The Global Drug Wars

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Suggested hashtag for Twitter users: #LSEdrugwars
Why We Make War on Some Drugs but Not on Others

A Short History of Drug Use and Drug Policy

David T. Courtwright
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LSE October 23, 2012
ACCIDENTE DE FERROCARRIL
El bebedor pierde la noción de la responsabilidad de sus deberes profesionales.
I have seen with my own eyes the terrible scourge drink can be. It has ruined people morally, physically, economically, and it has destroyed the sanctity of the home. . . . Large numbers of Negro labourers are seen to waste all their earnings in drinking so that their lives become devoid of any grace.

--Mohandas Gandhi
Albert Besnard - *Morphine Addicts*, 1887 - Etching. Plate 23.8 x 37.1 cm, sheet 32.6 x 43.6 cm. National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection
The Three Axes of Drug Policy

Degree of Legal Access

Prohibition

Free Market

Strength of Sanctions

Prohibition

Tax Burden
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Decriminalize Marijuana!

Marijuana = $$$

Legalize Cannabis in California to Solve the Budget Crisis
CHINESE IN MELBOURNE – OPIUM SMOKING. – SEE PAGE 5.
EMPTY!

SAMMY’S “S.O.S.”
“SEND OVER SMOKES!”

25¢
KEEPS A FIGHTING MAN HAPPY FOR A DAY
$1.00
SECURES A MONTHLY SUPPLY OF TOBACCO

Our Boys Want Smokes

Contributions received here for
Canada’s Tobacco Fund
Organized by the Over-Sea Club
Patron: His Majesty the King

Our Boys Want Smokes

Complete Smokers’ Kits
$100 Kit $150 Kit
French Briar Pipe Silver and French Briar

50 Helmar Cigarettes
Army and Navy Lighter

Ready for Mailing
Return Postal Attached
Send It Now
To keep a slender figure
No one can deny...

Reach for a
Lucky instead of a sweet
“It's toasted”

Lucky Strike
Cigarettes

forever and ever...
“'It's toasted”

Edward Claydell Chowney
1932

Rootes Vintage Art
A GUINNESS A DAY

GUINNESS IS GOOD FOR YOU

**Figure 1** Alcohol and All-Cause Mortality

The relationship of daily alcohol consumption to the relative risk of all-cause mortality in men and women. Reproduced with permission from DiCastelnuovo et al. (2).

Source: JACC © 2007 American College of Cardiology Foundation
The double-double standard has become the single-double standard.
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Past MJ use among persons aged 18-25, U.S.

Note: Data points represent surveys conducted since 1971. The 1971-1998 data are from NHSDA (PAPI), the 1999-2001 data are from NHSDA (CAI), and the 2002-2004 data are from NSDUH (CAI). The three series of NSDUH/NHSDA data use different methodologies and are not comparable with the other series. MTF data are estimates for 12th graders for 1976-2004 and average estimates for persons aged 19 to 24 for 1983-2003.
AWRIGHT! DROP THE CIGARETTES!
The Clinton Administration’s War on Drugs...  

War on Tobacco...

POPP

[Cartoon]
LSE IDEAS public debate

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