



Cannabis: A History

By Martin Booth

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To some it's the classic "gateway drug," to others it is a harmless way to relax, or provide relief from pain. Some fear it is dangerous and addictive, while others feel it should be decriminalized. Whatever the viewpoint, cannabis incites debate at every level, and the effect it has on every corner of the globe is undeniable.

In this comprehensive study, Martin Booth crafts a tale of medical advance and religious enlightenment; of political subterfuge and law enforcement; of cunning smugglers, street pushers, gang warfare, writers, artists, and musicians. And above all, Booth chronicles the fascinating process through which cannabis became outlawed throughout the Western world, and the effect such legislation has had on the global economy.

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Cannabis: A History By Martin Booth Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Quick?what do Napoleon's troops, Asian cooking, Armani jeans, the Gutenberg Bible and the Parke-Davis pharmaceutical company have in common? According to British novelist Booth (*Opium*; *Hiroshima Joe*; etc.), all of these have used some part of the versatile cannabis plant. In this densely packed, wide-ranging history, Booth draws on religion, history, ecology, horticulture, linguistics, pop culture and medical research to correct the falsehoods surrounding the oft-banned plant and to painstakingly build his case that the war on cannabis has little to do with concerns for public health or order. Along the way, Booth introduces a dizzying parade of historical persons that includes visionaries, scientists, beatniks, farmers, artists, soldiers and smugglers. Unlike many of the other more partisan books on cannabis, the overall tone of Booth's volume is objective, unemotional and factual—a stance that makes for fine impartial argument, but also occasionally dull reading. At its best, however, the book's attention to detail lures the reader ever more deeply into cannabis history. Descriptions of hip, mid-century New York, London and Amsterdam, for example, help illuminate the role of cannabis in more recent cultural movements. And a quick survey of the myths about the drug's psychological effects shows how laws banning cannabis were often used as an excuse to suppress blacks and migrant Mexican workers. Booth also discusses provocative legal, political and economic actions (for and against cannabis) that have affected millions of people. In his profile of a plant that can be an intoxicant, fiber, cooking ingredient, medicine and potential source of environmentally friendly products, he gives readers a fascinating sourcebook about "the most widely produced, trafficked and used illicit drug on earth." Photos.

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From [Booklist](#)

Booth chronicles that "adaptive and highly successful annual found . . . throughout the temperate and tropical zones," cannabis, with the panache he exhibited in *Opium* (1998). Though the noble plant's precise origins are hazy, the name *cannabis* probably evolved from antecedents meaning fragrant cane. Whatever it has been called, it has been beloved and reviled by personages ranging from twelfth-century Sufi monks, who chewed it for its mood-altering properties, to anti-pot Depression-era federal agent Harry Anslinger and today's drug warriors. Favored by poets (Coleridge sought to wean himself from opium with it), musicians and actors (Gene Krupa and Robert Mitchum, both busted in Anslinger's "star-bust campaign"), and worse (black-magician Aleister Crowley, who put it in his recreational-substance armamentarium). Besides famous users, Booth discusses home-growing ganja and present-day international trafficking in it, though from a British perspective. His pithy coverage of Rastafarians is a particular treat. While no brief for legalization, *Cannabis* objectively raises points and issues threatening to zero-tolerance environments; more open collections, however, should welcome it. *Mike Tribby*

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Review

"Amazingly informative and riveting...quite intoxicating." *Financial Times (UK)*

"Fascinating...a clear-headed and sustained case." *The Sunday Times (UK)*

"Even-handed, adult and good-humoured...original and thought-provoking." *Sunday Telegraph (UK)*

"Well-researched." *The Seattle Times*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joyce Morton:

The feeling that you get from Cannabis: A History may be the more deep you excavating the information that hide within the words the more you get interested in reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to know but Cannabis: A History giving you thrill feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood simply by anyone who read that because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this kind of Cannabis: A History instantly.

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Brittany Belliveau:

This Cannabis: A History is great publication for you because the content that is full of information for you who all always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it details accurately using great manage word or we can point out no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but difficult core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having Cannabis: A History in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no guide that offer you world within ten or fifteen second right but this publication already do that. So , it is good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt that?

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