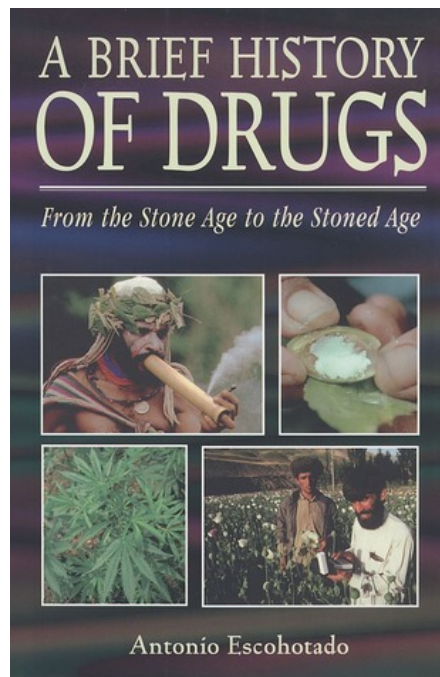




A Brief History of Drugs: From the Stone Age to the Stoned Age

Antonio Escohotado

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A clear-eyed look at the instrumental role drugs have played in our cultural, social, and spiritual development.

- First American publication of the surprising European bestseller.
- Examines everything from the ancient use of ergot and datura to the modern phenomenon of "designer" drugs such as Ecstasy and crack cocaine.

From remotest antiquity to the present era of designer drugs and interdiction, drugs have played a prominent role in the cultural, spiritual, and social development of civilizations. Antonio Escohotado demonstrates how the history of drugs illuminates the history of humanity as he explores the long relationship between mankind and mind-altering substances. Hemp, for example, has been used in India since time immemorial to stimulate mental agility and sexual prowess. Aristotle's disciple Theophrastus testifies to the use of datura by the ancient Greeks and further evidence links the rites at Eleusis to the ingestion of a hallucinogen. Similar examples can be found in cultures as diverse as the Celts, the ancient Egyptians, the Aztecs, and other indigenous peoples around the world.

Professor Escohotado also looks at the present-day differences that exist between the more drug-tolerant societies like Holland and Switzerland and countries advocating complete repression of these substances. The author provides a comprehensive analysis of the enormous social costs of the drug war that is coming under increasing fire from all levels of society. Professor Escohotado's work demonstrates that drugs have always existed and been used by societies throughout the world and the contribution they have made to humanity's development has been enormous. The choice we face today is to teach people how to use them correctly or to continue to indiscriminately demonize them. "Just say no," the author says, is not an option. Just say "know" is.

Antonio Escohotado is a professor of philosophy and social science methodology at the National University of Distance Education in Madrid, Spain. He travels widely, offering lectures and seminars on the subject of drugs and history.

A Brief History of Drugs: From the Stone Age to the Stoned Age Details

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From Reader Review A Brief History of Drugs: From the Stone Age to the Stoned Age for online ebook

Noé Ajo caamaño says

El autor nos orienta, tratando de esquivar el prejuicio y adoctrinamiento, a través de una historia de las drogas. Quienquiera que quisiera hablar sobre las sustancias llamadas psicoactivas y su relación con la sociedad y la cultura, debiera echar un vistazo a una obra que califico de imprescindible.

Max says

Very short history till modern (18th-20th century) times. Should reflect his opinion of the Middle Ages. He not only tells again and again the story of the enemy of science and freedom, identified in the catholic Church but also takes modern events like witch hunts back in the 12th century.

(The story about the crusader orders which imitates the order of Assassins is greatest crap)

His best part is the 19th century, with its rediscovery of narcotics and "les paradis artificiels". The book ends with an anthology of stories about the involvement of executive and legislative agencies in drug trade and distribution and became very annoying.

My first history of drugs, and I hope there better one on the market

Javier Cuello ferrero says

Historia elemental... es un ensayo-compendio del extenso trabajo del autor sobre drogas con el objetivo de informar concisamente sobre el papel que han jugado las sustancias conocidas como drogas.

Con una postura neutra, ajena a la apología y la censura de su uso, y un estilo ameno al tiempo que cuidado, ilustra con acierto desde su uso como *vehículos para el acceso al conocimiento revelado* de las primigenias religiones hasta su uso como prohibido objeto de deseo y especulación, y los cambios históricos, sociales y morales que las han acompañado a lo largo del tiempo.

Aporta suficiente información sin caer en el academicismo, con afán divulgador que consigue trasladar al lector a cuestionarse la realidad de las drogas y sus ineludibles implicaciones.

Jaime Acuña says

Yo tengo la edición en tres volúmenes de Alianza Editorial. Imprescindible para todo aquel que quiera ir más allá de la mera opinión sentimental en torno a un asunto, el de las sustancias que transforman y trastornan la mente, socialmente demonizado. Tratado de psiconautica.

Bryan Oliver says

I read the 1989 version, general history of drugs. likely worth it to go back and read this revised version that better connects things instead of reading like an encyclopedia at times

J.D. says

Obra de tremenda importancia. El más significativo trabajo que leo en años.

Empieza muy interesante, con la benigna experiencia los los antiguos griegos y romanos con las drogas. Avanza con angustia, desde que el Cristianismo sataniza, literalmente, a la variedad de drogas en favor de la fe. Innumerables casos de prohibición y fracaso, liberalización y sanidad. Un proceso de liberalización global hasta el inicio de la cruzada prohibicionista americana que se expande por el mundo. Y un final espeluznante, políticamente trascendental, en donde el autor parece describir una institucionalización mundial prohibicionista que se creó durante la Guerra Fría para combatir por proxys a la expansión comunista—lo cual parecería explicar la aparente irracionalidad de la causa anti-drogas de Estados Unidos y el resto del mundo.

Es el primer libro que leo de Escohotado y de seguro no será el último. Me impresiona mucho, además, que este pequeño libro es un resumen de tres volúmenes sobre el mismo tema. Este pensador es, sin duda, un gigante.

Pablo Mora says

A basic book to understand the fear and hatred toward drugs. You'll realize that it's all about power and religious beliefs. We should all learn to consider drugs as a part of the lore of cultures.

Jose Manuel says

La mejor obra de Escohotado con mucha diferencia. La mejor obra sobre el tema en castellano, también con mucha diferencia.

Justin Abraham says

I did in fact "really" like it, but a "brief" history will always be sort of problematic. Still, very interesting!

Emile says

I was already fairly radically anti-prohibition on drugs, so my danger with this book is not reading it critically enough because it confirms my biases. That said, it has an interesting if brief survey of the use of mind altering substances through history, and a fairly damning review of the current "drug war" from the early/mid 1900s to the present.

Three stars if you're mostly interested in the anthropological/ethnological angle, and five stars if you believe that drug prohibition is sensible.

Daniele says

Very good book

julieta says

Escohotado es el jefe en cuanto a intoxicantes se trata. Me encanta este libro, cuando empecé con buscar bibliografía de drogas fué el mejor lugar para empezar. Muy bueno.

Jomaweb says

La mejor obra de Escohotado con mucha diferencia. La mejor obra sobre el tema en castellano, también con mucha diferencia.

Nick says

This book should be mandatory reading. Its the missing chapter of human history.

Lucy Qhuay says

Very simple and easy to read, while giving us a general panoramic view of the history of drugs.
