

Planting, SWAT teams search Northern California fields by helicopter. If any marijuana plants (which grow wild) are found, homes and businesses are subject to immediate confiscation. The owner has 20 days to sue the government to get his property back.

Originally the "War on Drugs" was a metaphor. Now it is reality. In December 1989, 20,000 US troops invaded Panama, capturing strongman Manuel Noriega accused of being a drug trafficker. At least 4,000 innocent Panamanians were killed and entire neighborhoods destroyed to capture one man.

Today in South America, US drug warriors provide some of the world's most repressive regimes with training, helicopter gunships, and automatic weapons used to attack the villages and fields of peasants accused of growing drugs. The result of these brutal tactics has been to make heroes out of anti-government drug dealers and communist revolutionaries.

The US government's "holy crusade" against drugs has become an enormous threat to peace, freedom and prosperity throughout the world.

How Legalization Would Effect Drug Use

Drug legalization would end all of these terrors. The strongest argument offered against legalization is that it would result in a massive increase in drug use. But there is little evidence to support that assertion. In Holland, Belgium and other European countries which have *de facto* legalized drugs, drug use increased only slightly. However, crime, drug over-doses, and drug-related deaths fell dramatically.

Legalization in the US may even reduce drug use. In 1975, Alaska legalized private use of marijuana. A 1982 study by the University of Alaska showed that 4% of Alaskan students used marijuana every day, compared to 6.3% of all American high-school seniors.

Drug legalization ends the "forbidden fruit" appeal of illegal drugs. It eliminates huge profits for drug dealers and the incentive to sell drugs to minors. It ends the hype, hysteria, and murderous insanity that are the handmaidens of prohibition.

Ending Our Drug War Nightmare

For decades, the government has been waging a futile war on drugs. With every new crackdown, drug violence and brutality increase – and our freedom declines. If drugs are legalized, drug use would become just another vice, like smoking or drinking.

Legalization would end most drug violence, brutalization of drug users, corruption of police, clogging of courts and prisons, and most deaths

from drug overdoses. Legalization would free social resources for efficient drug education and compassionate treatment of addicts.

Drugs should be legalized, not because drugs are good or beneficial, but because drugs do less harm to our lives, our property, and our humanity, than drug laws.

Drug use without repression is a tolerable evil. An endless and futile War on Drugs is an intolerable assault upon the very essence of America. The War on Drugs is the cause of our drug nightmare, not the solution to it. America will be safe only when we are once more free, and drugs are legal.

Jarret B. Wollstein is a member of ISIL's Board of Directors and a founder of the original Society for Individual Liberty.

Statement of Principles

The International Society for Individual Liberty is an association of individuals and organizations dedicated to building a free and peaceful world, respect for individual rights and liberties, and an open and competitive economic system based on voluntary exchange and free trade. Members and affiliated organizations pursue these goals through independent action, using their freely chosen strategies. The association exists to promote the exchange of information and ideas, to study diverse strategies, and to foster fellowship.

ISIL and its members in over 80 countries pursue the goal of individual liberty through educational and networking activities. ISIL produces educational materials such as this pamphlet which is one of a series of which 4-million have been sold in the US. ISIL sponsors the translation and publishing of libertarian books and literature overseas and promotes networking through its international newsletter, the *Freedom Network News*. Since 1982 ISIL has organized annual world conferences which have served as a catalyst for the development of the world libertarian movement.

Join ISIL today and help us create a world of freedom, peace and abundance. A Basic membership of \$35 per year includes a subscription to the *Freedom Network News*, a full set of the 30+ title ISIL Educational Pamphlet Series (and new titles as they are published), discounts on book, audio and video offers, and a membership card.

Donations to ISIL are tax-deductible in the USA.

Extra copies of this pamphlet are available at 5¢ each (add \$3.20 shipping on orders of under 500 pieces). For a full ISIL information package, including a sample newsletter and literature, send \$3.00 to cover postage & handling.

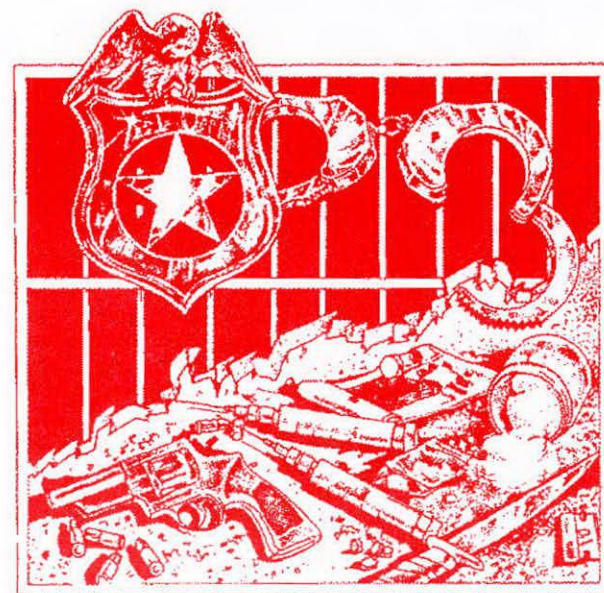


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ENDING OUR DRUG NIGHTMARE

A Humane Solution That Will Make Our Streets Safe



by Jarret B. Wollstein

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