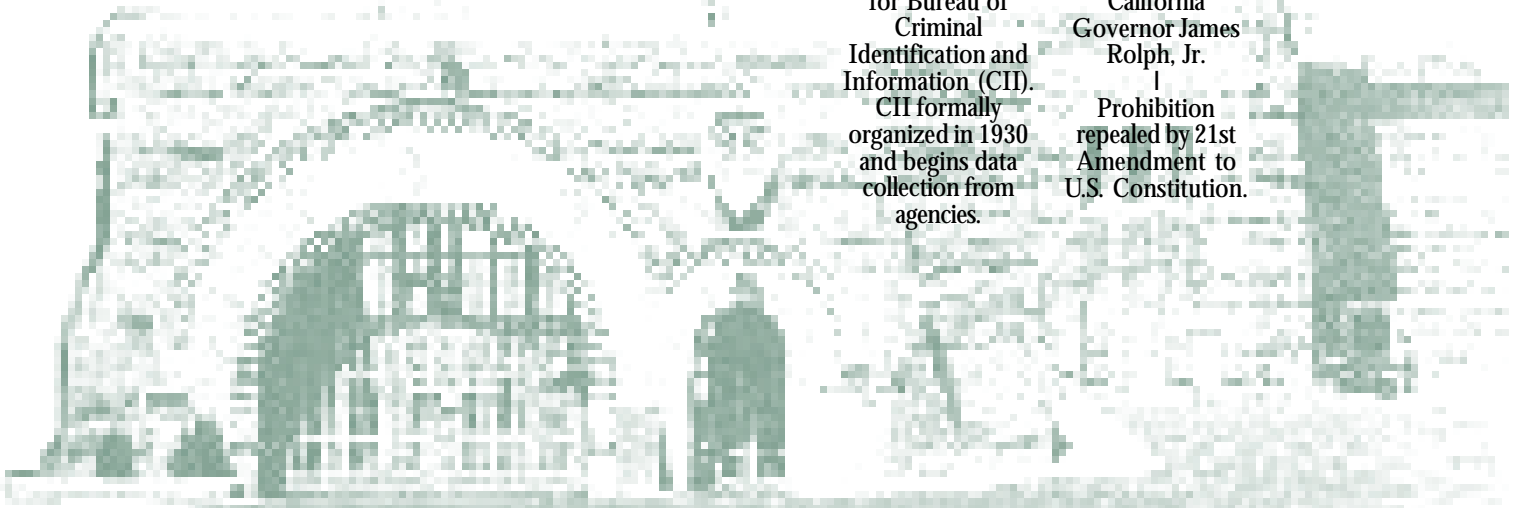
1941
California Youth Authority created.
First woman executed in San Quentin's gas chamber.

California begins probation programs.

1911
Law provides that no intoxicated person shall drive.

1929
California Highway Patrol created.
California Crime Commission requests legislature to hire statistician for Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information (CII). CII formally organized in 1930 and begins data collection from agencies.

1933
Two lynched in San Jose's St. James Park for kidnapping and murder. Mob action praised by California Governor James Rolph, Jr.
Prohibition repealed by 21st Amendment to U.S. Constitution.



Year	CCI Rate	Felony Arrest Rate	Felony Drug Arrest Rate	Prison Population	Population
1950	898.1	1,170.0	136.6	11,598	10,586,223
1952	898.1	1,170.0	136.6	11,598	10,586,223
1960	1,441.8	1,170.0	136.6	21,660	15,860,000
1970	2,987.1	2,049.8	769.4	22,399	20,039,000
1980	3,922.1	1,977.2	345.8	27,916	23,668,145
1990	3,443.0	2,490.5	627.9	99,145	29,557,836

1945 1966 1971 1981 1990

1944 California's penal system restructured with Prison Reorganization Act. Departments of Justice and Corrections created.

1945 Bureau of Criminal Statistics (now Criminal Justice Statistics Center) formed to collect criminal justice data.

1952 Bureau of Criminal Statistics begins collecting data on felony crimes and arrests, superior court dispositions, adult commitments, Youth Authority wards, juvenile probation, and jail population.

1960 Caryl Chessman executed at San Quentin. His execution for crimes less than murder reopens debate on death penalty.

1963 U.S. Supreme Court rules that criminal defendants must have counsel and that illegally acquired evidence is not admissible.

1966 U.S. Supreme Court rules that persons accused of crimes must be informed of their constitutional rights, including the right to remain silent, before being questioned ("Miranda rights").

1967 Aaron Mitchell dies in San Quentin's gas chamber for the killing of a Sacramento police officer. He becomes the 194th person executed in the gas chamber in California.

1969 "Use a Gun, Go to Prison" statute enacted by California Legislature.

1971 Keldgord Report calls for restructuring of corrections in California with emphasis on community-based alternatives.

1972 Death penalty ruled unconstitutional by California Supreme Court.

1974 Public vote results in reinstatement of the death penalty in California.

1976 Legislation decriminalizes marijuana; possession of one ounce or less becomes a misdemeanor.

1977 Death penalty reinstated in California.

1981 Legislation provides mandatory minimum penalties for drunk driving convictions.

1982 California voters approve Proposition 8, the "Victims' Bill of Rights."

1985 California Department of Justice's (DOJ) Automated Fingerprint Identification System becomes operational; identifies Richard Ramirez, the serial killer known as the Night Stalker.

1989 Roberti-Roos Assault Weapons Control Act approved. It regulates permits and bans the sale, manufacture, and distribution of military-type assault rifles.

1990 Blue Ribbon Commission on Inmate Population Management recommends expanded use of punishment options with emphasis on community-based alternatives in response to prison overcrowding.

1991 Beating of Rodney King by four police officers galvanizes public opinion nationwide and highlights problems of police and minority relations. U.S. DOJ launches "Operation Weed and Seed" to help prevent crime and improve quality of life in high-crime neighborhoods.

1991 Congress passes Crime Control Act of 1990 prohibiting importation and manufacture of semi-automatic weapons. Act also establishes gun-free school zones.

1991 Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act becomes law.

1991 First boot camp in California opens for juveniles in Los Angeles County.



2000
CCI Rate 1,780.1
Felony Arrest Rate 1,754.1
Felony Drug Arrest Rate 489.0
Prison Population 161,000
Population 34,480,000

1992 1995 1997 1999 2000

1992

Jury acquits four peace officers for the beating of Rodney King. Six days of rioting in Los Angeles County result in 54 deaths; 2,383 injuries; 13,000 arrests; and \$700 million in property damage.

1994

California's "Three Strikes and You're Out" criminal sentencing measure signed into law.

Congress amends Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. States must determine whether disproportionate minority confinement exists, identify the causes, and develop and implement corrective action.

Congress passes Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act. California law exceeds federal standard.

President signs Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. Bill contains funding authority totaling \$30.2 billion for more than 60 different law enforcement, prison construction, and crime prevention programs.

1995

U.S. district judge holds that inadequacies in the mental and medical health care system, a pervasive pattern of excessive force against inmates, and the inclusion of seriously mentally ill inmates in security housing units violate the 8th Amendment at California's Pelican Bay State Prison.

California DOJ publishes its first hate crime report.

California DOJ reestablishes the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System.

1996

President signs "Megan's Law," requiring states to notify law enforcement officials and the community when a convicted sex offender moves into a neighborhood.

California voters approve Proposition 215, "Medical Use of Marijuana Initiative."

1997

Restorative Justice Program funded in Santa Clara County.

California Legislature enacts Gambling Control Act. Act creates Division of Gambling Control within California DOJ.

1998

California's Little Hoover Commission finds that "county jails and state prisons do not have adequate space to house inmates and adequate plans do not exist to deal with the crisis."

FBI announces the National DNA Index System (NDIS).

California DOJ implements Applicant Live Scan, a system for the electronic submission of fingerprints and subsequent automated background check and response.

1999

Two Colorado high school students kill 13 and injure 23 before taking their own lives. This incident, the deadliest high school shooting in U.S. history, arouses nationwide concern about school violence and gun control.

Scandal erupts when former police officer, in a plea bargaining bid, alleges widespread corruption in California's largest police department's anti-gang program.

Gallup Poll reveals widespread concern about racial profiling.

2000

California voters approve Proposition 21, the "Juvenile Crime Initiative," requiring more juveniles to be tried in adult court and certain juveniles to be held in jail or state correctional facilities.

FBI announces creation of the Internet Fraud Complaint Center.

President signs Violence Against Women Act of 2000.

U.S. DOJ "consent decree," signed by Los Angeles mayor, calls for reforms within the city's police department and appointment of a federal monitor.

California voters approve Proposition 36, Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000, allowing certain offenders probation with drug treatment.

Sources: Population data were provided by the Demographic Research Unit, California Department of Finance. Prison population data were provided by the California Department of Corrections. Crime and arrest data were extracted from *Crime and Delinquency in California*, published by the California Department of Justice.

Notes: The California Crime Index (CCI) comprises homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. Crime rates were calculated using the total population. Arrest rates were calculated using the total *at-risk* population (persons 10-69 years of age).