

*Courtwright – “Why We Make War on Some Drugs but not on Others”*

- Why was the trafficking of liquor a focus of the international anti-vice movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries?

And be able to explain the several specific reasons that Courtwright notes why national prohibition was successfully instituted in the U.S.—and also be able to explain the primary reason why prohibition eventually failed.

- Know the bases on which global anti-vice efforts were justified, according to Courtwright.
- Understand some of the primary reasons why certain vices—whether tobacco, liquor, opium, or other drugs, etc.—became so widespread in the mid- to late-19th century.

Courtwright notes at least *five* such reasons; reasons that are still relevant today.

- Know the chief explanation that Courtwright discusses for the double-standard that privileges certain drugs while prohibiting others; and know which drugs have historically been condoned.

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*Gootenberg – “Cocaine’s ‘Blowback’ North [and] the Mexican Drug Crisis”*

- What was the cocaine industry like before the end of WWII, and how it is different today?
- What is the primary alleged cause of the global war on drugs and cocaine’s criminalization?
- Recognize and be able to explain in detail the *two* primary reasons why the illicit cocaine industry spread throughout South America and to Mexico and the United States *in the 1960s*.

Similarly, be able to explain how the cocaine industry initially became rooted in Columbia.

Also know why *in the 1980s* Mexico became a corridor for the trafficking of cocaine to the U.S.

- Know what the original aims of the U.S. “war” on drugs consisted in—and why cocaine came to be the primary illicit drug whose industry our nation focused on eliminating.
- According to Gootenberg, what has been the common result of anti-drug efforts/campaigns/policy measures?
- Explain some reasons why efforts to suppress the cocaine industry in Mexico have failed.

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*Burnett and Peñaloza – “Mexicans Want New Approaches to Bloody Drug War” (podcast)*

- Recite some of the violence characteristic of the drug trade and chief cartels in Mexico.  
And be prepared to argue whether or not you believe that this violence equates to acts of domestic terrorism and *why*.
  - What was the central policy proposal to reduce the violence in Mexico that was advocated by the *then* presidential favorite (and current president), Peña Nieto?
  - How has the U.S. aided efforts in Mexico to stem the violence associated with drug trafficking?
  - What is the principal reason that Burnett and Peñaloza note why efforts to eliminate the drug industry in Mexico have failed?
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*Forero – “As U.S. Consumes Less Cocaine, Brazil Uses More” (podcast)*

- Be able to explain the *four* trends in cocaine trafficking that Forero details.
  - What is the chief reason why, according to Forero, Brazil’s demand for cocaine is on the rise?
  - And what is the chief difficulty noted in this news segment with suppressing the movement of cocaine into Brazil?
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*Draper – “Opium Wars”*

- Know some of the *seven* causes of Afghanistan’s opium industry that Draper explains.
- What has the eradication of poppy fields required? In other words, what has the limited success of efforts to rid the country-side of poppy fields been dependent on?

And be to explain *why* this factor undermines long-term solutions to the opium trade. (Make the connection here to last week’s material on trade and development: how might the health of Afghanistan’s opium industry be connected to the country’s economy and trade relations?)

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*MSNBC – “Global War on Drugs has Failed”*

- Consider what would be/is necessary to eliminate the trafficking of illicit drugs if, in fact, “repressive strategies” don’t work to curtail the availability and consumption of these drugs.

In other words, is (1) continuing an ineffective and repressive “war” on drugs, or (2) legalizing these currently illicit drugs our *only* two options?

What might be an alternative policy approach? Be prepared to defend your own alternative.

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*Former President Carter – “Call Off the Global Drug War”*

- Know the *two* recommendations of the Global Commission on Drug Policy that Carter details.
  - Be able to explain some of the specific drawbacks to the more “punitive” approach that the U.S. government has taken in addressing drug-related crimes that Carter notes.
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*Global Commission on Drug Policy – “Report of the GCDP”*

- Be able to explain the connection between the conventional “war” on drugs—or more punitive anti-drug policies—and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
  - Also be able to explain the basic reason how *the failure* of this conventional war on drugs has also resulted in the further spread of HIV/AIDS.
  - What are the basic principles of the “public health approach” that the Commission proposes?
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*Kahn – “Violence, Hardship Fuel Central American Immigration to U.S.” (podcast)*

- No need to know any specifics, here: this piece is simply intended to introduce the next section of the class—and some of the potential causes of international migration.