



Drug Crazy: How We Got into This Mess and How We Can Get Out

By Mike Gray

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Drug Crazy is a scathing indictment of America's decades-long "war on drugs," an expensive and hypocritical folly which has essentially benefited only two classes of people: professional anti-drug advocates and drug lords.

Did you know that a presidential commission determined that marijuana is neither an addictive substance nor a "stepping stone" to harder drugs ... only to have President Nixon shelve the embarrassing final report and continue the government's policy of inflated drug addiction statistics? Did you know that several medical experts agree that "cold turkey" methods of withdrawal are essentially ineffective and recommend simply prescribing drugs to addicts ... and that communities in which this has been done report lower crime rates and reduced unemployment among addicts as a result?

Whether he's writing about the American government's strong-arm tactics toward critics of its drug policy or the reduction of countries like Colombia and Mexico to anarchic killing zones by powerful cartels, Mike Gray's analysis has an immediacy and a clarity worth noting. The passage of "medical marijuana" bills in California and Arizona (where the bill passed by a nearly 2-to-1 majority) indicates that people are getting fed up with the government's Prohibition-style tactics toward drugs. *Drug Crazy* just might speed that process along.

From Publishers Weekly

Arguing that the federal government's \$300-billion campaign to eradicate drug use over the last 15 years has been a total failure, Gray calls for legalization of drugs and government regulation of their sale, with doctors writing prescriptions to addicts. Although he scants specifics as to how this would work and the potential consequences, his outspoken brief for decriminalization is bolstered by a revealing history of drug use in America. A Hollywood screenwriter, TV producer and director, Gray brings a filmic sense of drama and action to a gritty, scorching look at the failure of America's war on drugs. As he jump-cuts from Al Capone's syndicate in Prohibition-era Chicago to the abortive Reagan/Bush campaign to control Latin American drug traffic, Gray maintains that hardcore addicts, a small minority of drug users, have served as a scapegoat for politicians and lawmakers, with the nation's "moral focus" selectively shifting from opium and morphine in the first two decades of this century, to alcohol, then to marijuana in the early 1930s, to crack cocaine today. "It would seem that if Americans are to have any say at all in what their teenagers are exposed to," he concludes, "they will have to take the drug market out of the hands of the Tijuana Cartel and Gangster Disciples, and put it back in the hands of doctors and pharmacists where it was before 1914." Author tour.

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From Library Journal

Screenwriter Gray's (*The China Syndrome*) main thesis is that the U.S. government should legalize narcotic drugs under the strictest control to combat the growing problem of drug use and organized crime. He bases his argument on the history of the alcohol industry under Prohibition, when the federal government attempted to ban alcohol and instead created an opportunity for organized crime to prosper. Gray traces the social history of drug and alcohol use without overburdening the reader with too much detail. Though concise, he gives the reader enough long-forgotten information to show what we can learn from past attempts to wrestle with this issue. Fully footnoted and containing a web-site bibliography, Gray's well-researched book will hold the reader's attention. His is a provocative solution to the drug problem, but don't expect

America to adopt it any time soon. Recommended for all libraries.?Michael Sawyer, Northwestern Regional Lib., Elkin, NC
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Users Review

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Elizabeth Cornelius:

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Daryl Sanders:

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