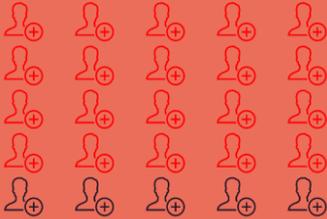


# The American War on Drugs

## Drugs Kill.

Over **4 times more people** die in America from fatal overdoses than from murder.



In 2017 alone, around 17,000 Americans were murdered, while 70,237 overdosed.

President Felipe Calderon fought Drug Cartels in Mexico in 2006.

**The Conflict killed 100,000 People.**

\*3,4,8,11

Drug Trafficking Generates Around

**\$300 Billion**

In Annual Revenue

8-10%

Cycles back to producer nations

**Keeping Farmers Poor**

\*1,3

Where are the drugs coming from?

- 90% of all cocaine smuggled into America comes from Peru, Bolivia, or Colombia<sup>1</sup>
- 39% of smuggled heroin comes from Mexico, 50% comes from South Asian countries like Pakistan & Burma<sup>1</sup>

## THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN DRUG POLICY IS A HISTORY

### International Diplomacy Backfires

- Manuel Noriega profited from the drug trade after pretending to fight it (1980s)<sup>2</sup>
- American military operations in Bolivia to eradicate drug farms led to condemnation by most political parties (1980s)<sup>1</sup>

## OF FAILURE

### Drug Supply Can't be Slashed

- Andean Countries produce the same amount of coca today as they did 20 years ago<sup>3</sup>
- Cocaine prices fell \$60,000/kg to \$10,000/kg (1980s)<sup>1</sup>

### Costs & Poverty Skyrocket

- Drug control spending ballooned from \$1.2 billion in 1981<sup>1</sup> to \$12 billion in 1992<sup>7</sup>
- Central American countries today spend \$3.7 billion on security and justice, 60% more than in 2006<sup>3</sup>

## Attempts to Implement Drug Policy

- Colombia eradicated local drug production in the 90s, but production just shifted to Peru. Subsequent attempts halt production in Peru resulted in production moving back to Colombia.<sup>3</sup>
- Higher penalties for drug usage in the US led to mass incarceration, causing prisons to operate at 140% capacity<sup>6</sup> and costing taxpayers \$7 billion per year.<sup>6</sup> Meanwhile, consumption of cocaine has increased 50% since 1988.<sup>3</sup>
- Operation Blast Furnace in Bolivia saw US military forces destroy local drug production. While initially successful, it led to mass human rights abuses by the Bolivian government.<sup>13</sup>
- President Bush granted the Taliban \$43 million in grants<sup>2</sup> for claiming to halt opium production. It was later discovered that the Taliban was simply stocking up on opium to raise market prices, resulting in the Taliban acquiring \$700 million from the opium trade in Pakistan alone.<sup>2</sup>

# How do we Fix a Broken System?

## What's Worked Around the

### World?

#### Swiss Model (1990s)

- Harm-reduction model gave drug addicts who failed rehab programs pharmaceutical heroin, injected at medical clinics under supervision<sup>9, 14</sup>
- Decreased overdose deaths by 50%<sup>14</sup>
- Decreased heroin usage in cities like Zurich significantly<sup>14</sup>
- Saved government money by reducing criminal procedures and imprisonment costs<sup>14</sup>

New HIV infections in Switzerland and Portugal sharply declined after drug reforms<sup>3, 5, 9</sup>



#### Portuguese Model (2001)

- Portugal decriminalized all drugs, including cocaine and heroin<sup>3</sup>
- Drug-related deaths decreased from 369 in 1999 to 54 in 2015<sup>5</sup>
- Portugal now has lower rates of drug usage than most European<sup>3</sup>

#### Turkey/Mexico (1970s)

- \$150 million in cooperative programs helped Turkey exit the heroin market<sup>7</sup> and lowered Mexico's share of the heroin market from 90% to 25% in the 1970s, causing US heroin addicts to drop from 550,000 to 400,000 people.<sup>7</sup>
- However, production eventually shifted to Afghanistan, Burma, and Pakistan, and heroin was once again readily available in America by 1982.<sup>7</sup>



## What Could Work for the U.S.?

### Synthesis Approach: 4 Pillars



Harm Reduction Programs



Free Trade & US Investments



Crop-Income Substitution



Decriminalization & Regulation

Harm reduction programs, such as Needle Exchange and Syringe programs used in Switzerland, will reduce mass incarceration by giving addicts treatment and rehabilitation for drug usage. Thousands could be addiction-free,<sup>5,14</sup> making them more productive and responsible citizens. US foreign investment in infrastructure programs will be able to provide producer countries the economic and political stability that discourages drug production as a primary industry.<sup>7</sup> Crop-income substitution programs would provide farmers with alternative profitable crops, while subsidizing the tools they need for cultivation.<sup>3, 10, 12</sup> This method works best when implemented alongside economic reforms<sup>1,2,, 12</sup> to deregulate markets through free trade.<sup>7</sup> Decriminalization of drugs would allow tight regulation of drug production to ensure safer chemicals are being used, resulting in less drug-related deaths and more treatment options for overdoses.<sup>9</sup>

# Help Fix a Broken System and Save Thousands of American Lives.

Contact your Congressional representatives Today.

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