

Reason 1

We Really Lost This War!

“Prohibition goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man’s appetite by legislation and makes crimes out of things that are not crimes. A prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles upon which our government was founded.”

Abraham Lincoln

A Real War and a Ginormous Failure at Every Conceivable Level

The drug war, not the drugs, kills people.

This is now a real war. Although it started out as political rhetoric, it’s become a genuinely deadly war. *It has killed more than 700,000 Americans, more than all of our other wars combined and tragically, it’s killing our own citizens, including our children and teenagers* (see page 228). It’s caused hundreds of thousands of unnecessary deaths and untold misery, especially to our children, teens, women and minorities. And like all wars, it’s been hugely expensive and wasteful; to date *it’s cost more than a trillion dollars*. Furthermore, like many wars, it’s based on lies.

The few deaths that are caused by the drugs are due to impurities, dosages that are not standardized, and reluctance to call 911 when someone overdoses out of fear of being arrested. All these drug-related deaths can be eliminated by legalizing drugs.

We really lost this war! We not only repeated the blunder of Prohibition, we have also made drug dealing more lucrative than ever and increased drug use to the highest levels in the world. “An evil cannot be eradicated by making it more powerful.” (1)

Although the United States has only 5% of the world’s population, we use 60% of the illegal drugs. We don’t just use two or three times as many drugs. We use more than all the other countries of the world combined and they have 95% of the population. We use twelve times as many drugs as the average of all the other countries in the world. We are the most stoned, drugged, intoxicated society in the history of the world, thanks to the drug war.

And unbelievable as that sounds, the War on Drugs is actually responsible for this excessive use. The proof: No other country has anywhere near our drug war, and thus doesn’t have our drug use. Before drugs were outlawed, only one-fifth of the cocaine now used was consumed on a per capita basis. And opiate (heroin) use was actually declining before the Harrison Act was passed. Prohibition, followed by our declared War on Drugs, created the media and political attention, the demand, and the price supports that assured massive profits for drug dealers. This provided the incentive for them to keep pushing drugs to get more people addicted and thus more customers.

Without the extraordinary profits triggered by the illegality, there would be no reason to get others to use drugs and we wouldn’t have the complexity, the magnitude, or the immense social and legal problems that this war has created. These are ginormous problems, and it’s timely that the word “ginormous” was just added to the dictionary, because both the scope of this war and its failure are too big to be described as merely gigantic or enormous. They are *truly* ginormous.