1. INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of *The Prison Community* (Clemmer, 1940) virtually thousands of books and articles have been published on prison life and the adjustment of prisoners to their confinement. Most authors depict prison life as destructive to inmates who reenter community life with increased knowledge concerning the mechanics of crime and a reserve of bitterness toward "the system." In recent years, researchers have recognized that whereas incarceration impacts adversely on some prisoners, others cope relatively well with the stresses of confinement. Researchers have begun to identify factors, both external to the prison environment and internal to the inmate, as well as combinations of these factors that may influence the type of adjustment an inmate makes.

This chapter reviews work produced within the past several decades on inmate adjustment to prison, focusing on conditions of incarceration and individual inmate characteristics found to influence adjustment patterns. It pays special attention to environmental conditions, personality factors, and behavioral responses that may mediate against the potentially adverse effects of incarceration.
2. MODELS OF PRISONER ADJUSTMENT

Scholars of prisoner reactions to incarceration have primarily focused on mechanisms that allow or promote antisocial prisoner behavior and attitudes. Two perspectives have been proposed to account for the presumed negative influences of prison life, one centering upon features of the prison environment, the other on characteristics of the prisoner population itself.

3. RESEARCH ON PRISONER SUBCULTURES: THE DEPRIVATION MODEL

Early research on inmate adjustment focused on unique characteristics of the prison environment that influenced inmate behavior, both within prison and after release. Researchers assumed that particular aspects of prison life exert negative influences on inmates' attitudes, values, modes of social interaction and self-concepts, causing prisoners to be less capable of succeeding in the community after release than they were upon entry. This view has become known as the deprivation model of imprisonment.

Deprivation theorists characterized the prison as an environment that prevents inmates from fulfilling certain basic needs. Sykes (1958; see also Sykes and Messinger, 1960) articulated the deprivations inmates are forced to endure as the five "pains of imprisonment" that include the loss of social acceptance, material possessions, personal security, heterosexual relations and personal autonomy. Inmates' responses to these deprivations, both at the social organizational and individual levels, then become the objects of study for researchers attempting to examine the deprivation model.

3.1. Prisonization and the Inmate Counterculture

Most deprivation model researchers have focused upon the social and organizational responses of prisoners to incarceration (Clemmer, 1940; Garabedian, 1963; McCorkle and Korn, 1954; Sykes, 1958; Tittle, 1972; Wellford, 1967). They suggest that inmates cope with their deprivations by developing a normative system that opposed the authority exercised by institutional staff and administration. Known as the "inmate code," this system emphasizes such actions as refusing to report inmate rule violations or to assist authorities in other matters of discipline, rejecting the value of treatment and work programs, and maintaining loyalty to and solidarity with other inmates (Clemmer, 1940; Well-