

The dishonest origins of the war on drugs...
Submitted by Muriel Strand, CCPAB, November 2022

Legalize It All By Dan Baum

"In 1994, John Ehrlichman, the Watergate co-conspirator, unlocked for me one of the great mysteries of modern American history: How did the United States entangle itself in a policy of drug prohibition that has yielded so much misery and so few good results? ...

"You want to know what this was really all about?" [Ehrlichman] asked with the bluntness of a man who, after public disgrace and a stretch in federal prison, had little left to protect.

"The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people. You understand what I'm saying? We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or blacks, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities.

We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news.

Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.'"

<https://harpers.org/archive/2016/04/legalize-it-all/>

Information for the CCPAB meeting November 2022

The Power of TED: The Empowerment Dynamic

David Emerald reviews and expands on the Karpman psychodrama triangle of victim-rescuer-persecutor, a model of negative interactions many therapists and clients have found useful. The book explains clearly how TED fits into an individual's life, and the path of self-empowerment. This diagram summarizes the process:

http://www.cbodn.org/Resources/Documents/2013%20Conference/Power%20of%20TED%20Summary%20Two%20Sided%202013_Tso.pdf

Crime Rates & Trends

Many ordinary citizens reportedly feel concerned about increased crime in recent months, yet often lack a realistic perspective on the situation. While there have been slight increases in rates in recent months, the overall rates are substantially lower than those in the late 1980s and the early 1990s.

Another important point is to differentiate between violent crime, and economic crime such as theft, whether burglary or trashing homeless people's belongings. Most violent crime occurs between people who are previously acquainted; stranger danger is the exception.

This video lecture - [YouTube.com/watch?v=L4j6PzwmFgc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4j6PzwmFgc) - about psychopathy and brain anatomy, by the forensic psychiatrist, Dr. Octavio Choi, informs viewers that: About 1% of men and 20% of male inmates are psychopaths, and half of all violent crime is committed by this small portion of the population. Perhaps 0.2% of women are psychopaths. The PCL-R, in conjunction with qualitative interviews, is designed to identify psychopathic people who are the most likely source of stranger danger for violent crime.

Citizens who have a good understanding of how to identify psychopathic behavior can better protect themselves. Cops can directly prevent only a small number of crimes; it's the strength of a community that is most effective in suppressing abusive behavior of all kinds.

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