



## Ending the Drug War

Screw statistics. Figures lie and liars figure, politicians and bureaucrats most of all; crime is out of control. Does anyone care to argue that point as school shootings have become an inevitability, just to name one heinous example? Even churches and synagogues aren't safe, nor mosques or temples. When I was a boy living in a big city, Pittsburgh, we left our doors unlocked and the car parked in our driveway with the keys in the ignition. We lived on Beeler Street, around the corner from the *Tree of Life Synagogue*. A lot has changed.

On Halloween, homemade treats like candy apples and popcorn balls were my favorites and never did they represent some sort of threat. Do any of us feel that things are REMOTELY like that now? Every parent takes the homemade stuff out of their kids' sacks leaving them only the heavily processed sugar bombs of big business to addict them.

Now, as I have shared, I had a very up close and personal relationship with crime and criminals in prison. Having paid my debt to society, I now look back on the experience as a painful gift for, absent it, I would be no different than every other so-called expert with no real life basis on which to claim expertise. Living among hardcore criminals for years, I had hundreds and even thousands of interactions and conversations. I mean, multiply my roughly 1,500 days in prison by any multiple you choose and voila, lots! I was generally well-liked and respected inside both as an OG (Original Gangster because of my age, though to be honest for the first few weeks inside I thought it meant Old Guy) and as a surrogate father figure in a place of violent, addicted, self-loathing, and destructive, sociopathic Lost Boys. Even sociopaths seek love and understanding. That's why they're not psychopaths.

Being much smarter than the average bear (obscure cartoon reference, btw) made me a virtual Einstein inside, a world where literacy is rare and drugs have fried out incalculable trillions of brain cells, leaving behind an army of what we called in prison the *shot-out*—living zombies. Blank stares, toothless mouths, and shuffling gaits are what dominate a population of people from teens to the elderly, all sharing a common compulsion to make their lives even worse. Elderly in addict terms is 45 and looking 75. I am not exaggerating.

Note to parents and families and friends of addicts who, in the throes of desperation, think that allowing them to go to prison might finally clean him or her up: think again. I mean, if you want to get rid of them, believe me, I get it, but if the goal is to help them, forget prison. It's a place overrun with drugs. Heroin, meth, crack, booze, and you-name-it are everywhere, some brought in up the butts and vaginas (*prison purses*) of visitors and the bulk provided by cartels through corrupt Corrections Officers. If you don't believe me about the COs, it's just math. There are way too many drugs in prison to have fit in a limited number of willing orifices.

For example, at my next-to-last yard (prison-ese for place one is locked up), Kingman Prison, at any given time there were roughly 1,800 inmates. Over 80% of them had active addictions (and that's a low estimate). That means that 1,440 are using, so to be even more conservative let's round that down to 1,400. From first hand observation, I know that each spent about \$50 per week on their drugs.  $1,400 \times \$50 \times 52$  weeks in a year = \$3.64 million per year in drug revenue from that prison alone. That's pretty good for the dealers and their cronies, let alone the COs whose salaries are lousy. Now multiply that by, in Arizona alone, another 30 prison yards of similar size and then figure we're a smallish population state and, well, you get it. Big bucks made on illegal drugs inside. In fact, prisons are major distribution points and recruiting grounds for new dealers after release. Think about that the next time some clueless or just plain stupid politician claims to be cleaning up the streets by locking criminals away. To the criminals, it's just a joke and a lifestyle.

Want a bigger shock? To those of you who believe tighter border enforcement will finally stop the drugs: I can tell you for a fact that the US Border Patrol is completely infiltrated by the cartels. They hand-pick children of connected and trusted families in the US to join up when they reach the age of eligibility. I know this, and lots of other juicy details, because I counted lots of cartel gangsters as friends inside. As a group they were the smartest men I knew there. Had I been an actual career criminal-type, I could have easily made an enormous fortune laundering money for them after release. I had LOTS of offers but was very clear that I had no interest. Regardless, they respected me all the more for it and, like dating, seemed to be fueled by rejection and wanted me more. Unlike the two-dimensional villains that drug gangsters are largely depicted as in movies and TV, these charming sociopaths are uniformly warm, often funny, and always interesting. I learned by listening. Yes, they also are very violent and, not to make an excuse for it, media and law enforcement depictions lack context. These men are in a business based solely upon trust as, obviously, they cannot sue to enforce contracts or agreements. Therefore, violence is their only means to guarantee compliance. Again, I am not making excuses for it, just giving you the reason for the carnage.

Oh, and just so you know, the drugs today come in mostly by drone. When the prison yard is closed, a drone is flown to a corner of it where a CO picks up the cargo and passes it to the drug dealers. Simple, easy, modern, and nearly riskless as who is going to police the police?

Anyway, as a result of all my listening and learning during my thousands of idle hours in prison, I can assert beyond the slightest shadow of doubt that the flow of illegal drugs into this country or any other CANNOT BE STOPPED under ANY circumstances. There is simply too much money involved, and the drug cartels are much smarter and more sophisticated than the police in all of their forms, state or federal. After all, at their most basic level, they are the creators and executives of a gigantic entrepreneurial enterprise with nearly unlimited resources that earns enormous revenues while the DEA, ATF, FBI, and any other federal or state agency or local police are nothing more than bureaucrats with guns. The

agents and officers are lucky to earn in a year what a cartel truck driver does in a single haul. I knew a lot of them personally, the drivers, who routinely made over a million per year. So, if that's what a truck driver can earn, which organization does your common sense tell you attracts the top talent, the drug cartels or the police? Using the same common sense, how hard do you really think it is to corrupt an agent or officer of the law? No, I am not cynical, I'm simply reporting life as it REALLY is, not wishful baloney.

Now, despite my recognition of the talent and tactical superiority of the cartels, I don't want you to think for a moment that I want them to win. I don't. They are coldblooded murderers who do exhaustive research on every person who does business with them so that they can kill the entire family should the bosses determine that they've been wronged. They are despicable, so while I socialized inside with them and listened, I NEVER sympathized. It's simply that inside it was either them, the shot-out, or live in silence. Think of what that is like for nearly 5 years. I made the best of it and learned.

I could go on and on giving you an education on the clever ways they move drugs in and money out of our country, but that's not what this chapter is about. Besides, like technology, the drug business advances and becomes more sophisticated every day as the cartels adapt to whatever new technique is being used to stop them, making what I know probably already obsolete. What this chapter IS about is stopping crime. I've shared as much as I have to give you clarity and understand the utter futility of the so-called Drug War, as coined by Richard Nixon, but which in reality is a Drug Rout. We who are on the side of wanting to reduce crime, and I mean ALL of it—drugs, murder, rape, robbery, sex-slavery, fraud, child molestation, etc.—are on the losing side.

Drugs are NOT the cause of crime as a root or the original seed. Drugs ARE the great amplifier of crime. It is very important that you understand the difference. It is cause versus correlation, a distinction lost on both politicians and bureaucrats. Drugs, like guns, **correlate** with crime. They do

not **cause** it. **Drug laws cause crime.** Therefore, if we use our heads, a change that separates their correlation is FAR EASIER THAN A FIX. In fact, you cannot “fix” a correlation because any attempt to do so INVARIABLY creates black markets. We should have learned that with Prohibition, but we didn't. We didn't learn evidently a darn thing, as evidenced by the fools advocating gun control who would only create a new black market for guns if they were ever successful in banning them. You cannot fix a correlation because all correlations are a result of organic demand. In other words, people demand what they want and will have it, legal or not. To believe otherwise is, in a word, idiotic and therefore perfect to be abused by politicians and bureaucrats.

To me, the drug warriors are like communists/socialists. It's never worked but THEY will be the ones to fix it if they are given the resources/money. That's hubris disguised as morality.

I mean, look at the Drug War unemotionally, and you MUST agree that based upon results, it was lost the moment it began. The politicians and armed bureaucrats who make their living in an effort to win this thing constantly assure us that if only we spend more (fiat) money and expand their ranks and power at last we will be victorious. Well, what nonsense! You'd have to be brain-dead, and I know that you are not, to NOT see their GIGANTIC conflict of interest. Besides, how does it make a lick of sense to take someone who is so self-loathing as to fill their body with poison and fix them by enslaving them in a sea of fellow addicts?

This is why **the opinions of anyone employed or beholden to any government or bureaucracy should be disregarded.** They are parasites masquerading as experts. It is always in their self-interest to expand the bureaucracy in order to maximize its power, and therefore their own personal power. Therefore the absolute LAST people we should ever ask for a solution to the Drug War, or failing public education, or social programs, or energy, or housing for the poor, or you-name-it, are the people who work directly for or suck at the teat of any corresponding bureaucracy.

Now to be fair (a word I HATE, btw), I am sure that there are a few intrepid souls within and around the various agencies that pepper the government like fly poop on a barn window who are true public servants and care deeply about their service. In the two years plus that I worked at the National Security Agency as a linguist, I met a few. Then again, in the basement of the Agency was a huge 24-hour (our enemies never sleep, as they say) cafeteria where the employees can grab a meal, snack, or drink (non-alcoholic, naturally). As I would sit in there with my colleagues and often overhear conversations at other tables and ours as well, the subject was almost always the same: How many years until retirement? Or, can I double-dip (transfer to another agency and earn a second pension)? Not that I can blame them, as the work was mostly repetitive and never used for a single, productive purpose. The “Big Secret” was that the days there were mind numbing and this is the reason why I declined to reenlist in the Navy (the NSA is a military-run agency) which included an offer of \$30,000 as a bonus to do so (\$250,000 in today’s dollars FYI—inflation, another government failure) as well as turned down an offer for a GS 11 civilian position, a very high rank for a 21 year old kid, as I was back then. I just could not face another year of it, let alone decades, just to earn a pension.

So I ask you, when some bureaucrat or government teat-sucker is expounding his or her so-called informed opinion, how can any of us regular folks really know if he or she is a selfless public servant or a self-serving mediocre piece of excrement? By their nice looks? Because they sound smart? Yeah, well Hitler loved dogs and children and cut a nice figure in his neat uniforms. John Wayne Gacy was very entertaining to children, and Timothy McVeigh was a nice, clean cut boy. I ask you, as looks and or how anyone seems mean nothing, why take a chance and believe their baloney when even in a private and therefore more competitive industry 90% of those involved are just average or less? In government it is 99.9%. Why try to discern? Note to those of us who had the misfortune of a public education, I want to pause and point out the difference between average and median. 90% of an organization can be below average if those above average are exceptional. Median is just that, dead center, 50/50. Now back on track.

We should disregard the opinions of politicians of any major party for the same reasons. Their self-interest is to buy votes from the uninformed. The Right is wrong and the Left is loony. The Democrats buy off the parasitic class while the Republicans do the same to the Law and Order know-nothings with things like the MASSIVELY ridiculous border wall.

Okay, so I said a moment ago that I wasn't going to share any more drug trafficking techniques, but forgive me, I've just gotta get my two cents in about the bloody wall. **It's just so dumb!** I can tell you and pass a polygraph that the cartels were thrilled about the wall because it drew away massive resources for the actual ways that they move the vast bulk of both drugs and people, namely tunnels. To use an analogy, the wall is like Walmart in that it wipes out the little stores while the foreign competition just keeps on coming. The wall will wipe out the little schmucks schlepping across the border and desert, but the big guys, the Walmarts of trafficking, will keep right on doing their very profitable thing. **God, the wall is so stupid!** Plus, what are we, the North Koreans?! Are walls really what America is supposed to be about?

Now, don't get your panties or boxers in a bunch. Great nations do need to enforce their borders and keep out scum. However, let's be clear; There are literally thousands of tunnels already under our border to the south. Unlike in the movies, they aren't dug out in the middle of nowhere as depicted in *Sicario* (an unbelievably great movie, BTW). Rather, they are in the existing, dense neighborhoods on both sides that provide camouflage. It's a lot easier to hide a tree in the forest.

There are Mexican families who raise their children to become expert tunnelers for the cartels like the offspring of West Virginia coal miners are raised to mine. They scout locations, dig the tunnels, and move on to the next. Each new tunnel is used initially no more than twice before being "rested" for a long period of time because the cartels assume that the people being smuggled, their coyotes, or the low-level schleppers hauling through the drugs will sooner or later spill the frijoles. Therefore, by the time

the law finds a tunnel, a rare event b-t-dubs, 99 out of 100 times they're already abandoned. Furthermore, as the professional tunnel digging families are paid extremely well, not to mention the consequence of being murdered down to the last infant if even one of them squealed, they never do. The wall is useless against tunnels and if you think about it, provides more cover! Like I said. Stupid. Another example of objective reality overruled by some fool's truth, in this case the Orange Man. I don't think even he really believes it. He couldn't and be where he is financially. Could he?

Okay, so moving right along and back on track, and I again apologize for being a chronic digresser but I write in a stream of consciousness and can't bottle it up lest I lose it at my advanced age. It is vital that you understand, and therefore we must revisit, cause versus correlation. This is THE most important distinction to grasp in order to accept my plan to drastically reduce crime. I mean to lay out the course to return America to a time not so long ago when it was normal to leave your home and car unlocked and feel completely safe. You know, when nobody would ever put the words school and shooting together in the same sentence. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

So, let's start with another, let's call it a central natural right: A person's body is their own, and nothing I propose shall restrict personal choice or freedom. Keep this in mind as I again state drugs do not cause crime, they correlate and amplify. I understand that this flies in the face of conventional wisdom, but that term is an oxymoron in any case.

*Note: I am not stating an opinion on abortion. The central debate in that issue is whether or not a fetus is a person and when it transforms into one. I do have an opinion about that, but it is irrelevant to this discussion of crime. That said, to satisfy anyone's curiosity, life begins at conception. That is objective reality.*

Drugs not being a cause of crime but an amplifier may seem to contradict the evidence as represented by the makeup of the current national prison



population. As I experienced firsthand, when you put aside the “chomos” (child molesters’ and sex criminals’ sobriquet inside) and the psycho killers, all of whom belong in cages for life, all that remain are almost universally drug connected in some way.

There are those who would reject my analysis of the prison population because it makes a lie of the imaginary winnability of the Drug War. For example, not long ago I saw on TV an advocate for stricter drug laws and more funding, a senior DEA agent (what a surprise) debated a Libertarian who advocated the opposite point of view. The Libertarian stated the fact that as the vast majority of inmates are in prison for drug crimes, we are in fact incarcerating addicts, thereby converting a health problem into a criminal act. The DEA agent smugly retorted that ONLY 36% of inmates are inside on drug charges, as if that made her argument.

I can state beyond a shadow of doubt that the real number is closer to 90%, not 36%, and this is a classic example of why figures lie. They are too easy to manipulate. What the DEA agent left out was that 36% represents only direct drug offenses i.e. possession or sale. However, as drugs are illegal and as a result MUCH more expensive than would otherwise be the case, addicts are forced by economic circumstance to steal, often armed for their own protection or to threaten their victims, to afford their habits. When they are arrested for burglary, theft, assault, or murder/manslaughter, none of those crimes show up as drug crimes. They are, plain and simple.

**Therefore logically and honestly, drug laws cause crime and the drugs themselves only correlate.** Get it? Let’s illustrate my point using heroin as an example: brace yourself, the true production cost plus a nice profit for the producer is 5% of the current street price.<sup>1</sup> Yep, it’s true. Even allowing for distribution and profit, heroin, if legal, would be cheap. It would be as cheap as aspirin, I kid you not. Heck, there’s no patentable formulation for it (or meth or crack or cocaine or whatever) so any generic producer could churn it out. Heroin has been around pretty much forever so it would be

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<sup>1</sup> Jstor.org, article by MIT Press, 2003

very cheap. More laudanum, Mrs. Earp? Cocaine used to be the main ingredient of Coca-Cola. If you think sugar makes kids jumpy...

Voila, burglaries, muggings, all forms of theft, fraud, shootings, assault, murder, etc. all drop to next to nothing! Poof! Why? Because even at the minimum wage part time an addict could support his or her habit easily. Believe me, and those of you who are addicts or have them in your family will agree with me, addicts would spend all day high if they could and not do a single thing. Well, except for tweakers (meth is even cheaper than heroin btw) who would just obsess on fixing things or fornication. Here's a prison joke to illustrate my point about tweakers: *How do you find a tweaker? He's on aisle 5 at 2 am in Walmart trying to fix the wheels of his overturned shopping cart.*

My point is that very few of them are natural criminals. Oh, and for you codependents of addicts, you could flip them a sawbuck and they'd be out of your hair for a week instead of coming home to find they've pawned yet another one of your possessions or having them try to con you by baldly lying to your face. They all do.

Plus, the gangs would all go broke. The cartels would, too. The border would suddenly become enforceable because there would be far less corruption and dilution of resources in the Drug Rout. Most importantly, you would be instantly much safer in your home or anywhere else.

I ask you, have you ever been the victim of a non-sexual crime like burglary, assault, or mugging? How did that make you feel? Violated? Unsafe? Paranoid? Frightened? Angry? If drugs—**all drugs**—were legal, the odds are overwhelmingly in your favor, at least 9 out of 10 times, that it never would have happened to you.

Plus, the prisons would be nearly empty, leaving LOTS of room to lock away the rapists, pedophiles, serial killers, and all the other real scum forever and afford the cost easily. You know, put away the real pieces of waste product, dangerous and unrepentant who are guaranteed to do it

again but that we now parole because of money and space issues. Our states would suddenly save a fortune and have plenty of money available for other, more important priorities like lowering taxes, schools, and long-needed infrastructure.

Oh, and if at this moment you are agreeing with me in principle but as an alternative are thinking about “decriminalization” as a better choice than legalization, think again. Decriminalization is a political code word for replacing one useless set of bureaucracies with another just as incompetent and unable to do anything right as those they replace. “Efficient bureaucracy” or “caring programs” or any variation of those terms are all oxymorons. The very concept of bureaucratic efficiency or caring is an absolute impossibility because, despite millions of examples not just in the US but worldwide for the entire span of recorded history, none has ever actually existed! Not one. Disagree? Name one. Go ahead. You can’t. It’s an identical list to “Successful Socialist or Communist Countries.” There are zero entries because socialism or communism are misnomers for bureaucratism, governments run by bureaucracies and bureaucrats. They all suck.

**Drugs must be fully legal and easily available in order for our homes, schools, places of worship, and streets to be safe. Period.**

Hold it!! What about the children?! What about the addicts?! Addiction to drugs is bad! We can’t condone it by making it legal! Uh, hate to tell you this, but we already do. By a huge margin in terms of death, disease, and destroyed families, the most dangerous drug of all is, beyond doubt, alcohol. Honestly, it’s not even a horse race. The so-called “opioid crisis” is a laugher compared to alcohol abuse. Heroin is miserable but safe to quit cold turkey. I saw it lots of times in prison. Ditto with meth. LSD hasn’t ever hurt anyone who used it for fun and is, maybe, a bit psychologically addictive but not physically. Molly is fun. Ecstasy is well-named. The resulting damage from all of them is minimal. Get this: **in over 50% of spouse beatings, alcohol is involved.** I am not going for laughs when I

assert without a shred of doubt having known so many, a junkie isn't going to attack anyone. They are too out of it.

Alcohol withdrawal, on the other hand, must be closely medically monitored because the process can be fatal. The simple truth is that the reason alcohol is legal and the others aren't is completely subjective, non-scientific, bureaucratic, misinformed, ignorant, political nonsense.

I want you to understand that when I call for the full legalization of all drugs, I do so knowing in no uncertain terms the destructive and devastating impact of drug addiction as well as the monumentally difficult and painful road to recovery. In my own youth, I experimented with LSD and quaaludes. It is, I believe, impossible to really understand the true nature of drug usage and what leads to addiction without personal use, involvement with addiction, and the time that I spent up to my eyeballs in the most unrepentant addicts in prison. There I interacted with scores of out of control addicts manifesting all of the physical and mental side effects, totally shot out. Hardly any of them will ever recover.

All of that accepted for the record, what do you say we cut the crap and get serious? Here are the inconvenient (for politicians and bureaucrats and enforcement) facts that, like science, are true regardless of belief. This ain't religion, folks. Acceptance does not require your belief, only acquiescence to objective reality:

1. **The Drug War was lost from the start and CANNOT be won absent trashing the Constitution and resorting to Fascism.** Even then, it would likely fail. Hitler was a meth addict. Goering was a junkie. The crooks are too smart, the money and therefore temptation to corruption too large and too easy, the borders too long, and the demand inexhaustible.
2. **Drug USE does not cause crime.** The high cost does and is 100% the byproduct of the Drug War. Street retail pricing bears no relationship to actual production cost. It would be cheap to support any addiction to any now illegal drug if fully legal.

3. **Crime rates across the entire spectrum of offenses, from violence to robbery to fraud, would plummet if all drugs were legal.**
4. **Billions would be saved immediately, trillions long term, as the result of legalization.** These are dollars now being wasted on enforcement and prisons. This would make HUGE sums available for schools and infrastructure, as well as for new, dynamic programs to treat addiction for those who want it and at the same time greatly reduce homelessness, another casualty of the Drug War.
5. **Legalization is not the same as condoning.** We as a culture look down upon as immoral lots of things that are perfectly legal and (hopefully) teach our children to never do them, such as the use of racial slurs, homophobia, cigarette smoking, alcohol use, driving drunk, bullying, teen pregnancy, etc. Good parenting and role modeling have no need for laws.
6. There are 350 million people in the US and something like 8 billion globally. Half are adults, **and the vast majority use mind-altering drugs including alcohol, the most destructive by far, every day without becoming addicted.** It's time to grow up and accept/admit that most adults can use most drugs as a pleasant diversion from the unending stress of life safely. The idea that using any drug even once or occasionally will turn you into an instant junkie or tweaker or drunk is absurd and just the propaganda of the Drug War and its advocates.
7. **Most addicts, including drunks, function reasonably well with their addiction.** ALL of us know, and some reading this are, functional addicts/drunks. They (you) go to work every day, support their families and themselves (yourself), and raise their (your) children. Most never drive drunk or impaired and pose no menace, especially since the advent of ride-sharing, and self-driving cars will likely someday eliminate the issue altogether.
8. **For most addicts/drunks, longevity is NOT a primary concern.** Addiction is NOT an illness or disease, despite the popular malarkey spouted by some addicts, 12 Step believers, and shrinks. It is the unprescribed medication of self-loathing and stress, a sadly very common human condition. Addicts/drunks are not stupid and

understand the price they pay physically but don't care. The escape is worth it, and when it becomes not, they quit. Most won't even consider it. The drugs are their only means of escaping an often awful reality.

**9. Rehab Programs, including 12-Step in all of its forms, have abysmally low long-term recovery rates.** Addicts quit when they want to, and most don't.

**10. Addicts/Drunks breed more addicts/drunks.** Simply, most of the time, the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree. Apple trees can only yield apples and never pears or nectarines no matter how much you might hope otherwise.

These are all facts, and the negative personal, family, and societal impacts will be hugely reduced by legalization. Putting Dad or Mom in prison for their addiction leaving the children at the mercy of bureaucrats is far worse than any addiction.

To summarize so far, the Drug War has been an abysmal failure for our society and culture. It must end. The ONLY answer, counterintuitive as it may seem (because we have all been brain-washed for decades by the police, politicians, and bureaucrats) is full legalization. Often in life, the best way to deal with a serious problem is to lean into rather than pull against it. Addiction has been a permanent part of human existence since the first proto-humans on the African Continent discovered plants with leaves that gave them a nice high and soon after discovered fermentation. It cannot be eliminated, so the best that we can hope for is control. That begins by not criminalizing what is, if we are honest, both a human condition and a health issue.

Thomas Sowell said, and I strongly agree, that there are no solutions, only trade offs. In starting the Drug War we didn't solve addiction and the trade offs are a trillion dollars wasted, our prisons filled to the brim and disproportionately with people of color, our urban neighborhoods a battleground of gang warfare, and no reduction in addiction whatsoever. Let's try something else. We can always return to cluelessness.

Think about all of this and discuss over drinks tonight.