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## **Abolition Is Not Just for Slavery: Abolishing Debtors' Prison in America by Changing Debt from Criminal to Circumstantial, 1830-1831**

Since colonization of North America by the British, debtors prison was an important part of a working society. The opinion was that a debtor's inability to pay was a lack of moral uprightness, and thereby they must suffer for their sin in prison until the debt could be secured or until death took the debtor's life for payment. Critics who were not pleased with the system, which often left creditors without recourse to actually collect their debts, began to utilize the media to change public opinion. Their goal was to change the way a debt could be resolved, continuing to abolish imprisonment for debt in America with the state of New York in 1831. This paper explores the press coverage from 1830-1831 in the movement of the abolition of imprisonment for debt.