

The Untold Truth of Cannabis!

"Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth....to you it will be for meat.... And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."
Genesis 1:29-31, The Holy Bible (King James Translation)

"Prohibition goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes."
—Abraham Lincoln, December 1840

"From a public health perspective, there is a solid case to be made that arresting marijuana users, giving them criminal records, and disrupting careers and families, does more harm to more people than the drug itself does."
— Former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, December 2002

Although the topic of 'marijuana' brings to light many different opinions and stereotypes, I challenge you to receptively heed my argument open mindedly, discarding your previously held dispositions to the topic. This paper outlines the many reasons why America should legalize and regulate cannabis in a similar fashion to alcohol and tobacco. While I am proposing that marijuana should be legalized and regulated in a similar fashion to alcohol and tobacco, understand that you don't necessarily have to *agree* with marijuana's recreational use in order to favor its legalization.

This line of thinking was evidenced in 1933 when the 21st Amendment was passed, repealing alcohol prohibition. During the 13-years of alcohol prohibition, organized crime (the Mob) and powerful gangs came to power, supplying the ever-present demand for alcohol, while acquiring millions of dollars in the process. With the rise of organized crime came a burgeoning black-market, rising homicide rates, and police corruption and racketeering. Many alcohol prohibitionists soon came to the realization that alcohol's prohibition was more detrimental to society than the actual drug itself.

This is the argument I will attempt to make in this paper—that cannabis' illegalization is causing more harm to society than the plant is itself.

Note: This paper was originally made for my presentation (in which I had to make an argument) in my English 301 class. After receiving positive feedback from several of my classmates I decided to make it an ongoing project. My solitary goal is to inform *you* the reader of some of the well-documented, but mostly unknown, history and scientific knowledge surrounding cannabis. In hopes of establishing credibility I have cited all of my sources in the last pages. I urge you to look up the information yourself, and most importantly.....help spread the truth!

Why America Should Legalize & Regulate Cannabis

Terminology:

Marijuana (aka “Cannabis”): contains 66 different chemicals, called cannabinoids, which are unique to the Cannabis plant.

Cannabinoids: THC is the main cannabinoid responsible for marijuana’s psychoactive effects (the “high”), while other cannabinoids, such as Cannabinol (CBN) and Cannabidiol (CBD), are less psychoactive but interact and alter the pharmacological effects.

Hemp: a Cannabis strain cultivated for industrial use, containing negligible amounts of psychoactive cannabinoids.

Supporting Points:

1) Hemp is one of the most resourceful and versatile plants, and “can be used to produce more than 25,000 different products, ranging from dynamite to cellophane” (Popular Mechanics 1938). It additionally holds great potential in providing enormous amounts of energy as a biomass, which can be converted to ethanol for consumer consumption.

a) Why is hemp so special?

i) Hemp is unique among other crops, in that every part of the plant has utility and potential market value. Hemp’s oilseed makes high-grade food and beauty products. The stalks produce fiber and cellulose for everything from automotive parts and fine clothing to building products and fuel.

ii) Additionally, hemp is unique in that it is the fastest growing biomass source on Earth, often growing between 10 to 18 feet in a 4 month growing season. Also, hemp is a hearty plant that can grow on all continents, except Antarctica, and does well on marginal soil unsuitable for other crops.

b) A brief history of hemp:

i) The earliest known woven fabric ever found was hemp, dated to 8,000 B.C.

ii) For more than 1,000 years before the time of Christ until 1883 A.D., hemp was our planet’s largest agricultural crop and most important industry, involving thousands of products and enterprises; producing the overall majority of Earth’s fiber, fabric, lighting oil, paper, incense and medicines.

iii) Hemp was legal tender (money) in most of the Americas from 1631 until the early 1800s. This was to encourage American farmers to grow more because it was valued so greatly.

iv) You could even be jailed in America for not growing cannabis during several periods of shortage, e.g., in Virginia between 1763 and 1767.

v) Until about 1800, hempseed oil was the most consumed lighting oil in America, and the world, and it is the brightest lamp oil. From 1800s to the 1870s, it was the second most consumed lighting oil, exceeded only by whale oil.

vi) Until the 1820s in America (and until the 20th Century in most of the rest of the world), 80% of all textiles and fabrics used for clothing, tents, bed sheets and linens, rugs, drapes, quilts, towels, diapers, etc. were principally made from fibers of hemp.

vii) The United States Census of 1850 counted 8,327 hemp “plantations” (minimum 2,000-acre farm) growing hemp in America.

viii) Until 1883, between 75-90% of all paper in the world was made with cannabis hemp fiber, which is 50 to 100 more durable than papyrus, and much easier to make.

ix) Between 70-90% of all rope, twine, and cordage was made from hemp until 1937.

Why America Should Legalize & Regulate Cannabis

- x) In 1942, after the Japanese invasion of the Philippines cut off America's supply of foreign hemp, the U.S. Government distributed 400,000 pounds of cannabis seeds to American farmers from Wisconsin to Kentucky, who produced 42,000 tons of hemp fiber annually until 1946 when the war ended.
 - xi) By the late 1820s, the American hand cotton gins (invented by Eli Whitney in 1793) were largely replaced by European-made "industrial" looms and cotton gins. For the first time, light cotton clothing could be produced at less cost than hand separating hemp fibers, handspun on spinning wheels. However, because of hemp's strength, softness, warmth and durability, hemp continued to be the second most-used natural fiber until the 1930s.
 - c) Hemp is the longest, strongest, most elastic, and most durable natural fiber in nature. Hemp grows well without herbicides, fungicides, or pesticides (while cotton crops in America use 50% of all pesticides, although they occupy only 1% of America's farmland).
 - i) Hemp is 4 times warmer than cotton, 4 times more water absorbent, has 3 times the tensile strength of cotton, is 10 times more durable, and is flame retardant.
 - d) Additionally, in one year an acre of hemp can produce 4 times as much paper than can an acre of trees, and at one fourth the cost. Hemp paper products can be recycled seven times while paper made from wood-pulp can only be recycled three times.
 - e) Hemp is a beneficial rotation crop for farmers: its roots penetrate deeply into the soil, aerating it, while its vigorous growth chokes-out weeds without the need for herbicidal chemicals.
 - f) Hemp seed's contain all the essential amino acids and essential fatty acids necessary for human life, as well as a rare protein known as globule edestins that are very similar to the globulin found in human blood plasma. Because of this, hemp seed has been touted by some as "Nature's perfect food for humanity." For this reason hemp seed oil is the healthiest oil available for cooking, and human consumption.
 - g) Hemp would be a beneficial cash crop for American farmers, who could add it into their crop rotations. Hemp cultivation would additionally open up millions of acres currently unusable for agriculture products. Currently, the United States is the only developed nation in which industrial hemp is not an established crop.
 - h) It is estimated that methane and methanol production alone from hemp grown bio-mass could replace 90% of the world's energy needs (and dependence on fossil fuels) while not progressing global warming.
 - i) As claimed by Jack Herer (the "Emperor of Hemp"), hemp cultivated on 6% of US land, even on secondary marginal lands, could "produce all 75 quadrillion billion BTUs [of energy] needed to run America each year."
- 2) Cannabis shouldn't be illegal in the first place. Cannabis was illegalized because it posed a threat to the financial status of several powerful business men, not because cannabis posed significant health risks, as most reasonably assume. Further, these men duped the American public into demonizing cannabis through propaganda and a heinous media campaign, full of fear-mongering and racism.
- a) William Hearst, along with Lammont Dupont, Andrew Mellon, John D. Rockefeller and the DuPont family were apparently alarmed by hemp's ability to provide an alternative source for paper, fiber, plastic and more, which would threaten their growing empires (Timber and Oil). DuPont developed fuel additives and a process to make paper from wood pulp, that proved to be less expensive than manufactured hemp, along with synthetic products such as plastics and nylon. The problem with hemp at that time was the man-hours it took to harvest the crop made hemp uneconomically feasible.

Why America Should Legalize & Regulate Cannabis

- b) In 1938, the Popular Mechanics magazine touted a new hemp-reaper, known as the decorticator (originally created in 1917), which was touted to dramatically decrease the harvesting time for hemp (analogous to the cotton gin with cotton), and thus propel hemp to be “the new billion dollar crop.” The decorticator shortened hemp’s harvesting process to such a degree that hemp was soon to become the best and most inexpensive material for making paper, synthetic products, and much more. The article went on to affirm hemp’s status as a multi-purpose plant, stating hemp “can be used to produce more than 25,000 products, ranging from dynamite to Cellophane.”
 - c) An alleged conspiracy was soon hatched to derail the development of hemp, and so begins “Reefer Madness.” En route to removing hemp these men first had to convince the public and congress of marijuana’s/hemp’s overwhelming danger.
 - d) An intensive propaganda barrage, supported by Hearst's nationwide newspaper chain, quickly molded the public consciousness surrounding marijuana, painting an image of marijuana as a diabolical "devil weed" which would corrupt America’s youth and turn even normal, mild mannered white people into superhuman, psychotic killers.
 - e) Andrew Mellon sat on the board of DuPont and Mellon's nephew was Harry Anslinger, the head of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics at the time. Playing on pervasive racist themes, and employing misinformation and blatant lies, Anslinger spoon-fed the American public the extreme dangers marijuana posed to society.
 - i) [Image: Marijuana Assassin of Youth]
 - ii) "Reefer makes darkies think they're as good as white men." (Anslinger 1929)
 - iii) "Marihuana influences Negroes to look at white people in the eye, step on white men's shadows, and look at a white woman twice” (Hearst Newspaper)
 - iv) "There are 100,000 total marijuana smokers in the US, and most are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos and entertainers. Their Satanic music, jazz and swing, result from marijuana usage.....marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers and any others." -Anslinger testimony before Congress, 1937.
 - v) "Colored students at the Univ. of Minn. partying with female students (white), smoking [marijuana] and getting their sympathy with stories of racial persecution. Result pregnancy" -Anslinger, 1937.
 - f) Consistently and deliberately they used the name “marijuana” (a slang term for the drug) to disassociate the plant they were demonizing from the one that the country had relied on since its beginnings (i.e. Cannabis Hemp). When the 1937 Marijuana Tax Act (which effectively criminalized cannabis’ possession) was brought to vote, most of the public was not even aware that hemp and marijuana came from the same plant, much less that the law destroying traffic in marijuana would also destroy the hemp industry. The bill was signed into law after deliberating only 2 hours.
- 3) Cannabis’ legalization would save tax payers billions of tax-dollars, while generating billions in “sin taxes,” and would free-up criminal-justice resources (police, jail space, judges, and courts) for real crimes (involving victims).
- a) In 2005, over 785,000 Americans were arrested for marijuana violations, comprising 42.6% of all drug arrests in the United States. Additionally, of those arrested, 88% were for mere possession alone (a victimless crime).
 - b) Annual unresolved crime in America (2005): 37.4% - Homicides; 86% - Burglaries; 48% - Rape. Clearly, more police resources should be directed to these sorts of crimes, which have a greater effect on the wellbeing of society.
 - c) Despite this large bill footed by America’s tax payers, the prevalence of cannabis in America has not decreased. It was announced in December of 2006 that cannabis is now America’s

Why America Should Legalize & Regulate Cannabis

- #1 cash crop. The study contends that marijuana production, at an estimated value of \$35.8 billion, exceeds the combined value of corn (\$23.3 billion) and wheat (\$7.5 billion) grown in America.
- i) Additionally, all the drug money generated from the sale of cannabis goes to the underground market, when it should be going to regulated businesses where it can be taxed.
 - d) If cannabis were to be legalized, funding would be depleted to many of those involved in organized crime and terrorism. Nearly half of the groups officially listed by the US government as foreign terrorist organizations fund their activities through drug trafficking, according to top DEA official Michael Braun. Prohibition creates these underground markets that organized crime, and drug cartels, need and are very willing to supply in order to advance their personal agenda.
 - i) For Example: Mob and alcohol in the 1920's; Al Qaeda and opium; "Ninety percent of the cocaine Americans consume" is supplied by FARC, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia.
 - ii) This is how these groups obtain mass amounts of wealth for their covert operations. It is easy to see how this works, supported by a 2007 government study that concluded higher-quality "marijuana is quite literally worth its weight in gold."
 - iii) Question: What is the most effective means of curtailing terrorism? A: Cut off their funding!
 - iv) Don't forget...the annual value of the global illicit drug trade is estimated at \$322 billion. –United Nations
 - e) Although America makes up only 5% of the world's population, American prisoners comprise 25% of the world's inmates (being 3 to 8 times higher than other industrialized European nations); while most American state prisons are running at 100-115% the rated prison capacity, and Federal prisons are operating at 134% the rated prison capacity. Due to overcrowding, most inmates in jail and prison get out on early release or parole after serving only a third to one-half their sentence, as cannabis offenders take their place in the system (except violent offenders).
 - f) Since marijuana related offences comprise 46% of all drug related offenses, marijuana legalization would dramatically reduce the growing burden on the American legal system—freeing up police time and resources, courts, judges, and jail space—for real criminals who degrade society.
 - g) In Spring 2005, a study led by Harvard University economics professor Dr. Jeffery Mirron, and endorsed by more than 500 distinguished economists, concluded that with marijuana's decriminalization and taxation, the government could achieve a net swing of \$14 billion annually (saving \$7.7 billion annually in marijuana prohibition expenditures, and yielding \$6.3 billion annually in taxes).
- 4) Cannabis poses no greater - and arguably far fewer - health and societal problems than do alcohol and tobacco.
- a) [Image: 3_Addiction Potential]
 - b) Alcohol Facts:
 - i) Currently, nearly 14 million Americans—1 in every 13 adults—abuse alcohol or are alcoholic, with alcohol-related problems costing society approximately \$185 billion per year, and an estimated 100,000 deaths annually.
 - ii) Alcohol abuse is related to: 39% of all traffic related deaths; leads to liver and organ damage; is estimated to directly, or indirectly, cause 2 to 4 percent of all cancer cases;

Why America Should Legalize & Regulate Cannabis

- reduces user inhibition; increases aggression; leads to spousal abuse and family violence; causes Fatal Alcohol Syndrome in babies.
- iii) Alcohol makes domestic violence 8xs more likely; marijuana does not according to a 2003 study.
- c) Tobacco Facts:
- i) Tobacco use is considered the leading preventable cause of premature death in the U.S., causing an estimated 400,000 annual U.S. deaths.
 - ii) Tobacco related health problems include: heart disease, cancer, chronic pulmonary disease, bronchitis, and stroke among others.
- d) Marijuana Facts:
- i) “An exhaustive search of the literature finds no deaths induced by marijuana. Laboratory animals (rats, mice, dogs, monkeys) can tolerate doses of up to 1,000 mg/kg (milligrams per kilogram). This would be equivalent to a 150 lb person swallowing 2.5 ounces of the drug—about 5,000 times more than is required to produce a high.” - Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN)
 - (1) Both alcohol and nicotine are potentially toxic: this can occur in Blood Alcohol Concentrations of 0.40 or greater for alcohol, or ingesting 60 mg of nicotine (equivalent to eating only 4- 6 cigarettes, or smoking 50-60 cigarettes in a row; there is approximately 10 mg of nicotine in a cigarette, but only 1-2 mg is absorbed by smoking and 100% when eaten).
 - (2) Even aspirin causes an estimated 180-1000 American deaths per year.
 - ii) Despite popular belief, controlled studies have not found a correlation between smoking cannabis and increased risks of developing lung cancers, or cancers of the head or neck. Not even chronic (daily) cannabis smokers have been found to have an increased risk for lung cancer, although a clear association between smoking tobacco and cancer has been established.
 - (1) Additionally, in a Costa Rican study, it was found that chronic marijuana smokers who also smoked cigarettes were less likely to develop cancer than cigarette smokers who didn't use marijuana. This is because cannabinoids are bronchodilators (they dilate, or inflate, the alveoli in the lungs), thus allowing toxins to be more easily eliminated. Conversely, nicotine is known to constrict the alveoli.
 - iii) Recent neurological research has found that THC and cannabinoids found in cannabis are “neuro-protectant,” by countering harmful mediators in the brain that lead to progressive (secondary) brain damage. These mediators are released as a result of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), or are the result of chemical imbalances in neurodegenerative diseases (such as Parkinson's Disease and Tourette's Syndrome). This new discovery has opened the door of possibly using cannabis to treat: Multiple Sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, and acute brain injury.
 - iv) A recent study by the Journal of Clinical Investigation found that the administration of synthetic cannabinoids in rats stimulated neurogenesis (the proliferation of new brain cells) in the hippocampus region of the brain, and significantly reduced measures of anxiety and depression-like behavior [the hippocampus specifically plays a role in memory and special navigation]. While it is premature to extrapolate the study's findings to humans, at a minimum, the findings reinforce the notion that cannabinoids are unusually non-toxic to the brain.
 - (1) Interestingly, the results shocked researchers -- who noted that almost all other so-called "drugs of abuse" (including alcohol, tobacco, amphetamines, ect.) decrease neurogenesis in adults.

Why America Should Legalize & Regulate Cannabis

- 5) Cannabis has proven beneficial to many patients suffering from some of the most debilitating ailments and diseases, but the government still won't recognize its medical uses (despite 12 states already enacting Medical Marijuana laws, in defiance of federal law).
- a) It is beneficial for those with:
 - i) AIDS – cannabis reduces nausea and pain, while restoring appetites to patients with AIDS Wasting Syndrome (where patients bodies begin shutting down, and they often loose up to 10% of their body weight).
 - ii) Cancer – cannabis has been documented in many studies to inhibit the spread of cancerous cells in the body. A clinical study at the Medical College of Virginia in 1974 found that “THC slowed the growth of lung cancers, breast cancers and a virus-induced leukemia in laboratory mice, and prolonged their lives by as much as 36 percent.” Additional studies have found have found cannabinoids to induce tumor regression in human cells, including the inhibition of lung carcinoma, glioma (brain tumors), lymphoma/leukemia, skin carcinoma, and breast cancer....where's the media when you need them (*you should read this cited article!*)?. Also, cannabis is used to help relieve chemotherapy related nausea, vomiting, and accompanied weight loss.
 - iii) Glaucoma – cannabis lowers intraocular pressure, effectively slowing the progression of vision loss.
 - iv) Multiple Sclerosis (MS) – used to alleviate symptoms of spasticity, seizures, and neuropathy, and to delay MS degradation.
 - v) Chronic (habitual) Pain – cannabis can help alleviate the pain associated with arthritis; back, spine, or neck pain; sickle cell anemia; joint and connective tissue disorders.
 - vi) I think it is considerably unethical for the US government to continue denying debilitated Americans from using a therapeutic plant that improves the quality of their life, especially since many that need it most are suffering from terminal illnesses. The most disturbing fact about the *status quo* is that that the DEA continues to waste American tax dollars raiding and arresting medical marijuana users in the 12 states that have medical marijuana laws. Is that the way we should be using tax money?
 - b) Additionally, new research on cannabis has found:
 - i) Cannabidiol (CBD) was recently found to reduce anxiety and exhibit antipsychotic-like properties, stimulating new interest in using CBD for schizophrenic treatment, and other psychotic conditions (such as bipolar disorder).
 - ii) Also, cannabinoids are both anti-inflammatory and analgesic (pain killer), in addition to exhibiting anti-emetic properties (effectively reducing nausea and vomiting).
 - c) Despite most physicians accepting that cannabis has many medical uses, the government continues to assert that cannabis “has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States” (resulting in its classification as a Schedule-I drug under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970).
 - i) According to a 2003 WebMD Medscape poll, 76% of physicians and 86% of nurses think marijuana should be allowed to be used for medical purposes, while 73% of Americans also agree.
 - ii) In the summer of 1986, NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) petitioned Francis L. Young, the DEA's chief administrative law judge, to have marijuana moved from Schedule I to a Schedule II drug so to allow physicians to prescribe it to needing patients. After two years of research, involving many hearings and various studies Young concluded,
“Marijuana, in its natural form, is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man...” and that “It would be unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious for

Why America Should Legalize & Regulate Cannabis

DEA to continue to stand between those sufferers and the benefits of this substance in light of the evidence in this record”

In light of the findings, Young ruled cannabis should be rescheduled as a Schedule II drug. Despite of Young’s decision, he was subsequently overruled by a superior DEA administrator (who was not involved in the research), who thought the decision would send the wrong message to American’s, saying that recreational use of cannabis was “OK.”

- iii) Although cannabis “has no medical value,” there are two drugs that are analogous of cannabis, that can legally be prescribed:
 - (1) Marinol – a synthetic THC pill produced by Unimed Pharmaceuticals, Inc., is FDA approved and is prescribed for the treatment of weight loss in patients with AIDS and anorexia, and for the treatment of nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy.
 - (a) Marinol v. Cannabis: Marinol is composed only of synthetic THC and lacks the many other cannabinoids in Cannabis; Marinol absorption is much slower, and thus is more difficult to titrate proper dosage; Marinol is much more expensive than Cannabis; patients almost unanimously prefer cannabis over Marinol.
 - (i) A 2007 Columbia University in New York study reported smoking average strength cannabis was as effective as taking 8 times the US FDA recommended dose of Marinol!
 - (2) Sativex – a mouth spray derived from the Cannabis plant (not synthetic) produced by GW Pharmaceuticals. It is used it to alleviate neuropathic pain and spasticity in multiple sclerosis patients, and is in its first Phase III trial for potential benefits it could provide to cancer patients.
- iv) Since 1996, 12 states have enacted laws that allow patients to use medical marijuana, even though federal law continues to ban marijuana’s use. New Mexico just recently passed medical marijuana laws earlier in 2007, and currently a medical marijuana bill is attempting passage in the New York legislature.
 - (1) Despite the medical marijuana laws being enacted by sovereign states (and with complete disregard for federalism), in the 2005 case of *Gonzales v. Raich*, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that Congress may still ban the use of cannabis under the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution, even though states have approved its use for medicinal purposes. As a result, many suffering Americans are now labeled as criminals and are subject to arrest and full federal prosecution, for merely using a drug that treats their debilitating ailments.
- 6) In addition to medical uses, cannabis offers many benefits for recreational users:
 - a) Many recreational users commonly report several benefits from recreational cannabis use: increased creativity (hence musicians common use) and appreciation for art and nature; reduction of stress/anxiety; lowered aggression and agitation; group connection, and acceptance of oneself and others (exemplified by Hippies); it makes mundane chores enjoyable and fun (Ex: cleaning, manual labor, repetitive tasks); increased appreciation for food; heightened sensory stimulation, insightfulness and inner bliss.
 - b) But most importantly cannabis is a consciousness enhancer, letting you concentrate your mental capacities on the present moment.

“Marijuana, by its effect on the ANS, enhances both sides of the brain. Through increased Sympathetic action, left brain perception is heightened, while, at the same time, right brain reception is enhanced. This is a physiological fact. More blood, and cleaner blood, is sent to the brain, as in the “fight or flight” reaction. And because of

Why America Should Legalize & Regulate Cannabis

Parasympathetic dilation of capillaries, which signifies relaxation, the blood supply to the entire brain is increased. More blood means more oxygen and consequently clearer and broader thinking.” (*The Benefits of Marijuana: Physical, Psychological, & Spiritual*)

7) Concluding arguments:

- a) Even though marijuana has been effectively criminalized for 70 years now, the Federal Government has made little progress in eradicating its use or prevalence in American society, all while wasting billions of tax-dollars and valuable police resources in the process. They have, and continue to deny seriously-ill patients its medicinal use, although marijuana’s medical utilities have been clearly demonstrated and documented. They continue to cater to big-business’ personal interests, preventing the American economy from employing hemp’s numerous uses. They trump Federalism, and label many otherwise normal, law-abiding citizens as “criminals” for their use of an innocuous herb. Its time for unfounded biases and pot-prejudices to be suppressed, and for American law to change for the better!
- b) Its time for Federalism, where the power to govern is shared between two sovereign and autonomous bodies, to work. The power should be given back to the states so that they can decide the future of marijuana in their locality.
- c) “Our country was founded on the principle of individual liberty and freedom. Does this principle not presuppose the right of each individual, at the very least, to retain control over his body and his mind? Is not the primary right in a free society the right of each individual to do with his body and his mind as he thinks best—provided no injury comes to others? What freedom remains when one loses the right to be the sole controller of his mind and body?”

(Richard Boire, *Marijuana Law*)

Works Cited

I have attempted to cite the sources for my information as thoroughly as possible to ensure my readers the credibility of my statements, and to allow you investigate my arguments.

Terminology: <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/medical-marijuana/GA00014>

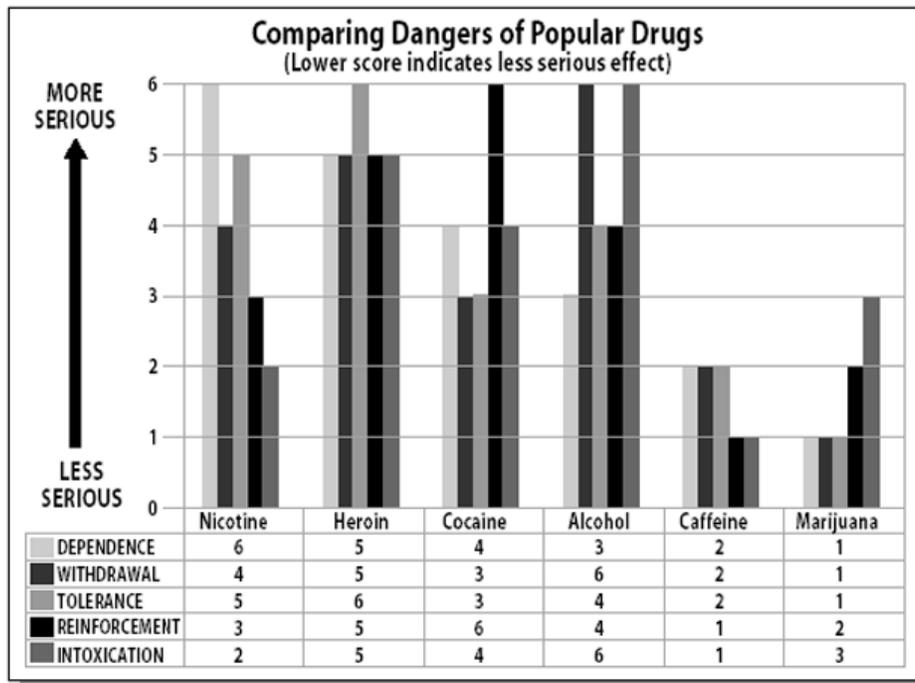
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Why America Should Legalize & Regulate Cannabis

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- g) Miron, Jeffery. "The Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Prohibition." Cambridge, June 2005: 1-18 <http://www.prohibitioncosts.org/MironReport.pdf>.
- 4) Cannabis is less addictive and causes less societal problems/deaths than either alcohol or tobacco.
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<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-3609599239524875493>
- c) Tobacco related problems:
- i) <http://www.acde.org/common/Tobacco.htm>;
- ii) <http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=52888>
- d) Marijuana facts:
- i) <http://www.drugwarfacts.org/overdose.htm>
- (1) http://www.brad21.org/effects_at_specific_bac.html;
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Nicotine_Factsheet_82361_7.pdf;
<http://psychologytoday.com/conditions/nicotine.html>
- (2) http://xf292.newsvine.com/_news/2007/06/20/791313-cut-the-hypocrisy-legalize-marijuana-poll-included
- ii) <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=18122>
- (1) <http://www.benefitsofmarijuana.com/benefits.html>
- iii) http://www.pacifier.com/~alive/cmu/cannabis_and_neuroprotection.htm
- iv) http://www.jci.org/cgi/reprint/115/11/3104?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=marijuana&searchid=1133976011269_2864&stored_search=&FIRSTINDEX=0&journalcode=jci; http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6812
- 5) Medical marijuana has proved beneficial in treating many ailments, and is lauded by many suffering patients, but the government continues to ignore their requests, and criminalizes them for acting in self-preservation.
- a) ...
- i) http://www.ecureme.com/emyhealth/data/AIDS_Wasting_Syndrome.asp
- ii) <http://www.lewrockwell.com/orig5/armentano-p1.html>;
<http://www.ukcia.org/medical/cancerchemotherapy.php>;
<http://www.kubby.com/Guzman-Cancer-nrc1188.pdf> (* *A Must Read!**)
- iii) <http://www.ukcia.org/medical/glaucoma.php>
- iv) http://www.pacifier.com/~alive/cmu/can_cannabis_help_ms.htm
- v) http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/pain_brochure.pdf

Why America Should Legalize & Regulate Cannabis

- b) ...
 - i) <http://www.scielo.br/pdf/bjmbr/v39n4/6164.pdf>;
 - ii) http://www.pacifier.com/~alive/cmu/cannabis_and_migraine.htm
- c) <http://www.addictions.org/schedules.html>
 - i) http://www.mpp.org/site/c.gIKZLeMQIsG/b.1086565/k.860D/Medical_Marijuana_Overview.htm; http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3392
 - ii) http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6635;
 - <http://www.ccguide.org.uk/young88.php>
 - iii) <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/scheduling.html>
 - (1) <http://www.medicalmarijuanaprocon.org/bin/procon/procon.cgi?database=5-B-Subs-3.db&command=viewone&op=t&id=6&rnd=916.3616038633891>
 - (a) http://www.hivandhepatitis.com/recent/2007/071007_d.html
 - (2) <http://www.gwpharm.com/>
 - iv) http://www.usatoday.com/money/workplace/2007-04-16-marijuana-chart_N.htm;
 - http://blog.wired.com/wiredscience/2007/06/new_york_govern.html
 - (1) <http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/03-1454.ZS.html>
- 6) Cannabis offers many additional benefits to common users.
 - a) <http://www.benefitsofmarijuana.com/benefits.html>;
 - http://www.newciv.org/nl/newslog.php/_v323/_show_article/_a000323-000009.htm
 - b) <http://www.benefitsofmarijuana.com/benefits.html>
- 7) Concluding Arguments.



<http://www.drugwarfacts.org/comparecht.gif>

Why America Should Legalize & Regulate Cannabis

| Annual Causes of Death in the US (2005) | |
|--|---------|
| Tobacco: | 435,000 |
| Poor Diet and Physical Inactivity: | 365,000 |
| Alcohol: | 85,000 |
| Microbial Agents: | 75,000 |
| Toxic Agents: | 55,000 |
| Motor Vehicle Crashes: | 26,347 |
| Adverse Reactions to Prescription Drugs: | 32,000 |
| Suicide: | 30,622 |
| Incidents Involving Firearms: | 29,000 |
| Homicide: | 20,308 |
| Sexual Behaviors: | 20,000 |
| Illicit Use of Drugs: | 17,000 |
| Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (Ex. Aspirin): | 7,600 |
| Marijuana: | 0 |

<http://www.drugwarfacts.org/causes.htm>

Why America Should Legalize & Regulate Cannabis

Cannabis is deeply rooted in the history of most major religions practiced today, including: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and many lesser known religions (with this paper focusing on Christianity). Although many people will flat out reject this statement upon reading it, because “Christian churches preach in opposition to ‘drugs,’ and nowhere is there any mention of cannabis in the Bible.” While the former is true, the latter is false, as will be addressed shortly. To understand how this could be possible

- i) Many Biblical historians and anthropologists

and it is more understandable when looking at the historical views and societal culture of their respective time.

this might seem contrary to the beliefs of many, it is well documented historically, and rather becomes reasonable, now with the culmination of all history, and when looking at the social contexts of the time. Only in modern history are cannabis users labeled criminals. During early

- ii) *God said,*

<http://www.druglibrary.org/schaffer/hemp/potbible.htm>

<http://www.iahushua.com/T-L-J/MariC.htm>

<http://www.thc-ministry.net/cannabis-religion.html>