

Appendix

A Synoptic History of the Promotion and Prohibition of Drugs

In the following synoptic history of the promotion and prohibition of drugs, I try to provide, in relatively compact form, a large amount of information on one of man's basic passions—using and avoiding drugs. Ignorance of these facts, or their deliberate neglect, renders virtually all contemporary debates, discussions, commission reports, and legislative proposals concerning the so-called drug problem both foolish and useless. I hope that this material will not only inform and instruct the reader, but also shame and shock him into a fuller realization of the horrifying intemperance of both those who zealously promote and those who zealously prohibit drugs.

- c. 5000 B.C. The Sumerians use opium, suggested by the fact that they have an ideogram for it which has been translated as HUL, meaning "joy" or "re-joicing."¹
- c. 3500 B.C. Earliest historical record of the production of alcohol: the description of a brewery in an Egyptian papyrus.²
- c. 3000 B.C. Approximate date of the supposed origin of the use of tea in China.
- c. 2500 B.C. Earliest historical evidence of the eating of poppy seeds among the Lake Dwellers of Switzerland.³
- c. 2000 B.C. Earliest record of prohibitionist teaching, by an Egyptian priest, who writes to his pupil: "I, thy superior, forbid thee to go to the taverns. Thou art degraded like the beasts."⁴

- c. 350 B.C. Proverbs, 31:6-7: "Give strong drink to him who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress; let them drink and forget their poverty, and remember their misery no more."
- c. 300 B.C. Theophrastus (371-287 B.C.), Greek naturalist and philosopher, records what has remained as the earliest undisputed reference to the use of the poppy juice.
- c. 250 B.C. Psalms, 104:14-15: "Thou dost cause grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man."
- 350 A.D. Earliest written mention of tea, in a Chinese dictionary.
- 4th century St. John Chrysostom (345-407), Bishop of Constantinople: "I hear man cry, 'Would there be no wine! O folly! O madness!' Is it wine that causes this abuse? No. For if you say, 'Would there be no wine!' because of drunkenness, then you must say, going on by degrees, 'Would there were no night!' because of the thieves, 'Would there were no light!' because of the informers, and 'Would there were no women!' because of adultery."⁵
- c. 450 Babylonian Talmud: "Wine is at the head of all medicines; where wine is lacking, drugs are necessary."⁶
- c. 1000 Opium is widely used in China and the Far East.⁷
- 1229 The ecclesiastic authorities of Toulouse declare: "We also forbid the laity to possess any of the books of the Old or New Testament . . . that any should have these books translated into the vulgar tongue we strictly forbid."⁸
- 1382 John Wycliffe completes his translation of the Bible into English.
- 1493 The use of tobacco is introduced into Europe by Columbus and his crew returning from America.
- c. 1500 According to J. D. Rolleston, a British medical

- historian, a medieval Russian cure for drunkenness consisted "in taking a piece of pork, putting it secretly into a Jew's bed for nine days, and then giving it to the drunkard in a pulverized form, who will turn away from drinking as a Jew would from pork."⁹
- c. 1525 Paracelsus (1490-1541) introduces laudanum, or tincture of opium, into the practice of medicine.
- 1526 Six thousand copies of Tyndale's English Bible are printed at Worms and smuggled into England.¹⁰
- 1529 Charles V (1500-58), Holy Roman Emperor and ruler of the Netherlands, decrees that the "reading, purchasing, or possessing any proscribed books, or any New Testaments prohibited by the theologians of Louvain" are crimes, the punishments for which are that "the men be beheaded, the women buried alive, and the relapsed burned."¹¹
- 1536 William Tyndale, translator of the New Testament and the Pentateuch, is burned at the stake as a heretic, at Vilvorde Castle, near Brussels.
- 1559 Valdes' Spanish Index, decreeing the prohibition of all religious literature in the language of the people, is published. The penalty for possessing prohibited books is death.¹²
- 1600 Shakespeare: "Falstaff. . . . If I had a thousand sons, the / first human principle I would teach them should / be, to foreswear thin potations and to addict themselves to sack." ("Sack," a term now obsolete, meant strong sweet wine, for example a sherry.)¹³
- 17th century The prince of the petty state of Waldeck pays ten thalers to anyone who denounces a coffee drinker.¹⁴
- 17th century In Russia, Czar Michael Federovitch executes

- anyone on whom tobacco is found. "Czar Alexei Mikhailovitch rules that anyone caught with tobacco should be tortured until he gave up the name of the supplier."¹⁵
- 1601 The Spanish Dominican Alonso Giroi demands the complete prohibition of all religious books in the people's language.¹⁶
- 1613 John Rolfe, the husband of the Indian princess Pocahontas, sends the first shipment of Virginia tobacco from Jamestown to England.
- c. 1650 The use of tobacco is prohibited in Bavaria, Saxony, and Zürich, but the prohibitions are ineffective. Sultan Murad IV of the Ottoman Empire decrees the death penalty for smoking tobacco: "Wherever the Sultan went on his travels or on a military expedition his halting-places were always distinguished by a terrible increase in the number of executions. Even on the battlefield he was fond of surprising men in the act of smoking, when he would punish them by beheading, hanging, quartering or crushing their hands and feet. . . . Nevertheless, in spite of all the horrors of this persecution . . . the passion for smoking still persisted."¹⁷
- 1680 Thomas Sydenham (1624-80): "Among the remedies which it has pleased the Almighty God to give to man to relieve his sufferings, none is so universal and so efficacious as opium."¹⁸
- 1690 The "Act for the Encouraging of the Distillation of Brandy and Spirits from Corn" is enacted in England.¹⁹
- 1691 In Luneberg, Germany, the penalty for smoking (tobacco) is death.²⁰
- 1717 Liquor licenses in Middlesex (England) are granted only to those who "would take oaths of allegiance and of belief in the King's supremacy over the Church."²¹

- 1736 The Gin Act (England) is enacted with the avowed objects of making spirits "come so dear to the consumer that the poor will not be able to launch out into an excessive use of them." This effort results in general lawbreaking and fails to halt the steady rise in the consumption of even legally produced and sold liquor.²²
- 1745 The magistrates of one London division demand that "publicans and wine-merchants should swear that they anathematized the doctrine of Transubstantiation."²³
- 1762 Thomas Dover, an English physician, introduces his prescription for a "diaphoretic powder," which he recommends mainly for the treatment of gout. Soon named "Dover's powder," this compound becomes one of the most widely used opium preparations during the next 150 years.
- 1770 Women in New England organize boycotts against tea imported from Britain; some of these associations call themselves "Daughters of Liberty," their members pledging themselves not to drink tea until after the Revenue Act is repealed. They also popularize various tea substitutes—such as brews of raspberry, sage, and birch leaves—the most popular of which, made from the four-leaved loosestrife, is called "Liberty Tea."²⁴
- 1773 To protest the tax on tea, a band of Bostonians, dressed as Mohawk Indians, boards three British ships in Boston Harbor and throws overboard 342 chests of tea (December 16, 1773). This episode leads to the passage of the Coercive Acts (1774) by the British Parliament, which, in turn, leads to the assembly of the First Continental Congress (September 5, 1774) and to the War of Independence and the birth of the United States as a nation.
- 1785 Benjamin Rush publishes his *Inquiry into the Ef-*

- fects of Ardent Spirits on the Human Body and Mind*; in it, he calls the intemperate use of distilled spirits a "disease," and estimates the annual rate of death due to alcoholism in the United States as "not less than 4,000 people" in a population then of less than 6 million.²⁵
- 1789 The first American temperance society is formed in Litchfield, Connecticut.²⁶
- 1790 Benjamin Rush persuades his associates at the Philadelphia College of Physicians to send an appeal to Congress to "impose such heavy duties upon all distilled spirits as shall be effective to restrain their intemperate use in the country."²⁷
- 1792 The first prohibitory laws against opium in China are promulgated. The punishment decreed for keepers of opium shops is strangulation.
- 1794 The Whisky Rebellion, a protest by farmers in western Pennsylvania against a federal tax on liquor, breaks out and is put down by overwhelming force sent into the area by George Washington.
- 1797 Samuel Taylor Coleridge writes "Kubla Khan" while under the influence of opium.
- 1800 Napoleon's army, returning from Egypt, introduces cannabis (hashish, marijuana) into France. Avant-garde artists and writers in Paris develop their own cannabis ritual, leading, in 1844, to the establishment of *Le Club des Haschischins*.²⁸
- 1801 On Jefferson's recommendation, the federal duty on liquor is abolished.²⁹
- 1804 Thomas Trotter, an Edinburgh physician, publishes *An Essay, Medical, Philosophical, and Chemical, on Drunkenness and Its Effects on the Human Body*: "In medical language, I consider drunkenness, strictly speaking, to be a disease, produced by a remote cause, and giving birth to actions and movements in the living body that

- disorder the functions of health. . . . The habit of drunkenness is a disease of the mind."³⁰
- 1805 Friedrich Wilhelm Adam Sertürner, a German chemist, isolates and describes morphine.
- 1822 Thomas De Quincey's *Confessions of an English Opium Eater* is published. He notes that the opium habit, like any other habit, must be learned: "Making allowance for constitutional differences, I should say that *in less than 120 days* no habit of opium-eating could be formed strong enough to call for any extraordinary self-conquest in renouncing it, and even suddenly renouncing it. On Saturday you are an opium-eater, on Sunday no longer such."³¹
- 1826 The American Society for the Promotion of Temperance is founded in Boston. By 1833, there are 6,000 local Temperance societies, with more than one million members.
- 1839-42 The First Opium War. The British force upon China the trade in opium, a trade the Chinese had declared illegal.³²
- 1840 Benjamin Parsons, an English clergyman, declares: ". . . alcohol stands preeminent as a destroyer. . . . I never knew a person become insane who was not in the habit of taking a portion of alcohol every day." Parsons lists forty-two distinct diseases caused by alcohol, among them inflammation of the brain, scrofula, mania, dropsy, nephritis, and gout.³³
- 1841 Dr. Jacques Joseph Moreau uses hashish in treating mental patients at the Bicêtre.³⁴
- 1842 Abraham Lincoln: "In my judgment, such of us as have never fallen victims, have been spared more from the absence of appetite, than from any mental or moral superiority over those who have. Indeed, I believe, if we take habitual drunkards as a class, their heads and their hearts will bear

- an advantageous comparison with those of any other class."³⁵
- 1844 Cocaine is isolated in pure form.
- 1845 A law prohibiting the public sale of liquor is enacted in New York State. It is repealed in 1847.
- 1847 The American Medical Association is founded.
- 1852 Susan B. Anthony establishes the Woman's State Temperance Society of New York, the first such society formed by and for women. Many of the early feminists, such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Abby Kelly, are also ardent prohibitionists.³⁶
- 1852 The American Pharmaceutical Association is founded. The Association's 1856 Constitution lists one of its goals as: "To as much as possible restrict the dispensing and sale of medicines to regularly educated druggists and apothecaries."³⁷
- 1856 The Second Opium War. The British, with help from the French, extend their powers to distribute opium in China.
- 1862 Internal Revenue Act enacted imposing a license fee of twenty dollars on retail liquor dealers, and a tax of one dollar a barrel on beer and twenty cents a gallon on spirits.³⁸
- 1864 Adolf von Baeyer, a twenty-nine-year-old assistant of Friedrich August Kekule (the discoverer of the molecular structure of benzene) in Ghent, synthesizes barbituric acid, the first barbiturate.
- 1868 Dr. George Wood, professor of the theory and practice of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, president of the American Philosophical Society, and the author of a leading American text, *Treatise on Therapeutics*, describes the pharmacological effect of opium as follows: "A sensation of fullness is felt in the head, soon followed by a universal feeling of delicious ease and comfort, with an elevation and expansion of the whole

moral and intellectual nature, which is, I think, the most characteristic of its effects . . . the intellectual and imaginative faculties are raised to the highest point compatible with individual capacity. . . . It seems to make the individual, for the time, a better and greater man. . . . The hallucinations, the delirious imaginations of alcoholic intoxication, are, in general, quite wanting. Along with this emotional and intellectual elevation, there is also increased muscular energy; and the capacity to act, and to bear fatigue, is greatly augmented."³⁹

- 1869 The Prohibition Party is formed. Gerrit Smith, twice Abolitionist candidate for President, an associate of John Brown, and a crusading prohibitionist, declares: "Our involuntary slaves are set free, but our millions of voluntary slaves still clang their chains. The lot of the literal slave, of him whom others have enslaved, is indeed a hard one; nevertheless, it is a paradise compared with the lot of him who enslaves himself—especially of him who has enslaved himself to alcohol."⁴⁰
- 1874 The Woman's Christian Temperance Union is founded in Cleveland. In 1883, Frances Willard, a leader of the W.C.T.U., forms the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union.
- 1882 The first law in the United States, and in the world, making "temperance education" a part of the required course in public schools is enacted. In 1886, Congress makes such education mandatory in the District of Columbia, and in territorial, military, and naval schools. By 1900, all the states have similar laws.⁴¹
- 1882 The Personal Liberty League of the United States is founded to oppose the increasing momentum

- of movements for compulsory abstinence from alcohol.⁴²
- 1883 Dr. Theodor Aschenbrandt, a German army physician, secures a supply of pure cocaine from the pharmaceutical firm of Merck, issues it to Bavarian soldiers during their maneuvers, and reports on the beneficial effects of the drug in increasing the soldiers' ability to endure fatigue.⁴³
- 1884 Sigmund Freud treats his depression with cocaine, and reports feeling "exhilaration and lasting euphoria, which in no way differs from the normal euphoria of the healthy person. . . . You perceive an increase in self-control and possess more vitality and capacity for work. . . . In other words, you are simply more normal, and it is soon hard to believe that you are under the influence of any drug."⁴⁴
- 1884 Laws are enacted to make anti-alcohol teaching compulsory in public schools in New York State. The following year similar laws are passed in Pennsylvania, with other states soon following suit.
- 1885 The Report of the Royal Commission on Opium concludes that opium is more like the Westerner's liquor than a substance to be feared and abhorred.⁴⁵
- 1889 The Johns Hopkins Hospital, in Baltimore, Maryland, is opened. One of its world-famous founders, Dr. William Stewart Halsted, is a morphine addict. He continues to use morphine in large doses throughout a phenomenally successful surgical career lasting until his death in 1922.
- 1894 The Report of the Indian Hemp Drug Commission, running to over three thousand pages in seven volumes, is published. This inquiry, commissioned by the British government, concludes: "There is no evidence of any weight regarding the

- mental and moral injuries from the moderate use of these drugs. . . . Moderation does not lead to excess in hemp any more than it does in alcohol. Regular, moderate use of ganja or bhang produces the same effects as moderate and regular doses of whiskey." The Commission's proposal to tax bhang is never put into effect, in part, perhaps, because one of the Commissioners, an Indian, cautions that Moslem law and Hindu custom forbid "taxing anything that gives pleasure to the poor."⁴⁶
- 1894 Norman Kerr, an English physician and president of the British Society for the Study of Inebriety, declares: "Drunkenness has generally been regarded as . . . a sin, a vice, or a crime. . . . [But] there is now a consensus of intelligent opinion that habitual and periodic drunkenness is often either a symptom or a sequel of disease . . . a functional neurotic disease, and may be considered as one of a group of nervous affections. . . . The victim can no more resist [alcohol] than a man with ague can resist shivering."⁴⁷
- 1898 Diacetylmorphine (heroin) is synthesized in Germany. It is widely lauded as a "safe preparation free from addiction-forming properties."⁴⁸
- 1900 In an address to the Ecumenical Missionary Conference, Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts declares: "No Christian celebration of the completion of nineteen Christian centuries has yet been arranged. Could there be a fitter one than the general adoption, by separate and joint action of the great nations of the world, of the new policy of civilization, in which Great Britain is leading, the policy of prohibition for native races, in the interest of commerce as well as conscience, since the liquor traffic among child races, even more mani-

festly than in civilized lands, injures all other trades by producing poverty, disease, and death. Our object, more profoundly viewed, is to create a more favorable environment for the child races that civilized nations are essaying to civilize and Christianize."⁴⁹

1900 James R. L. Daly, writing in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, declares: "It [heroin] possesses many advantages over morphine. . . . It is not hypnotic; there is no danger of acquiring the habit . . ."⁵⁰

1901 The Senate adopts a resolution, introduced by Henry Cabot Lodge, to forbid the sale by American traders of opium and alcohol "to aboriginal tribes and uncivilized races." These provisions are later extended to include "uncivilized elements in America itself and in its territories, such as Indians, Alaskans, the inhabitants of Hawaii, railroad workers, and immigrants at ports of entry."⁵¹

1901 In Colorado, a bill is introduced, but is defeated, making not only morphine and cocaine but also "malt, vinous and spiritous liquors" available only on a physician's prescription.⁵²

1902 The Committee on the Acquirement of the Drug Habit of the American Pharmaceutical Association declares: "If the Chinaman cannot get along without his 'dope,' we can get along without him."⁵³

1902 George E. Petey, writing in the *Alabama Medical Journal*, observes: "Many articles have appeared in the medical literature during the last two years lauding this new agent. . . . When we consider the fact that heroin is a morphine derivative . . . it does not seem reasonable that such a claim could be well founded. It is strange that such a claim should mislead anyone or that there should

- be found among the members of our profession those who would reiterate and accentuate it without first subjecting it to the most critical tests, but such is the fact."⁵⁴
- 1903 The composition of Coca-Cola is changed, caffeine replacing the cocaine it contained until this time.⁵⁵
- 1904 Charles Lyman, president of the International Reform Bureau, petitions the President of the United States "to induce Great Britain to release China from the enforced opium traffic. . . . We need not recall in detail that China prohibited the sale of opium, except as a medicine, until the sale was forced upon that country by Great Britain in the opium war of 1840."⁵⁶
- 1905 Senator Henry W. Blair, in a letter to Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts, Superintendent of the International Reform Bureau: "The temperance movement must include all poisonous substances which create or excite unnatural appetite, and international prohibition is the goal."⁵⁷
- 1906 The first Pure Food and Drug Act becomes law; until its enactment, it was possible to buy, in stores or by mail order, medicines containing morphine, cocaine, or heroin, and without their being so labeled.
- 1906 *Squibb's Materia Medica* lists heroin as "a remedy of much value . . . it is also used as a mild anodyne and as a substitute for morphine in combating the morphine habit."⁵⁸
- 1909 The United States prohibits the importation of smoking opium.⁵⁹
- 1910 Dr. Hamilton Wright, considered by some the father of U.S. anti-narcotics laws, reports that American contractors give cocaine to their Negro employees to get more work out of them.⁶⁰
- 1912 A writer in *Century* magazine proclaims: "The

- relation of tobacco, especially in the form of cigarettes, and alcohol and opium is a very close one. . . . Morphine is the legitimate consequence of alcohol, and alcohol is the legitimate consequence of tobacco. Cigarettes, drink, opium, is the logical and regular series." And a physician warns: "[There is] no energy more destructive of soul, mind, and body, or more subversive of good morals, than the cigarette. The fight against the cigarette is a fight for civilization."⁶¹
- 1912 The first international Opium Convention meets at The Hague, and recommends various measures for the international control of the trade in opium. Subsequent Opium Conventions are held in 1913 and 1914.
- 1912 Phenobarbital is introduced into therapeutics under the trade name of Luminal.
- 1913 The Sixteenth Amendment, creating the legal authority for a federal income tax, is enacted. Between 1870 and 1915, the tax on liquor provides from one-half to two-thirds of the whole of the internal revenue of the United States, amounting, after the turn of the century, to about \$200 million annually. The Sixteenth Amendment thus makes possible, just seven years later, the Eighteenth Amendment.
- 1914 The Harrison Narcotic Act is enacted, controlling the sale of opium and opium derivatives.
- 1914 Congressman Richard P. Hobson of Alabama, urging a prohibition amendment to the Constitution, asserts: "Liquor will actually make a brute out of a negro, causing him to commit unnatural crimes. The effect is the same on the white man, though the white man being further evolved it takes longer time to reduce him to the same level." Negro leaders join the crusade against alcohol.⁶²

- 1916 The *Pharmacopoeia of the United States* drops whiskey and brandy from its list of drugs. Four years later, American physicians begin prescribing these "drugs" in quantities never before prescribed by doctors.
- 1917 The president of the American Medical Association endorses national prohibition. The House of Delegates of the Association passes a resolution stating: "Resolved, The American Medical Association opposes the use of alcohol as a beverage; and be it further Resolved, That the use of alcohol as a therapeutic agent should be discouraged." By 1928, physicians make an estimated \$40,000,000 annually by writing prescriptions for whiskey.⁶³
- 1917 The American Medical Association passes a resolution declaring that "sexual continence is compatible with health and is the best prevention of venereal infections," and that one of the methods for controlling syphilis is by controlling alcohol. Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels prohibits the practice of distributing contraceptives to sailors bound on shore leave, and Congress passes laws setting up "dry and decent zones" around military camps. "Many barkeepers are fined for selling liquor to men in uniform. Only at Coney Island could soldiers and sailors change into the grateful anonymity of bathing suits and drink without molestation from patriotic passers-by."⁶⁴
- 1918 The Anti-Saloon League calls the "liquor traffic" "un-American, pro-German, crime-producing, food-wasting, youth-corrupting, home-wrecking, [and] treasonable."⁶⁵
- 1919 The Eighteenth (Prohibition) Amendment is added to the U. S. Constitution. It is repealed in 1933.
- 1920 The U. S. Department of Agriculture publishes

- a pamphlet urging Americans to grow cannabis (marijuana) as a profitable undertaking.⁶⁶
- 1920-33 The use of alcohol is prohibited in the United States. In 1932 alone, approximately 45,000 persons receive jail sentences for alcohol offenses. During the first eleven years of the Volstead Act, 17,972 persons are appointed to the Prohibition Bureau, 11,982 are terminated "without prejudice," and 1,604 are dismissed for bribery, extortion, theft, falsification of records, conspiracy, forgery, and perjury.⁶⁷
- 1921 The U. S. Treasury Department issues regulations outlining the treatment of addiction permitted under the Harrison Act. In Syracuse, New York, the narcotics clinic doctors report curing 90 per cent of their addicts.⁶⁸
- 1921 Thomas S. Blair, M.D., chief of the Bureau of Drug Control of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, publishes a paper in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in which he characterizes the Indian peyote religion a "habit indulgence in certain cactaceous plants," calls the belief system a "superstition" and those who sell peyote "dope vendors," and urges the passage of a bill in Congress that would prohibit the use of peyote among the Indian tribes of the Southwest. He concludes with this revealing plea for abolition: "The great difficulty in suppressing this habit among the Indians arises from the fact that the commercial interests involved in the peyote traffic are strongly entrenched, and they exploit the Indian. . . . Added to this is the superstition of the Indian who believes in the Peyote Church. As soon as an effort is made to suppress peyote, the cry is raised that it is unconstitutional to do so and is an invasion of religious liberty. Sup-

- pose the negroes of the South had a Cocaine Church!"⁶⁹
- 1921 Cigarettes are illegal in fourteen states, and ninety-two anti-cigarette bills are pending in twenty-eight states. Young women are expelled from college for smoking cigarettes.⁷⁰
- 1921 The Council of the American Medical Association refuses to confirm the Association's 1917 Resolution on alcohol. In the first six months after the enactment of the Volstead Act, more than 15,000 physicians and 57,000 druggists and drug manufacturers apply for licenses to prescribe and sell liquor.⁷¹
- 1921 Alfred C. Prentice, M.D., a member of the Committee on Narcotic Drugs of the American Medical Association, declares: "Public opinion regarding the vice of drug addiction has been deliberately and consistently corrupted through propaganda in both the medical and lay press. . . . The shallow pretense that drug addiction is a 'disease' . . . has been asserted and urged in volumes of 'literature' by self-styled 'specialists.'"⁷²
- 1924 The manufacture of heroin is prohibited in the United States.
- 1925 Robert A. Schless: "I believe that most drug addiction today is due directly to the Harrison Anti-Narcotic Act, which forbids the sale of narcotics without a physician's prescription. . . . Addicts who are broke act as *agents provocateurs* for the peddlers, being rewarded by gifts of heroin or credit for supplies. The Harrison Act made the drug peddler, and the drug peddler makes drug addicts."⁷³
- 1928 In a nationwide radio broadcast entitled "The Struggle of Mankind Against Its Deadliest Foe," celebrating the second annual Narcotic Education

Week, Richmond P. Hobson, prohibition crusader and anti-narcotics propagandist, declares: "Suppose it were announced that there were more than a million lepers among our people. Think what a shock the announcement would produce! Yet drug addiction is far more incurable than leprosy, far more tragic to its victims, and is spreading like a moral and physical scourge. . . . Most of the daylight robberies, daring hold-ups, cruel murders and similar crimes of violence are now known to be committed chiefly by drug addicts, who constitute the primary cause of our alarming crime wave. Drug addiction is more communicable and less curable than leprosy. . . . Upon the issue hangs the perpetuation of civilization, the destiny of the world, and the future of the human race."⁷⁴

- 1928 It is estimated that in Germany one out of every hundred physicians is a morphine addict, consuming 0.1 gram of the alkaloid or more per day.⁷⁵
- 1929 About one gallon of denatured industrial alcohol in ten is diverted into bootleg liquor. About forty Americans per million die each year from drinking illegal alcohol, mainly as a result of methyl (wood) alcohol poisoning.⁷⁶
- 1930 The Federal Bureau of Narcotics is formed. Many of its agents, including its first commissioner, Harry J. Anslinger, are former prohibition agents.
- 1935 The American Medical Association passes a resolution declaring that "alcoholics are valid patients."⁷⁷
- 1936 The Pan-American Coffee Bureau is organized at the first Pan-American Coffee Conference, in Bogotá, Colombia. A principal objective of the Bureau is "to formulate a co-operative effort for the promotion of increase in per capita consumption of coffee in the United States through the

- creation of a fund to conduct an educational and advertising campaign." During the first four-year period from the start of the Bureau's advertising (1938 to 1941), U.S. coffee consumption increases approximately 20 percent, while it takes twenty-four years (1914 to 1937) for another similar increase to occur.⁷⁸
- 1937 Shortly before the passage of the Marijuana Tax Act, Commissioner Harry J. Anslinger writes: "How many murders, suicides, robberies, criminal assaults, hold-ups, burglaries, and deeds of maniacal insanity it [marijuana] causes each year, especially among the young, can only be conjectured."⁷⁹
- 1937 The Marijuana Tax Act is enacted.
- 1938 Since the enactment of the Harrison Act in 1914, 25,000 physicians have been arraigned on narcotics charges, and 3,000 served penitentiary sentences.⁸⁰
- 1938 Dr. Albert Hofmann, a chemist at Sandoz Laboratories in Basle, Switzerland, synthesizes LSD. Five years later he inadvertently ingests a small amount of it, and observes and reports its effects on himself.
- 1941 Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek orders the complete suppression of the poppy: laws are enacted providing the death penalty for anyone guilty of cultivating the poppy, manufacturing opium, or offering it for sale.⁸¹
- 1943 Colonel J. M. Phalen, editor of the *Military Surgeon*, declares in an editorial entitled "The Marijuana Bugaboo": "The smoking of the leaves, flowers, and seeds of *Cannabis sativa* is no more harmful than the smoking of tobacco. . . . It is hoped that no witch hunt will be instituted in the military service over a problem that does not exist."⁸²

- 1946 According to some estimates, there are 40,000,-000 opium smokers in China.⁸³
- 1949 Ludwig von Mises, leading modern free-market economist and social philosopher: "Opium and morphine are certainly dangerous, habit-forming drugs. But once the principle is admitted that it is the duty of government to protect the individual against his own foolishness, no serious objections can be advanced against further encroachments. A good case could be made out in favor of the prohibition of alcohol and nicotine. And why limit the government's benevolent providence to the protection of the individual's body only? Is not the harm a man can inflict on his mind and soul even more disastrous than any bodily evils? Why not prevent him from reading bad books and seeing bad plays, from looking at bad paintings and statues and from hearing bad music? The mischief done by bad ideologies, surely, is much more pernicious, both for the individual and for the whole society, than that done by narcotic drugs."⁸⁴
- 1951 According to United Nations estimates, there are approximately 200 million marijuana users in the world, the major places of use being India, Egypt, North Africa, Mexico, and the United States.⁸⁵
- 1951 Twenty thousand pounds of opium, three hundred pounds of heroin, and various opium-smoking devices are publicly burned in Canton, China. Thirty-seven opium addicts are executed in the southwest of China.⁸⁶
- 1954 Four-fifths of the French people questioned about wine assert that wine is "good for one's health," and one quarter hold that it is "indispensable." It is estimated that a third of the electorate in France receives all or part of its income from the production or sale of alcoholic beverages; and

- that there is one outlet for the sale of alcohol for every forty-five inhabitants.⁸⁷
- 1955 The Präsidium des Deutschen Ärztetages declares: "Treatment of the drug addict should be effected in the closed sector of a psychiatric institution. Ambulatory treatment is useless and in conflict, moreover, with principles of medical ethics." This view is quoted approvingly, as representative of the opinion of "most of the authors recommending commitment to an institution," by the World Health Organization in 1962.⁸⁸
- 1955 The Shah of Iran prohibits the cultivation and use of opium, used in the country for thousands of years; the prohibition creates a flourishing illicit market in opium. In 1969 the prohibition is lifted, opium growing is resumed under state inspection, and more than 110,000 persons receive opium from physicians and pharmacies as "registered addicts."⁸⁹
- 1956 The Narcotic Drug Control Act is enacted; it provides the death penalty, if recommended by the jury, for the sale of heroin to a person under eighteen by one over eighteen.⁹⁰
- 1958 Ten percent of the arable land in Italy is under viticulture; two million people earn their living wholly or partly from the production or sale of wine.⁹¹
- 1960 The United States report to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs for 1960 states: "There were 44,906 addicts in the United States on 31 December 1960 . . ."⁹²
- 1961 The United Nations' "Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 10 March 1961" is ratified. Among the obligations of the signatory states are the following: "Art. 42. Known users of drugs and persons charged with an offense under this Law may be committed by an examining magistrate to a

- nursing home. . . . Rules shall be also laid down for the treatment in such nursing homes of unconvicted drug addicts and dangerous alcoholics."⁹³
- 1962 Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas declares: "The addict is under compulsion not capable of management without outside help. . . . If addicts can be punished for their addiction, then the insane can also be punished for their insanity. Each has a disease and each must be treated as a sick person."⁹⁴
- 1963 Mrs. Jean Nidetch, a formerly overweight housewife, incorporates Weight Watchers, an organization of diet clubs. By 1968, approximately 750,000 persons join Weight Watchers.⁹⁵
- 1963 Tobacco sales total \$8.08 billion, of which \$3.3 billion go to federal, state, and local governments in excise taxes. A news release from the tobacco industry proudly states: "Tobacco products pass across sales counters more frequently than anything else—except money."⁹⁶
- 1964 The British Medical Association, in a Memorandum of Evidence to the Standing Medical Advisory Committee's Special Sub-committee on Alcoholism, declares: "We feel that in some very bad cases, compulsory detention in hospital offers the only hope of successful treatment. . . . We believe that some alcoholics would welcome compulsory removal and detention in hospital until treatment is completed."⁹⁷
- 1964 An editorial in *The New York Times* calls attention to the fact that "the Government continues to be the tobacco industry's biggest booster. The Department of Agriculture lost \$16 million in supporting the price of tobacco in the last fiscal year, and stands to lose even more because it has just raised the subsidy that tobacco growers will

- get on their 1964 crop. At the same time, the Food for Peace program is getting rid of surplus stocks of tobacco abroad."⁹⁸
- 1966 Sen. Warren G. Magnuson makes public a program, sponsored by the Agriculture Department, to subsidize "attempts to increase cigarette consumption abroad. . . . The Department is paying Warner Brothers \$106,000 to insert scenes designed to stimulate cigarette smoking in a travelogue for distribution in eight countries, and is also spending \$210,000 to subsidize cigarette commercials in Japan, Thailand, and Austria." An Agriculture Department spokesman corroborates that "the two programs were prepared under a congressional authorization to expand overseas markets for U.S. farm commodities."⁹⁹
- 1966 Congress enacts the Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Act, inaugurating a federal civil commitment program for addicts.
- 1966 C. W. Sandman, Jr., chairman of the New Jersey Narcotic Drug Study Commission, declares that LSD is "the greatest threat facing the country today . . . more dangerous than the Vietnam War."¹⁰⁰
- 1967 New York State's "Narcotics Addiction Control Program" goes into effect. It is estimated to cost \$400 million in three years, and is hailed by Governor Rockefeller as "the start of an unending war . . ." Under the new law, judges are empowered to commit addicts for compulsory treatment for up to five years.¹⁰¹
- 1967 The tobacco industry in the United States spends an estimated \$250 million on advertising smoking.¹⁰²
- 1968 The U.S. tobacco industry has gross sales of \$8 billion. Americans smoke 544 billion cigarettes.¹⁰³

- 1968 Canadians buy almost 3 billion aspirin tablets and approximately 56 million standard doses of amphetamines. About 556 million standard doses of barbiturates are also produced or imported for consumption in Canada.¹⁰⁴
- 1968 Six to seven percent of all prescriptions written under the British National Health Service are for barbiturates; it is estimated that about 500,000 Britons are regular users.¹⁰⁵
- 1968 Abram Hoffer, M.D., and Humphry Osmond, M.D., claim that "strong evidence supporting the use of LSD in a treatment program for alcoholism comes from all parts of the world. It is one of the brightest hopes for the victims of a long neglected, little understood disease."¹⁰⁶
- 1968 Addiction to heroin is treated in Britain with the implantation of radioactive yttrium-90 in the brain.¹⁰⁷
- 1968 Brooklyn councilman Julius S. Moskowitz charges that the work of New York City's Addiction Services Agency, under its retiring Commissioner, Dr. Efren Ramirez, was a "fraud," and that "not a single addict has been cured."¹⁰⁸
- 1969 The legal alcoholic beverage industry in the U.S. has a gross sale of \$12 billion—more than is spent on education, medical care, and religion combined. Americans consume approximately 650 million gallons of distilled spirits, 100 million barrels and 6 billion cans of beer, 200 million gallons of wine, 100 million gallons of moonshine (illegal whiskey), and an unknown amount of home-made wine and beer.¹⁰⁹
- 1969 The world production of tobacco is 4.6 million metric tons, with the U.S., U.S.S.R., China, and Brazil as the leading producers; of wine, 275 million hectoliters, with Italy, France, and Spain as the leading producers; of beer, 595 million hecto-

- liters, with the U.S., Germany, and the U.S.S.R. as the leading producers; of cigarettes, 2,500 billion, with the U.S., U.S.S.R., and Japan as the leading producers.¹¹⁰
- 1969 U.S. production and value of some medicinal chemicals: barbiturates: 800,000 pounds, \$2.5 million; aspirin (exclusive of salicylic acid): 37 million pounds, value "withheld to avoid disclosing figures for individual producers"; salicylic acid: 13 million pounds, \$13 million; tranquilizers: 1.5 million pounds, \$7 million.¹¹¹
- 1969 A report issued by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization discloses that, despite warnings about the deleterious effects of smoking on health, the consumption of cigarettes throughout the world is growing at the annual rate of 70 billion cigarettes. The United States exports tobacco leaf to 113 countries; tobacco accounts for one-third of all Greek exports, and one-fifth of the Turkish exports.¹¹²
- 1969 The parents of 6,000 secondary-school pupils in Clifton, New Jersey, are sent letters by the Board of Education asking permission to conduct saliva tests on their children to determine whether or not they use marijuana.¹¹³
- 1970 New York State assemblyman Alfred D. Lerner introduces a bill to ban the sale of candy cigarettes in New York State, "to de-glamorize smoking in the eyes of children."¹¹⁴
- 1970 Dr. Alan F. Guttmacher, president of Planned Parenthood-World Population, declares that the Pill is "a prophylaxis against one of the gravest sociomedical illnesses—unwanted pregnancy."¹¹⁵
- 1970 Dr. Albert Szent-Györgyi, Nobel Laureate in Medicine and Physiology, in reply to being asked what he would do if he were twenty today: "I would share with my classmates rejection of the

- whole world as it is—all of it. Is there any point in studying and work? Fornication—at least that is something good. What else is there to do? Fornicate and take drugs against this terrible strain of idiots who govern the world.”¹¹⁶
- 1970 Per capita cigarette smoking increases, “from 3,993 for each smoker in 1969, to 5,030 for each one in 1970.”¹¹⁷
- 1970 Tobacco consumption is increasing rapidly in Russia: “In 1960, Soviet retail stores sold \$1.5 billion rubles of tobacco products. By 1968, the figure had risen to \$2.4 billion, more than a 50 per cent rise.”¹¹⁸
- 1970 Calculated on the basis of the taxes paid on alcoholic beverages, the lowest consumption per year per person in the drinking-age population is in Arkansas, with 1.35 gallons of distilled spirits, 0.86 gallons of wine, and 16.20 gallons of beer, for a total consumption of absolute alcohol per capita per year of 1.47 gallons; and the highest consumption is in the District of Columbia, with 10.39 gallons of distilled spirits, 5.24 gallons of wine, and 31.48 gallons of beer, for a total of absolute alcohol per person of 6.94 gallons. This rate is higher than that in any other country, the next-highest rate being in France, with a per capita absolute alcohol consumption of 6.53 gallons; the comparable rates are 4.01 gallons for Italy, 3.39 gallons for Switzerland, 2.61 gallons for the United States, and 0.82 gallons for Israel.¹¹⁹
- 1970 Having passed both Houses of Congress by unanimous votes, the “Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Act of 1970” is signed into law by President Nixon.
- 1970 According to a release of the U. S. Department

- of Health, Education, and Welfare, "An estimated 1.3 billion prescriptions were filled in 1970, at a consumer cost of \$5.6 billion. Of these, 17 per cent, or 214 million, were for psychotherapeutic drugs (anti-anxiety agents, anti-depressants, anti-psychotics, stimulants, hypnotics, and sedatives)."¹²⁰
- 1970 Henri Nargeolet, chief of the Central Service of Pharmacy and Drugs of the French Ministry of Public Health and Social Security, declares, after the French National Assembly adopts a new anti-drug bill, that "drug addiction will henceforth be considered as a contagious disease in France, as are alcoholism and venereal disease."¹²¹
- 1970 The world production of tobacco is 4.7 million metric tons; of wine, 300 million hectoliters; of beer, 630 million hectoliters; of cigarettes, 2,600 billion.¹²²
- 1971 President Nixon declares that "America's Public Enemy No. 1 is drug abuse." In a message to Congress, the President calls for the creation of a Special Action Office of Drug Abuse Prevention.¹²³
- 1971 New York City Mayor John Lindsay testifies before a House subcommittee that "with intensive research it should be feasible to develop an inoculation against heroin which would be administered to youngsters in the same way as vaccines against smallpox, polio, measles . . . and only a Federal scientific task force approaching the scale proposed for cancer research can bring the sort of breakthrough we need."¹²⁴
- 1971 A survey of smoking habits and economics by the *Sunday Telegraph* (London) reveals that: in Spain, tobacco is a state monopoly, with annual gross income last year at \$210 million; in Italy, it is also a state monopoly, with profits at \$1.3 bil-

lion, or 8 percent of the total tax revenue; in Switzerland, government revenue from tobacco taxes was \$60 million, or 5 percent of the total; in Norway, it was \$70 million, or 3 percent of the total; and in Sweden, it was \$350 million, or 2 percent of the total tax revenue.¹²⁵

1971 On June 30, 1971, President Cevdet Sunay of Turkey decrees that all poppy cultivation and opium production will be forbidden beginning in the fall of 1972.¹²⁶

1971 John N. Mitchell, Attorney General of the United States, declares: "I refer to the fact, acknowledged now by all professionals in the field, that alcoholism as such is not a legal problem—it is a health problem. More especially, simple drunkenness per se should not be handled as an offense subject to the processes of justice. It should be handled as an illness, subject to medical treatment. . . . [W]e know that it does little good to remove alcoholism from the purview of the law if you do not substitute a full-dress medical treatment—not only a detoxification process, but a thoroughgoing program aimed at recovery from the illness of alcoholism. Again, the program must include the closest cooperation and communication, starting at the top level, between the public health officials and law enforcement officials. The police must have an understanding that their role continues—not in an arresting capacity, but in one of helping subjects to the designated health centers, voluntarily if possible, involuntarily if necessary."¹²⁷

1972 Myles J. Ambrose, Special Assistant Attorney General of the United States: "As of 1960, the Bureau of Narcotics estimated that we had somewhere in the neighborhood of 55,000 heroin addicts . . . they estimate now the figure to be 560,000 addicts."¹²⁸

- 1972 The Bureau of Narcotic and Dangerous Drugs proposes restricting the use of barbiturates on the ground that they "are more dangerous than heroin."¹²⁹
- 1972 The House votes 366 to 0 to authorize "a \$1 billion, three-year federal attack on drug abuse."¹³⁰
- 1972 At the Bronx House of Correction, out of a total of 780 inmates, approximately 400 are given tranquilizers such as Valium, Elavil, Thorazine, and Librium. "I think they [the inmates] would be doing better without some of the medication," said Capt. Robert Brown, a correction officer. He said that in a way the medications made his job harder . . . rather than becoming calm, he said, an inmate who had become addicted to his medication 'will do anything when he can't get it.'"¹³¹
- 1972 On December 23, Reuters reports: "The Italian Government has approved a law under which drug addicts would be treated as sick people rather than criminals. A government statement said that under the new law . . . an addict would face minimal penalties and none at all if he agreed to submit to medical treatment."¹³²
- 1972 In England, the pharmacy cost of heroin is \$.04 per grain (60 mg.), or \$.00067 per mg. In the United States, the street price is \$30 to \$90 per grain, or \$.50 to \$1.50 per mg.¹³³
- 1972 President Nixon calls "drug abuse the nation's public enemy No. 1," and proposes federal spending of \$600 million for fiscal 1973 "to battle the drug problem from poppy-grower to pusher."¹³⁴
- 1973 According to *Barron's*, the weekly financial newspaper, health care is the largest industry in the United States. In fiscal 1973, Americans will spend \$90 billion on health care, compared with \$76.4 billion for defense. Only 32 percent of the

total bill is paid for directly, 30 percent coming from insurance companies, and 38 percent from the government.¹³⁵

1973 A nationwide Gallup poll reveals that 67 percent of the adults interviewed "support the proposal of New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller that all sellers of hard drugs be given life imprisonment without the possibility of parole." Among the typical comments cited by Gallup: "The seller of drugs is not human . . . therefore he should be removed from society."¹³⁶

1973 Myles J. Ambrose, Special Attorney General in charge of the Office for Drug Abuse, defending the methods used by his agents in apprehending alleged drug abusers: "Drug people are the very vermin of humanity. . . . Occasionally we must adopt their dress and tactics."¹³⁷

1973 "Citing opposition from 'misguided softliners,'" Governor Rockefeller signs into law "the toughest anti-drug program in the nation." He also requests the legislature "to provide funds to nearly double the state's narcotics treatment facilities.' . . . The new law calls for mandatory minimum jail terms for drug pushers and possessors but will allow parole under lifetime supervision."¹³⁸

1973 Michael R. Sonnenreich, Executive Director of the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse, declares: "About four years ago we spent a total of \$66.4 million for the entire federal effort in the drug abuse area. . . . This year we have spent \$796.3 million, and the budget estimates that have been submitted indicate that we will exceed the \$1 billion mark. When we do so, we become, for want of a better term, a drug abuse industrial complex."¹³⁹