



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:

Lucia Morrone:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a guide your ability to survive increase then having chance to stand than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this particular Cannabis: A History book as starter and daily reading book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Kermit Diaz:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book can be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the guide untitled Cannabis: A History can be fine book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Robert Lofton:

In this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you must do is just spending your time little but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of several books in the top record in your reading list will be Cannabis: A History. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

Sylvia Medina:

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