

Drug Prohibition

Part 3 of 3

David Zokaites

September 5, 2017

Human trafficking

- Includes teenage prostitution
- Frequently starts with abuse at home
- Pimped by relatives to pay for expensive addictions
- There has to be a better way

Alcohol prohibition

- Supported the rise of organized crime
- Reduced respect for law
- Encouraged official corruption
- Expensive to enforce
- Increased alcohol consumption
- Worked as well as drug prohibition
- Had to be repealed

Some current propaganda

- Cannabis supposedly a gateway drug leading to heroin, cocaine
- "most drug users begin with alcohol and nicotine"
- "There is no conclusive evidence that the drug effects of marijuana are causally linked to the subsequent abuse of other illicit drugs."
- From 1999 study by Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences; study sponsored by Congress

Drug usage vs prohibition

- "most of the negative consequences associated with illegal drugs derive from the prohibition rather than the consumption of the prohibited good."
- "On net, the existing evidence suggests the social costs of drug prohibition are vastly greater than its benefits."
- From <http://cda.mrs.umn.edu/~kildegac/Courses/macro1/Papers/Economic-Case-Against-Drug-Prohibition.pdf>

Incarceration vs treatment

- Treatment more cost effective
- "Sending drug abusers to community-based treatment programs rather than prison could help reduce crime and save the criminal justice system billions of dollars, according to a new study by researchers at RTI International and Temple University."
- From <https://www.rti.org/news/study-replacing-prison-terms-drug-abuse-treatment-could-save-billions-criminal-justice-costs>

Prohibition beneficiaries

- Big pharma – less competition
- Alcohol, tobacco industries – less competition
- Organized crime – more business
- Terrorists – income stream
- Prison industry – more “customers”
- Fear mongers – more power, fewer rights for us
- Oligarchy builders – distracted powerless voters

Medical cannabis reduces crime

- "the introduction of medical marijuana laws (MMLs) leads to a decrease in violent crime"
- Article: Is Legal Pot Crippling Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations? The Effect of Medical Marijuana Laws on US Crime in The Economic Journal
- From <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ecoj.12521/full>

World Health Organization recommends decriminalization

- “decriminalize injection and other use of drugs and, thereby, reduce incarceration”
- See "Consolidated Guidelines on HIV Prevention ..." July 2014
- Practical, but too extreme for SD

Portugal decriminalized drugs

- Reduced crime and addiction
- Freed money for social programs
- <https://mic.com/articles/110344/14-years-after-portugal-decriminalized-all-drugs-here-s-what-s-happening#.VDNs9c8Bf>

Drug amnesty/treatment benefits

- Reduce addiction, incarceration
- Reduce funding for international terrorism
- Reduce crime and climate of fear
- Reduce the cost of government
- Boost the local economy
- Improve relations between police, citizens
- Promote public safety
- Help people heal their lives

Recommendations

- Sensible evidence-based policies not propaganda
- Facts not fear
- Remember illegal drugs only 0.8% of deaths
- Shift from dangerous drugs to cannabis
- Legalize cannabis
- Hard drugs can remain illegal
- Treatment for addicts of all types

Deeper recommendations

- Deal responsibly with life and social issues
- Promote a happier world
- Find something to love
- Live!

Enjoy life & change our world

