Contents

Foreward 11
Introduction 14

Chapter 1: Can Drug Trafficking Be Stopped?
Chapter Preface 17
Yes: Drug Trafficking Can Be Stopped
A Balanced Antidrug Strategy Can Stop Drug Trafficking

Drug Enforcement Administration
A balanced strategy of reducing the demand for drugs, reducing the supply of drugs, treating drug addicts, and preventing children and teens from trying drugs can end the drug trade in the United States.

The U.S.’s Andean Counterdrug Initiative Is Reducing Drug Production in Latin America

Robert B. Charles
The Andean Counterdrug Initiative, a U.S.-funded program to help end drug production and trafficking in Latin America, is succeeding in its goals.

The United States Must Win the War on Drugs

Lou Dobbs
An unacceptable number of Americans are trying drugs, getting addicted to drugs, and overdosing on drugs. The United States must work harder to treat addicts and win the war on drugs.

No: Drug Trafficking Cannot Be Stopped

The War on Drugs Cannot Be Won by Fighting Drug Trafficking

Gary Becker
Making the sale of drugs illegal is an inefficient way to reduce drug use. Legalizing drugs and then taxing them heavily would be a better way to discourage people from using drugs.
Global Drug Trafficking Cannot Be Stopped

\textit{Moisés Naim}

Globalization is making the drug trade more profitable, more widespread, and more integrated into the wider global economy. As a result, drug trafficking is becoming harder to combat.

The United States Cannot Stop Drugs from Being Grown in Latin America

\textit{Ted Galen Carpenter}

Neither eradicating drug crops nor launching alternative development programs are feasible ways to stop Latin American farmers from growing drugs.

Attempts to Stop International Drug Trafficking Do Not Hinder the U.S. Drug Trade

\textit{John M. Walsh}

The United States’s policy of destroying drug crops and intercepting drug shipments in Latin America has very little effect on the price, supply, or quality of drugs available within the United States.

\textbf{Chapter 2: Are Efforts to Stop Drug Trafficking Harming the United States?}

Chapter Preface

\textbf{Yes: Efforts to Stop Drug Trafficking Do More Harm than Good for the United States}

Banning the Sale of Drugs Increases Crime

\textit{Joel Miller}

The drug trade is violent only because drugs are illegal. The fact that drugs are illegal, rather than the drugs themselves, is what causes drug-related robberies and murders.

Efforts to Stop Drug Trafficking Harm Patients with Chronic Pain

\textit{Jacob Sullum}
A Florida man was sent to jail for twenty-five years for drug trafficking, even though he was not selling drugs. The man was simply trying to acquire legal prescription drugs to treat his severe back pain.

The War on Drugs Harms Minorities

Jeselyn McCurdy

U.S. drug laws, especially those that mandate much harsher sentences for selling crack cocaine than for selling powder cocaine, discriminate against African Americans.

Innocent Convenience Store Clerks Are Being Jailed Because of the War on Drugs

Drug Reform Coordination Network

Arresting convenience store clerks for selling legal products that can be used to make methamphetamine, such as lighter fluid, is unfair. The clerks cannot be responsible for what customers do with the products they buy.

No: The War on Drugs Is a Reasonable Response to the Dangers of Drug Trafficking

Fighting Drug Trafficking Makes the United States More Secure

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Fighting drug trafficking reduces other threats to safety and security in the United States. These threats include violent gangs and the smuggling of guns and other contraband into the United States.

The Production of Methamphetamine Is Dangerous and Must Be Stopped

Mark Shook

Producing methamphetamine in makeshift home laboratories is extremely dangerous. It can result in children being exposed to toxic chemicals and both meth cooks and fire fighters being injured when the volatile mixtures catch fire.
Doctors Who Treat Chronic Pain Patients Do Not Need to Fear the War on Drugs

Karen P. Tandy

Prescription drug abuse is a serious problem, but in fighting that problem the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will not stop doctors from providing proper care to patients with chronic pain.

Chapter 3: How Does the War on Drugs Affect Latin America?

Overview: The War on Drugs in Latin America

Michael Shifter

The countries of Latin America have serious problems related to drug trafficking. These problems include drug-related violence and crime, as well as rebel groups that are funded by drug profits.

The War on Drugs Harms Human Rights and Democracy in Mexico

Laurie Freeman and Jorge Luis Sierra

The Mexican police and military have committed serious human rights abuses while supposedly combating drug trafficking, and the U.S. government is complicit in some of these abuses.

Drug Cartels Threaten the Rule of Law in Mexico

Larry Birns and Alex Sánchez

Drug trafficking organizations are a threat to stability and the rule of law in Mexico. These organizations have corrupted the government with bribes and have frightened government officials into inaction through threats and assassinations.

Drug-Related Corruption Threatens the Rule of Law in Guatemala

Frank Smyth

The Guatemalan military, which is intimately involved in international drug trafficking, has committed human rights abuses and undermined the country’s government while participating in the drug trade.
The War on Drugs Hurts Poor Colombian Farmers

Garry Leech

Using airplanes to spray Colombian coca fields with herbicides is bad policy. The herbicides harm the environment, destroy legitimate food crops, sicken those who live on the farms, and increase rural poverty.

Legalizing Drugs Would Improve the Situation in Colombia

Toby Muse

There is growing support in Colombia for legalizing, or decriminalizing, drugs. Supporters of these proposals believe that legalizing drugs would help to cut down on violence and crime in the country.

Chapter 4: Are Efforts to Stop Drug Trafficking Helping the War on Terror?

Preface

Yes: Winning the War on Drugs Will Advance the War on Terror

Terrorism Around the World Is Funded by Drug Trafficking

Asa Hutchinson

Violent organizations, including the Taliban in Afghanistan, guerrilla groups in Colombia, and drug cartels in Mexico, use the profits from drug trafficking to finance their terrorist operations.

Drug Trafficking Fuels Organized Crime, Civil Wars, and Terrorism

Antonio Maria Costa

Drug profits cause global harm. They are used to bribe governments, arm militias and terrorist groups, fund terrorist attacks, and force women and children into prostitution.
Islamic Terrorist Groups Use Heroin to Finance Their Terrorism

Josh Lefkowitz and Erick Stakelbeck

Many Islamic terrorist groups, including al Qaeda and Hezbollah use proceeds from drug trafficking to pay for their attacks.

No: Efforts to Stop Drug Trafficking Are Hindering the War on Terror

Outlawing Drug Trafficking Helps to Support Terrorists

Ted Galen Carpenter

Terrorists are able to fund their operations by selling drugs only because drug trafficking is illegal. If drugs were legal, terrorists would have to find other sources of funding.

Legalizing Heroin Would Stifle Black Market Trade and Terrorists’ Profits

Scott McPherson

Western countries should stop discouraging opium growing in Afghanistan and instead legalize heroin. Legalizing heroin would allow poor Afghan farmers to earn an honest living and take drug profits away from terrorist groups.

The United States Should Encourage Legal Opiate Production in Afghanistan

Anne Applebaum

Western countries should buy opium from Afghan farmers and use it to produce legal, medically useful opiate drugs, such as morphine and codeine.