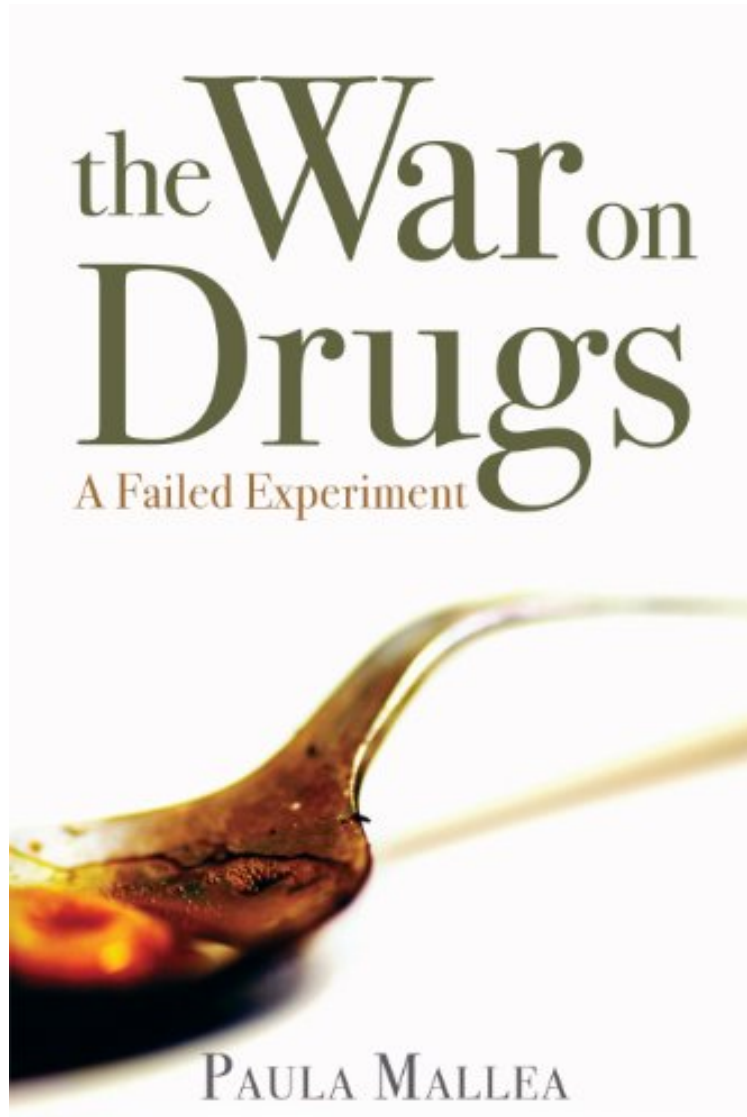


(Download) The War on Drugs: A Failed Experiment

The War on Drugs: A Failed Experiment

Paula Mallea

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Paula Mallea : The War on Drugs: A Failed Experiment before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The War on Drugs: A Failed Experiment:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An Important DiscussionBy Darcia HelleThis book is a broad look at the 40-year war that has not only failed to make lives better, but has in fact made things much worse. The author's main focus is on her home country of Canada, though she covers a lot of ground on US policies. She also briefly touches on other countries as examples of laws that work and laws that don't.I think this is an important read for

everyone. Prohibition, particularly in the way we've been attempting to force it on society, simply does not work. We're spending billions - trillions - of dollars fighting a war we cannot possibly win. In the process, we're filling our prisons to overflowing, ruining lives, and giving gangs multiple ways to get rich and even more reason to fight bloody battles. Paula Mallea does an excellent job of laying out the facts. She has obviously done extensive research on this topic. The one drawback for me is the broad scope of material in a fairly short space doesn't allow room to delve deep into certain areas. I felt some material was glossed over too quickly and would have liked more discussion. But, for the casual reader, this works well in that it provides what you need to make an informed decision about our war on drugs.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A must read for everyone. By Binti. Everyone in the US should read this book. It exposes the unconstitutional war on drugs. Why doesn't the ACLU take the drug laws to the SCOTUS? Why did it take an amendment to the constitution to make alcohol illegal but only the opinion of one self-righteous racist to make other drugs illegal. The war on drugs is all about a lot of people making a lot of money from drug king pins to all levels of the police state we live in. 1000's of people would lose their jobs if drugs were treated like alcohol. Makes no sense that the most damaging and dangerous drug in the US is legal while drugs that relieve depression and pain are verboten or strictly regulated. The alcohol industries would lose billions of \$\$ and the advertising of alcohol would lose many millions of \$\$.

The prison industry would also lose millions. 50% of crime in the US happens because drugs are illegal and tax payers have wasted 1 Trillion \$\$ as drugs are in greater supply and cheaper, in real dollars, than ever before. We need to follow Portugal's and Switzerland's example.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A strong case against the War on Drugs. By Aaron C. Brown. The basic arguments against the War on Drugs are well-known. It doesn't work either to reduce drug use or to increase the price of drugs. It is violent, and it engenders violence. It ruins lives. It creates many of the health problems associated with drug use. It corrupts public officials. It is expensive. It erodes civil rights. It targets unpopular people. The War on Drugs lays these arguments out in calm, clear, logically organized prose, like a legal brief without the jargon. It is up-to-date, including events as late as early 2014. It cites extensive references, mainly from the popular press or official reports. There is coverage of countries throughout the world, but the US and Canada are treated in the most detail, followed by Western Europe and Mexico. The writing style is matter-of-fact exposition plus calmly stated opinion. That makes the book a bit dull, the only reason to read it is to absorb the information. There are more vividly written attacks on the War on Drugs, such as Dan Baum's *Smoke and Mirrors* or Mike Gray's *Drug Crazy*. These are more fun to read and make a better emotional case. They are more likely to galvanize people who are already mostly convinced. But they don't make as strong a case for a neutral person, or someone inclined to support the drug war.

On the other side, James Gray's *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed* or Laurence Vance's *The War on Drugs Is a War on Freedom* are more rigorous books that cover legal, economic and philosophic principles as well the practical effects. These take more effort to read, but are deeper works. I recommend this book for someone without strong opinions on the War on Drugs who wants to become informed. It's short, clear and logical. The arguments are straightforward and aimed at a neutral reader. Partisans against the Drug War will find it too dry and unemotional, and it will not tell them much that they don't already know. Dyed in the wool drug warriors will not find it convincing, because it does not confront their arguments head on.

A criminal prosecutor discusses the illegal drug trade and the failure of the so-called War on Drugs to stop it. In 1971, President Richard Nixon coined the term War on Drugs. His campaign to eradicate illegal drug use was picked up by the media and championed by succeeding presidents, including Reagan. Canada was a willing ally in this war, and is currently cracking down on drug offences at a time when even the U.S. is beginning to climb down from its reliance on incarceration. Elsewhere in the world, there has been a sea change. The Global Commission on Drug Policy, including international luminaries like Kofi Annan, declared that the War on Drugs has not, and cannot, be won. Former heads of state and drug warriors have come out in favour of this perspective. Former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton agree with legions of public health officials, scientists, politicians, and police officers that a new approach is essential. Paula Mallea, in *The War on Drugs*, approaches this issue from a variety of points of view, offering insight into the history of drug use and abuse in the twentieth century; the pharmacology of illegal drugs; the economy of the illegal drug trade; and the complete lack of success that the war on drugs has had on drug cartels and the drug supply. She also looks ahead and discusses what can and is being done in Canada, the U.S., and the rest of the world to move on from the war and find better ways to address the issue of illegal drugs and their distribution, use, and abuse.

This book is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the debate about the legalization of marijuana. The information is up to date, the writing is clear, and the arguments are logical. Well done. (Senator Larry Campbell) About the Author Paula Mallea has degrees from Queen's University in Canadian Literature (M.A.), Canadian History (M.A.), and Law (LL.B). She was called to the Bars of Upper Canada and Manitoba, and practiced criminal law for five years in Toronto, Kingston and Brandon. She is the author of five books as well as the recipient of a human rights achievement award. Paula lives on Manitoulin Island.