

CANNABIS HISTORY

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Learning Objectives

- Cannabis's relationship with early agriculture, art and function and health.
- Etymology of cannabis
- Early spiritual use of decarboxylated cannabinoids.
- Cannabis as an offering to deities
- First industrial uses of cannabis
- Maritime hemp use
- Processing hemp processes
- Cannabis roots in the United States
- Hemp food, how hemp saved societies in times of famine
- War of 1812
- Medical cannabis history
- Cannabis Research
- Cannabis's mistaken identity
- Snake oil salesmen
- Prohibition in the United States
- A "Billion Dollar Crop"
- Harry Anslinger to NORML
- 1960's cannabis revolution
- Ending cannabis prohibition

Cannabis and its Cooperative Evolution with Humans: Humans did not evolve in isolation. Both cannabis plants and humans evolved surrounded by plants and animals in their local environments. Even during our millennia as pre-agricultural hunter-gatherers, before 10,000 BC, our selections of preferred species, our custodies, and our transportations of those selections had an enduring effect, which included the proliferation of plants and animals whose traits we found useful.

Dioecious plant evolution: Some types of plants and animals evolved more than others. The plants that evolved more are **dioecious**, meaning there are separate male and female members of the species. They are more evolved than **monocious** plants, meaning a single plant has both male and female parts. Cannabis plants are dioecious, and their longer evolutionary path produced a more sophisticated plant type that allowed cannabis to evolve in many ways, not just sexually. Other plants have not accomplished the same evolutionary sophistication that Cannabis has.

One example of the close evolutionary paths shared by humans and cannabis is our shared chemistry. A major breakthrough was achieved in the 1980s with the first definition of our endocannabinoid system. Until then scientists presumed incorrectly that cannabis worked through the same neural systems as other drugs, like opiates and cocaine. The fact that humans and cannabis share chemistry is an indication of our long intertwined evolutionary paths.

Selective breeding and domestication of plants and animals: Science has determined that humans and dogs began their intimate relationships as long ago as 10,000 BC, sheep, goats, cattle and pigs from 9,000BC to 7,000BC, and oxen and water buffalos from 4,000 BC. We have direct evidence of the use of cannabis rope from as long ago as 10,000 BC, when humans first developed agriculture. Pottery found in China contains hemp fibers carbon-dated to 10,000 BC.

Like domesticated dogs, various cannabis strains have been bred for particular purposes. Dogs have been bred as guards, hunters, trackers and companions, with some bred to hunt large animals and some to

hunt small animals. Similarly, cannabis has been bred for fiber, seed, and as a religiously, recreationally and medically useful plant with different strains developed over many thousands of years for particular purposes.

Evidence of the industrial, practical, and artistic use of hemp in China dates back to 10,000

BC. Clay pottery shards give evidence that twisted hempen rope was wrapped around the outside of vessels before they dried. Bits of hemp fiber embedded in the clay have been carbon dated to 10,000 BC. Wrapping hemp rope on the wet clay gives the vessel both a texture making the vessel easier to grip, and an artistic pattern somewhat similar to the modern herringbone pattern. The fact that hempen rope was used on these vessels proves cannabis has been used as an industrial product for many thousands of years.

The practice of using hemp rope in this fashion persisted through the ages and spread all across the ancient world. Clay amphoras are cone-shaped vessels, used in the Mediterranean areas, for transport in the holds below ship decks. Though these amphoras were used thousands of miles away and many thousands of years later, they also were often wrapped with hemp rope in the very same fashion.

A Washington University study, published in June, 2015, found that the more hunter-gatherers, in Congo, who smoked Cannabis then the fewer problems they had with intestinal parasites. Ed Hagen, a Washington State University anthropologist, was quoted saying, "In the same way as we have a taste for salt, we might have a taste for psychoactive plant toxins, because these things kill parasites."

Early Agricultural Endeavors: No other technological development has been as importantly transformative as the development of agriculture in about 8,000 BC. Humans were nomadic hunter-gatherers before the development of agriculture. It was not until farming, which allowed humans to produce food in one place over and over, that they built permanent dwellings. The establishment of

permanent homes developed into towns, and then from towns to into cities. The growth of towns and cities allowed for government, social services and rule-of-law – in short “civilization” as we know it.

What plants were so importantly essential that they first inspired agriculture? Evidence from the examination of archeological sites, where agriculture was first developed, points to approximately a dozen crops first farmed agriculturally, such as wheat and other grains, onions and garlic, and cannabis.

One theory about early agriculture describes how nomadic humans would carry most essential plants with them as they traveled. As these plants were transported their seeds would fall on and beside paths. Seeds falling beside paths used by nomadic humans would grow in a fashion where the paths’ sides would naturally be lined by those plants. Some intelligent humans observing this tendency realized that seed could be sown in rows, resulting in fields filled with these most valued plants. This would be true for cannabis, and so it could be argued that cannabis was so essential a plant that it helped lead to the development of agriculture, permanent dwellings, city-states and civilization as we know it today.

Archeological evidence shows that hemp agriculture had spread throughout Europe by 5,000 BC.

Cannabis and Early Languages: Another indication of the close relationship between the need for cannabis and the development of agriculture is the Latin word “sativa”, which means “to cultivate”. The word “hemp” is Old English and “hanf” is Old Germanic for the Eastern European “kanab”. Kanab was transformed to hanap through linguistic twists seen not only with these two words, but many others as well. These twists are so commonly applicable to so many European word evolutions that they are defined by a single rule called Grimm’s Law.

Some scholars argue the cannabis-related practices and word-origins of ancient Hebrew and Assyrian cultures were introduced to Semitic cultures from the Eurasian cultures of the Scythians through trade. Through the writings of the Greek Herodotus from about 500 BC, Scythians were associated with

cannabis as a religious sacrament and were known to use cannabis in incense tents to “bath” in cannabis smoke in religious rituals. Herodotus said the vapor would make the Scythians, “...howl for joy.”

Evidence of the burning of cannabis in enclosed tents and caves dates back as far as

5,500BC. Scythian tombs have been excavated where metal tent poles and cauldrons have been found.

The cauldrons have been found filled with stones and burned cannabis seeds. This leads archaeologists to believe that heated stones were placed in cauldrons in tents covered with hempen cloth, and cannabis buds were placed on the hot stones so the tent would fill with smoke. Scythians and members of other ancient cultures would sit in these tents inhaling the smoke and, presumably, getting high.

Assyrian inscriptions from 2,000 BC first described the hash and hash oil making processes and also tell of a heart shaped cannabis cookie called sahadanag. Assyrian king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, who built the hanging gardens and first destroyed the temple of Jerusalem, was said to have met his downfall due to his infatuation with and excessive eating of hashish. Assyrians also describe “qunubu” or cannabis as being used in incense tents and in topical oils.

The first and second Emperors of China, Fu-Hsi and Shen-Nung wrote of the medicinal and industrial uses of cannabis in 2,900 BC and 2,700 BC respectively.

An archeological dig at a tomb in the Gobi Desert in China uncovered the remains of a blue-eyed shaman (religious leader) of the Gushi Tribe buried there in 2,800 BC. With him a fine woven leather basket was found to contain about two pounds of unfertilized female cannabis bud material. This find gives evidence of interaction between blue-eyed cultures of northern Europe and the Chinese, and also of the cultivation and importance of sinsemilla, female cannabis bud made more potent through planned un-fertilization, in ancient cultures of that time.

A second dig in the Altai Mountains of eastern Kazakhstan found a female princess and shaman along with prepared cannabis and hashish buried in 2,500 BC. She had suffered from breast cancer, and archeologists have concluded she was using cannabis for both religious and medicinal purposes. This find is considered the most significant archeological find of the latter 20th century in Russia, and the princess is referred to as the "Ice Maiden of Siberia".

By 1,500 BC cannabis seed was widely used for food, and hemp fiber was widely used for textiles throughout China and Greece. By 1,200 BC cannabis medicine was being used in Egypt to treat glaucoma and inflammation.

Cannabis and Holy Anointing Oil: The word "cannabis" came from the Scythians and Thracians and was adopted as kaneh bosm in ancient Hebrew. Kaneh means cane or reed and bosm means fragrant. For hundreds of years kaneh bosm was mistranslated by biblical scholars, who depended on a Greek translation of the original Hebrew, which misidentified the plant as "calamus", known in English as the swamp reed sweet flag.

The Bible tells us that, after his first meeting on Mt. Horeb (about 1,450 BC), Moses encountered God as he emerged from a cloud of smoke rising from a "burning bush" in a "tent of meeting" or incense tent. We now know the burning bush was cannabis. In the book of Exodus, God instructed Moses to make holy anointing oil using 500 shekels of liquid myrrh, 250 shekels of cinnamon, 250 shekels of cannabis and olive oil to make about 1 1/2 gallons of holy anointing oil. A shekel is about 1/2 ounce so 1 1/2 gallons of holy anointing oil contains the cannabinoids from about 9 pounds of cannabis.

Many cannabinoids, including THC, are fat-soluble lipids and pass through the skin. God instructed Moses to anoint priests with holy anointing oil so they could communicate with Him. God told Moses the use of the oil was to be strictly limited to priests and priests only. Anyone who received the oil who was not a

priest was to be cast-out. Casting-out from society back then was usually a death sentence or led inevitably to enslavement.

Another religious leader, Zoroaster, wrote a multi-volume text, the *Zend-Avesta* in about 700BC. One volume of that text called the *Venindad* refers to a milk drink made from cannabis called bhang and rates the medical usefulness of about 10,000 plants with cannabis being rated as #1.

By 200 BC cannabis medicine was used in India to treat leprosy.

Mary Magdalene anointed Jesus Christ with holy anointing oil poured from a "grail" or cup. Anointing oil and incense are used to this day in the holy of holies or the inner sanctum in the temple of Jerusalem.

In about 200 AD, the Roman Claudius Galen wrote of the burning of cannabis in metal bowls at Roman parties in order to promote "hilarity". At about that same time Chinese surgeon Hua T'o first used a combination of re-fermented wine (similar to sherry) and cannabis oil as an anesthetic.

The word "indica" is the word for India in Greek, which many Europeans and early Americans referred to as "Indian hemp". Cannabis indica is distinct from cannabis sativa in that is useful only as drug for recreational and religious purposes as opposed to sativa's industrial uses for producing food and fiber.

Cannabis indica is native to temperate regions, generally defined as north or south from the 30th latitudinal line, which includes the northern half of India. Areas within the 30th latitude north or south of the equator are referred to as "tropical" and are characterized by having a longer summer season and strong sunlight. Indica, native to the temperate region, is shorter than sativa, which can grown up to 15 feet tall in a single growing season. Indicas usually grow to be 6 feet tall at the most and tend to be wider or more bush-like than sativa. All cannabis is annual, so it dies in the winter and re-grows from seed in Spring.

Another distinction for cannabis indica is that the leaf petioles tend to be wider than those of sativa. Sativa petioles are more slender as the tropical sun they are adapted to is strong and causes the leaves to evaporate, or "aspirate" more water. To compensate for this additional sunlight and resultant, additional aspiration sativa leaves are thin so their decreased surface-area will aspirate less water.

Yet another distinction between sativa and indica is the time required for the plant to complete its flowering process. Tropical sativas are adapted to a much longer summer and take a longer time to come to full-flower. The female buds of indica plants grow more thickly and tend to contain more oil than those of sativas.

The Hindu religion attributes the origination of cannabis to the most powerful Goddess in their pantheon of Gods, Shiva, the creator and destroyer of all things. It is said that Shiva was flying over earth as she contemplated the beauty of the love between the God of the moon and the Goddess of the sea. Her admiration of their love and jealousy at her lack thereof made her so sad that she cried. Each time a tear fell from her eye to earth a cannabis plant sprung-up.

Depictions of Shiva show her using a mortar and pestle to grind cannabis in the preparation of bhang. Bhang is an intoxicating drink consumed commonly in India at religious festivals made by boiling ground cannabis in milk, straining the milk to remove the plant-matter and mixing the milk with honey, cinnamon and other spices to make a tasty drink. The emulsifier lecithin, which occurs naturally in milk, allows the cannabis plant oils to mix into the milk giving bhang its intoxicating properties. Boiling bhang while stirring can remove the water and concentrate the milk solids so that the milk solids can be formed into edible bhang balls, which are often coated with spices.

The word assassin is derived from the word hashishian, and they are associated one with the other as a result of the use of hashish by Hassan I Sabbah who formed a cult in 1050 AD. Cult members were instructed to find candidates for membership by meeting young males and

inviting them to have some fun drinking wine together. The unsuspecting candidate would be given wine and a mixture of wine and hashish sufficient to render them unconscious. Once the candidate was unconscious, the cult members would kidnap the candidate and bring him to an enclosed area designed as a garden of earthly pleasures.

The garden was filled with beautiful flowers, pools and waterfalls, and was peopled by attractive naked women who served the candidates copious foods and showed them sexual favor. After a short while the candidates were again rendered unconscious with wine and hashish, whereupon they were removed from the garden and returned to where they had at first been found.

After several weeks, the cult members would re-approach the candidate, remind him of the dream-like experience they had in the garden of pleasures, and explain that where they had been was heaven. The candidate would be told that Hassan I Sabbah could return them to that garden forever, and all they had to do was follow Hassan I Sabbah's orders. Hassan I Sabbah would instruct the new cult members to live in and become trusted members of the societies of Hassan I Sabbah's rivals. When they became trusted, so that they were allowed access to the rival leader's proximity, they were to murder or "assassinate" the rival leader. The new cult members were assured that after they were in-turn killed for having assassinated the rival leader, upon death they would return to the garden of pleasures.

Since ancient time humans have used cannabis for many diverse purposes. It has been used for fiber from its stalk. It has been used for food, lighting, lubrication, and paint/varnish oil from its seed, which has little to no cannabinoid level. High-cannabinoid plant oils have been used for medical, recreational and religious purposes. We will explore the history of all of these uses here, but with only occasional reference to its use as a medicine. The historic use of cannabis as a medicine is discussed more thoroughly in your medical cannabis courses.

Hemp fiber was the premiere fiber for all uses until the 1870s. Ninety percent or more of all sailcloth from before the Phoenicians (500 BC) until long after the predominance of steam ships was hemp. Hemp was the vast majority of all other shipboard fiber as well, including: rigging, cargo and fishing nets, anchor ropes, flags, uniforms, shoes and oakum, which is used to seal the ships' hulls from leaking. From 1640 to 1940 hemp from Russia provided eighty percent of the world market for rope.

For instance, the ships Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria that first brought Christopher Columbus to the new world in 1492 carried lots of hemp in the forms listed above. The same is true of the famous American war ship Constitution, "Old Ironsides" first launched in 1794, now docked in the Charlestown Navy Yard, which carried over 60 tons (120,000 pounds) of hemp.

Hemp thread and yarn can be twisted using any standard spinning wheel, but the industrial production of rope was spun using a larger version of the spinning wheel housed in long, narrow barns called hemp-walks. A very old map of Boston, from 1722, found by local Hempologist John Dvorak, shows the location of four hemp walks throughout Boston at that time.

Until the 1820s, in America hemp was eighty percent of all thread and textiles whether on US ships, in US homes or in US industry. Until the 1830s the world's finest linens from Italy and Ireland were made from hemp. Hemp cloth is softer, warmer, more ultra-violet resistant, three times more durable and is more water absorbent than cotton.

Canvas is the Dutch pronunciation of the word cannabis and is a rough coarse hemp textile. Hemp canvas was the premier art canvas due to its strength, luster, mold, mildew, bug and sunlight resistance. The Conestoga wagon, used by American settlers to move through the plains-states to settle the west, carried a canvas top.

Until the 1990s processing hemp into fiber was a two-step process. First the hemp stalks were cut and left to **ret**, a rotting and drying process that helps the fibrous bark separate from the woody core or **hurd**. If hemp stalks are left to ret in a field they must be turned so one side rots and the other side dries then visa-versa. The stalks can also be submerged in a pond to ret. Either way, the retting process takes lots of labor, weeks of time and, if done in a field, can be ruined by weather that is either too dry or too wet.

The second step in the process is to crack the hurd into small pieces so it separates from the fibrous bark. This was done with a **hemp brake** where one piece of wood with a hinge on one end and a handle on the other end was fixed between two other pieces of wood. Stalks were held over the two outside pieces while the centerpiece was slammed down on them to crack the hurd. The stalks were moved back and forth and crushed until the fiber was fully loosened from the hurd. This was a very laborious and time consuming process.

It wasn't until the 1890s, that the first mechanized hemp "decorticators" eliminated the need for hemp brakes and made hemp fiber production competitive with cotton fiber production once again. It wasn't for another 100 years, in the 1990s, until the need to ret hemp was eliminated by decorticators with more advanced technology.

Hemp was legal tender in America and other countries. From 1631 until the 1800s, to encourage its production, hemp could be used as money for the payment of many things including taxes.

Paper made from hemp is of much higher quality than paper made from cotton, tree pulp, papyrus and other paper-making options. Paper from hemp is, for instance, 50 to 100 times longer lasting than paper made from papyrus and is 100 times easier and 100 times cheaper to make. Paper has been made from hemp for thousands of years. The oldest known existing hemp paper is a Chinese

medical text from 100BC. That hemp paper from 100BC still exists is astounding and gives good evidence that hemp paper is more durable than other papers. One reason for this is that hemp paper is very low acid, particularly when compared with papers made from trees.

Hemp paper was the primary paper-type in Europe from the 1500s to the 1900s and in China from 100AD to the present. The first printing press to have movable type, making it the first practical commercial printing press, was the Gutenberg press developed in Germany in 1470 AD. Up to that time books, including bibles, were copied by hand; limiting their distribution to only the very wealthy. The invention of movable-type printing presses, beginning with the Gutenberg press, was a huge political development that brought mass-produced type-written books to the middle classes. These books, including the famous Gutenberg bibles, were printed on hemp paper. Seventy five to ninety percent of all paper was made from hemp until 1883. First and second drafts of the Declaration of Independence were written on hemp paper from Holland. American independence got a big boost with the opening of the first US paper mill, which was built by Benjamin Franklin and made hemp-based paper.

The agriculture of hemp was first brought to the Americas by Spanish conquistadors who planted it in Chili in 1545. Hemp agriculture arrived in North America when it was planted by British colonists in Port Royal, Canada in 1606.

The growth of hemp was supported by bounties, and the failure to grow hemp was discouraged by fines and jail-time in both America and England. In 1563, Queen Elizabeth I decreed mandatory hemp farming for all British subjects, both farmers and home gardeners alike. In 1631, the Massachusetts Bay Colony, then under British rule, offered farmers bounties for growing and fines for not growing hemp. In 1639, the colony mandated hemp growth by all households. By 1850, the US Census listed 8,327 hemp plantations of 2,000 acres or more.

It is widely known that our American founding fathers grew hemp. Few people realize that George Washington tried to grow sinsemilla at Mount Vernon. On May 12, 1765, George Washington wrote in his diary, "Sowed hemp at muddy hole by swamp." Then on August 7 in that diary he wrote, "...began to separate the male from the female plant at do - rather too late." This sort of separation and the requirement that it be done in a timely manner, before the female plants become fertilized, is specific to efforts to make potent drug cannabis, not industrial hemp. After leading America to victory in the Revolutionary War Washington returned to Mount Vernon, and in 1794 he wrote to his gardener instructing him, "Make the most of the Indian hemp seed and sow it everywhere!" Similarly John Adams in 1763 wrote, under his nom-de-plume Humphrey Plowjogger, "We shall by and by want a world of hemp more for our own consumption."

Another American founding father, Thomas Jefferson, took tremendous risks smuggling hemp seeds from France. Mandarin Chinese tried to protect the use of their valued hemp seed by making the exportation of those seeds a capital crime. Despite the danger, seeds from China were smuggled from China to Turkey and then to France where Jefferson purchased them on the black-market.

Hemp seed oil was used widely as a lubricant in many divergent industries, was the most widely used lighting oil, and was used to make paints and varnishes for thousands of years. In the United States, in 1935 alone 116,000,000 pounds of hemp seed were used for making of paints and varnishes. Hemp seed oil provided the vast majority of lamp oil until 1805, when whale oil became more predominant.

Hemp seed and soybean are the only plant-based food sources that can by themselves provide the eight amino acids required for complete protein, which is a nutritional requirement for human survival. Hemp seed actually contains a total of nine amino acids. During times when the lack of other foods would have caused mass-starvation, hemp seeds alone have kept large

populations in Asia alive. Hemp seed also contains 11 fatty acids essential for arterial health including: CLA (conjugated linolenic acid), linolenic acid (omega 6), linoleic acid (omega 3), and oleic acid (omega 9). For these and other fatty acids hemp seed provides a safe alternative to fish oil, which tends to contain pollutants that become concentrated as they move up through the oceanic food chain.

Many students are not taught about the War of 1812 was all about hemp. Descriptions of the war that speak only of British anti-trade legislation and “impressments” (kidnapping) of American merchant sailors and merchant ships ignore the fact that that most important trade item the British needed was hemp. England was the world’s greatest naval superpower and their need for hemp for naval uses drove their policies toward the USA.

Napoleon was the Emperor of France and England’s greatest enemy. Napoleon made a treaty with Russian Czar Peter the Great where Russia outlawed the sale of Russian hemp to England. England was desperate for hemp, but had lost control over American hemp with the loss of the Revolutionary War thirty years earlier. England passed many restrictive laws attempting to force America to sell its hemp to them, rather than to America’s Revolutionary War partner France. When America resisted that effort, England hired “privateers” (pirates) to seize American merchant ships, cargos and crews. American merchant crews and ships were re-purposed to smuggle black-market hemp from Russia to England.

America responded with a failed invasion of Quebec, which back-fired badly so that Canadian troops with help of Native Americans almost took Detroit. The British navy began blockading American ports, took and burned Washington, DC and marched on Baltimore. The war lost steam when Russia resumed shipments of hemp to England after Napoleon led the French army in a horrifically failed invasion where they tried to take Moscow.

In 1841, Irish physician William Brooke O’Shaughnessy returned to England from his investigations of the medical uses of cannabis in India. His writings about those medical uses

helped the rapid advance of cannabis for medical applications. By 1850, cannabis was listed in the US Pharmacopeia as useful as a: sedative, aphrodisiac, sleep aid, pain reliever and for: neuralgia, gout, hydrophobia, cholera, convulsions, and insanity. Between then and 1890, cannabis extract (pharmaceutical hash oil) was the third most commonly prescribed medication in the USA, when it was replaced for many uses by the patented drugs aspirin and heroin. In all that time there was never a single documented case of overdose or addiction.

The mid-nineteenth century saw the growth in popularity of the recreational use of

cannabis products, hashish in particular. 1844 saw the formation of the Club des Hashischins in Paris, which listed members that included many of the most prestigious thinkers of Europe at that time: Victor Hugo, Alexandre Dumas, Charles Baudelaire, Theophile Gautier, Honore de Balzac, Eugene Delacroix, Dr. Jacques-Joseph Moreau, Gerard Nerval, etc. Members met to eat big doses of green Moroccan hash and share their experiences, some of which were included in literary works like the Count of Monte Christo and 1000 Arabian Nights. In 1857, Fitzhugh Ludlow published his very popular book The Hash Eater in which he described his personal experiences eating very large doses of hashish daily for months. New York City had over 500 hash smoking parlors by 1883.

In 1894, the British government hired the Indian Hemp Drugs Commission, which was the first of several detailed government funded studies, all of which have come to the same

conclusions. In the report's 3,281 pages - 1,200 "experts" conclude:

- **Physical effects**
 - In regard to the physical effects, the Commission have come to the conclusion that the moderate use of hemp drugs is practically attended by no evil results at all.
- **Mental effects**
 - In respect to the alleged mental effects of the drugs, the Commission have come to the conclusion that the moderate use of hemp drugs produces no injurious effects on the mind.
- **Moral effects**
 - In regard to the moral effects of the drugs, the Commission are of opinion that their moderate use produces no moral injury whatever.
- **Discussion**

- Viewing the subject generally, it may be added that the moderate use of these drugs is the rule, and that the excessive use is comparatively exceptional. The moderate use practically produces no ill effects. In all but the most exceptional cases, the injury from habitual moderate use is not appreciable. The excessive use may certainly be accepted as very injurious, though it must be admitted that in many excessive consumers the injury is not clearly marked.

Similar conclusions are reached by similar governmental studies for the next 100+ years including:

- **The LaGuardia Report (1944):**
 - It systematically contradicted claims made by the [U.S. Treasury Department](#) that smoking marijuana results in insanity, deteriorates physical and mental health, assists in criminal behavior and [juvenile delinquency](#), is physically addictive, and is a "gateway" drug to more dangerous drugs. (Wikipedia)
- **National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse – The Schaffer Committee Report (1972):**
 - After the Commission's widespread study and analysis, it concluded that "Looking only at the effects on the individual, there, is little proven danger of physical or psychological harm from the experimental or intermittent use of the natural preparations of cannabis."
- **1997 NIH Panel Report:**
 - The experts state they have "varying degrees of enthusiasm" to allow smoked marijuana for several medical conditions, including glaucoma and the nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy. They say their enthusiasm is "tempered," however, because effective, alternative treatments are already available for many of these problems.

By the late nineteenth century America's largest pharmaceutical companies were all manufacturing pharmaceutical grade cannabis extracts, including: Parke Davis, Squibb, Lilly and Burroughs-Wellcome.

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In the 1895 the Mexican Herald, the first English-language newspaper, opened in Mexico and, through the wire service, tales of marijuana-induced violence that were common in Mexican papers began to appear north of the border – helping to shape public perceptions that would later form the basis of pot prohibition, Campos says.

Interestingly, some of the accounts of cannabis-related violence and crime may not have been *entirely* fabricated. Just as the myth of the unicorn may have been based on early and inaccurate descriptions of the rhinoceros, the tales may have partly been the result of some confusion regarding plant names. Some media stories of the era conflated marijuana with locoweed, a type of poisonous plant. So it's just possible that some of the horror stories held a grain of truth—relating to a *completely* different plant.

Henry Finger, Mayor of San Francisco, saw cannabis use as a problem visited on the people of California by immigration from India. These attitudes were shared by many politicians nationwide and were a major contributing factor in the change of perception of cannabis from being a useful medicine to being a dangerous drug. Finger said, "Within the last year we in California have been getting a large influx of **Hindoos** and they have in turn started quite a demand for cannabis indica; **they are a very undesirable lot** and the habit is growing in California very fast...the fear is now that they are initiating our whites into this habit... We were not aware of the extent of this vice at the time our legislature was in session and did not have our laws amended to cover this matter, and now have no legislative session for two years (January, 1913). This matter has been brought to my attention a great number of time[s] in the last two months...it seems to be a real question that now confronts us: can we do anything in the Hague that might assist in curbing this matter?"

Patented medicines were unregulated and wild claims were made for hundreds of drug formulations containing not just cannabis, but also cocaine, opium and morphine. In reaction, the US federal government took action to regulate medicines with the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 and the formation of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on June 30th of that year, which set first official president for federal drug policy. Prior to the FDA's formation states made drug regulations, but they were regulations - NOT prohibitions. After the formation of the FDA this federal agency enacted many new restrictions on the sale and advertising of patented medicines.

By the early 1900s, 29 states have cannabis regulation. California outlawed cannabis in 1907, as did Massachusetts in 1911 for all but prescriptive purposes. By 1931, 29 states had enacted similar restrictions.

Continuing this trend the national Harrison Act of 1914, for the first time, defines drug use as a crime and raises taxes to price out poor users of opium, cocaine based drugs.

The origin of the word "marijuana" is not quite settled, but "mariguan" first occurred in print in Scribner's Magazine in 1894 as describing a small bush that grows along the bank of the Rio Grande River. Other possible sources for the word include a combination of the Chinese words "ma ren hua", which means hemp seed flower, and the African Bantu word for cannabis brought here by slaves "ma'kana". Either way, the word was used purposefully by cannabis prohibitionists to make the general public believe "marijuana" was a new drug and not the old familiar "cannabis", which people knew as a safe and effective medicine.

The word "pot" came from a popular Hispanic cocktail originally called "potiguaya", which was any standard cocktail with a cannabis bud used as a swizzle-stick.

The temperance movement, led by women who had won the vote, brought the United States alcohol prohibition as a constitutional amendment in 1920. Unlike cannabis prohibition, alcohol prohibition applied only to the manufacture and sale of alcohol and did not prohibit possession. Alcohol prohibition started falling apart as soon as it was passed. New York passed the Al Smith Act, named after Governor Al Smith, telling the federal government that state police and municipal police in New York would not assist in the effort. Massachusetts joined a growing number of states that rejected any role in the federal prohibition with the passage of the "mini-Volstead Act". The mini-Volstead Act was passed in Massachusetts by ballot initiative and was preceded by non-binding, local public policy questions that won in every state district across the state. Soon 34 states had similarly rejected prohibition and by 1933 the constitutional amendment is repealed.

During alcohol prohibition it was the US Treasury Department's task to enforce the new law. Many hundreds of Treasury Agents, known also as "revenuers", organized teams to comb the countryside and bust-up the stills making illegal booze, usually deep in the woods. The Treasury Department Commissioner, Harry Anslinger, saw that alcohol prohibition was doomed and in 1930 formed the Federal Bureau of Narcotics or FBN. Anslinger knew the use of cocaine and heroin was relatively limited and there were not the numbers cocaine and heroin users and sellers required to keep the soon to be out-of-business revenuers in enough business to keep them fully employed and funded in the FBN. He realized cannabis prohibition was what would be needed to make the FBN a large, on-going, powerful bureaucracy. Even before alcohol prohibition ended Anslinger prepared for the new war - the war on drugs.

Anslinger was instrumental in the inclusion of "marijuana" 1932 Uniform State Narcotics Act, which, as its name implies, brought state laws to a standard from state-to-state. There was resistance to including cannabis, but the fifth draft, which was the draft that was settled on, did include cannabis.

In his testimony before congress in support of the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937, Harry J. Anslinger said, "There are 100,000 marijuana smokers in the US, most are Negros, Hispanics, Filipinos and entertainers. Their satanic music, jazz and swing, results from marijuana usage. This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negros, entertainers and any others."

Another quote from Anslinger, typical of many such quotes, widely reprinted in newspapers of the day was, "An entire family was murdered by a youthful addict in Florida. When officers arrived at the home, they found the youth staggering about in a human slaughterhouse. With an axe he had killed his father, mother, two brothers, and a sister. He seemed to be in a daze... He had no recollection of having committed the multiple crimes. The officers knew him ordinarily as a sane, rather quiet young man; now

he was pitifully crazed. They sought the reason. The boy said that he had been in the habit of smoking something which youthful friends called 'muggles,' a childish name for marijuana."

A recent investigation of that story revealed that the boy had a long familial history of psychotic behavior.

When bills are introduced, they are assigned to committees before congress and the senate vote on them.

Bills can be recommended by the committee, rejected by the committee or put to "study" (in essence - killed). The Marijuana Tax was heard by House Ways and Means Committee who invited testimony from the American Medical Association (AMA). The AMA sent their Legislative Counsel, Dr. William C. Woodward. Dr. Woodward asked the committee to reject the bill, explaining that marijuana was cannabis - a safe and effective medicine used for nearly 100 years for a wide variety of conditions affecting people of all ages - from teething pain in infants to rheumatoid arthritis in the elderly. The committee seemingly ignored the good doctor and recommended the bill. With that committee recommendation, the bill was sent to congress for a floor vote. During questioning before the vote a Congressman asked the House Ways and Means Committee members if the AMA had been asked whether they would support the bill. Congress was lied to when a committee member answered that the AMA supported the bill. Both Dr. Woodward's testimony and the lie told to congress are recorded in the congressional record.

The Marijuana Tax Stamp Act of 1937 made possession or sale of marijuana is illegal. The import of medicinal extract, stalk and non-viable (dead) seed and derivatives of those remains legal. That these were excluded from prohibition gives evidence that the bill-writers were aware they were destroying the domestic hemp industry and, to some small degree, realized how damaging elimination the availability of cannabis medicines, seeds and fiber products would be. Hemp with .7% or less THC could only be grown if a farmer bought federally issued tax stamps (as well as local state tax stamps already required). The stamps were difficult to get and were purposefully priced so as to make hemp agriculture too expensive to be commercially viable. The tax eliminated widespread growth of hemp, as was intended.

Anslinger and his Federal Bureau of Narcotics financed a Hollywood movie production in 1937 of a movie titled "Reefer Madness" depicting their concept of recreational cannabis use. According to the film that included horrific, abusive addiction, both physical and mental deterioration, wanton sexual conduct and even senseless murder. The movie's allegations were so overboard that those more familiar with the actual effects of recreational cannabis use from the 1960s on have watched it as a comedy and, for that reason, it has become a cult-classic.

Many books and films reflecting these same themes, *Assassin of Youth*, *Devil's Harvest*, William Irish's book *Marihuana, Marihuana: Weed with Roots in Hell*, etc., followed. Promotion for *Reefer Madness* and these other books and movies invariably mixed the repulsive and the attractive, with repulsive, often sickly or devil-like men and attractive women dressed in nightgowns with very low necklines. Often these ads include images of hypodermic needles, though no one would ever inject "marihuana".

In 1916, the US Department of Agriculture published the now famous Bulletin 404, which reported that one acre of cannabis hemp, in annual rotation over a 20-year period, would produce as much pulp for paper as 4.1 acres of trees being cut down over the same 20-year period. Until this time, hemp paper had only been made from rags and stalk fibers while the fiber and cellulose-rich hurds were burnt to fertilize the soil. Some cannabis plant strains regularly reach tree-like heights of 20 feet or more in one growing season. The new paper process used hemp "hurds" - the woody core that comprises seventy-seven percent of the hemp stalk weight, which was then a wasted by-product of the fiber-stripping process.

This process would use only 1/4 to 1/7 as much polluting sulfur-based acid chemicals to break down the glue-like lignin that binds the fibers of the pulp, or even none at all using soda ash. The problem of dioxin contamination of rivers is avoided in the hemp paper making process, which does not need to use chlorine

bleach (as the wood pulp paper making process requires) but instead safely substitutes hydrogen peroxide in the bleaching process.

In 1917, a German immigrant named George Schlichten patented a new decorticator design far superior to the breakdown prone versions available since about 1895. Between Schlichten's better technology and the new commercial viability of the fiber-making byproduct of hemp hurd as described in USDA Bulletin 404 hemp was poised to regain its primacy as an agricultural crop.

Recognizing this, reporters at Popular Mechanics magazine penned an article revealing that hemp was about to become a "New Billion-Dollar Crop" in the summer of 1937. The article was sent off to the printer so the magazine would be ready to hit the shelves in early 1938. Between the time the article was sent for printing and the time the magazine was available on store shelves, the Marijuana Tax Act passed and the "New Billion-Dollar Crop" had been legislated out of existence in the USA.

There are several conspiracy theories that try to explain that greedy self-interests led to cannabis prohibition. The one mentioned so far is that revenueurs from the Treasury Department knew their still-busting days were coming to an end and they, led by Harry Anslinger, created the "marijuana" menace to perpetuate employment and federal funding. It seems that, rather than creating the scare, Anslinger & company just perpetuated the scare started in Mexico, as mentioned before discovered by Professor Campos. Another is that newspaper barons saw the decorticator coming and knew their vast holdings of timberland were about to drop in value. They created the "marijuana" scare with outrageous, sensational news stories of murder, rape, licentious behavior and addiction. Yet another theory is that Dupont was introducing the newly invented fabric nylon and chemical barons teamed-up with cotton interests to keep hemp from again dominating the fabric market. Also, the wave of Mexican immigration into the American south resulting from the Mexican Revolution (1911) exacerbated latent bigotry. Marijuana laws were created as a form of social control over Mexicans and African Americans. Though

all of these observations may be contributing factors, the best evidence is: a few powerful politicians used fear of those associated with early marijuana use to pump-up their campaign rhetoric.

Five years after the Marijuana Tax Act made hemp impractical for agriculture, America was embroiled in World War II and the US government lost access to Manila hemp with the Japanese takeover of the Philippines, and saw its stores of Manila hemp dropping fast. Hemp was still required for many military uses, both marine and otherwise, and the US began a campaign encouraging farmers to grow hemp once again. Access to hemp tax stamps was increased and the cost of those stamps was decreased. The USDA produced a movie, *Hemp for Victory*, which used patriotic themes to encourage farmers to once again grow hemp. For many decades after the war the government denied the existence of this film and destroyed copies of the film that had been distributed. It wasn't until a file copy was discovered by Jack Herer, author of what is referred to as the "bible" of the cannabis law reform activist movement, *The Emperor Wears No Clothes* (1985) that the film resurfaced.

Despite the now obvious fact that the over-taxation of hemp was a terribly failed public policy, 1955 brought a total ban on all hemp farming in America. This was due to an illogical conflagration of hemp and "marijuana".

Automobile magnate and car-company founder Henry Ford, inventor of the modern-day car assembly-line, and botanist/inventor George Washington Carver built a prototype car made using plastic made from soybean and hemp, ran on biodiesel that could be made from hemp, and used hemp-seed oil lubricant in 1941. The car was designed in reaction to a scarcity of metal due to the war effort. Hemp plastic body parts are today used on the British sports car Eco made by Lotus.

Other writers of the late-1950s and 1960s adopted Huxley's themes in critically-acclaimed literature that spoke of the positive effects of recreational drug use, including, most famously, William Rice Burroughs (*The Naked Lunch*, 1959), Lowell native Jack Kerouac (*On The Road*, 1957) and Allen Ginsburg (*Howl*,

1955). Works such as these were used as ideological underpinnings of the beat movement, characterized in the media by the "beatnik". Beatniks or "beats" were non-conformist, anti-authoritarian, pacifist, practitioners of "free-love" (non-traditional sexual encounters) who often used drugs recreationally. Beats were the predecessors of "hippies" of the late 1960s.

In 1961, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs was an international [treaty](#) to prohibit production and supply of specific (nominally [narcotic](#)) drugs and of drugs with similar effects except under [license](#) for specific purposes, such as medical treatment and research. As noted below, its major effects included updating the [Paris Convention](#) of 13 July 1931. The convention was signed by many countries, including the USA.

On December 24, 1964, Allen Ginsberg and Peter Orlovski formed the first cannabis legalization group LEMAR, short for Legalize Marijuana.

In the late 1960s, disgust with a stagnant, deadly stand-off in the Vietnam War, a socially-unjust draft; that targeted only those who could not afford college, the meaningless pursuit of capitalism and rebellion against sexual repression led the hippy movement to become increasingly popular. One characteristic of hippies was their widespread popular use of recreational cannabis.

The association between these liberal attitudes and cannabis use became more problematic as society became more polarized between those who opposed and those who supported the Vietnam War effort. Leaders of the hippy movement included: former Harvard professor Timothy Leary, who conducted numerous experiments with the hallucinogen lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and famously (or infamously) suggested college students should, "Turn on, tune in and drop-out", Abbie Hoffman - a Worcester native, who instructed readers on the proper home-growth of cannabis in his book *Steal This Book*, and John Sinclair, a member of the White Panther Party, targeted by an FBI agent to whom he sold two joints resulting in a ten-year jail sentence. Many anti-war demonstrations included signage reading,

"Free John Sinclair". The effort to free John Sinclair included a benefit-concert in America by the Beatle John Lennon and the establishment of the Ann Arbor Hash Bash (1972), which celebrated his release.

Anti-war sentiment grew to huge proportions in the early seventies. Richard M. Nixon ran for president of the United States saying, if he were elected we would "withdraw with dignity" from the Vietnam War. When, once elected, Nixon expanded the war instead, with his invasion of Cambodia, students at colleges and universities across the nation walked-out in protest and violent demonstrations expanded greatly. The conservative Republican president Richard Nixon saw the anti-war movement as a challenge to the rule of law, rather than a difference of political opinion. TV coverage of student anti-war protests often showed police beating and then, at Ohio State University and Jackson State University, police and National Guard units shot student-protesters dead.

With all this happening in the foreground, in the background the US Supreme Court ruled the Marijuana Tax Act was "double jeopardy" in that it allowed both federal and state taxes on the growth of hemp and the law was overturned. The US legislature and Nixon administration responded immediately proposing the Controlled Substances Act of 1972. The Controlled Substances Act set-up a drug schedule from 1 to 5, with schedule 1 drugs being those most prone to abuse and having no medical use. In an effort to assure that cannabis would be designated a schedule 1 drug, President Nixon hired political cronies to form the Shafer Commission to "investigate" marijuana and, he expected, give evidence that marijuana was a very dangerous drug. When his plan back-fired and, as written earlier in this text, the commission found cannabis was not particularly dangerous, Nixon tried to stop publication of the report. Newspaper reporters got wind of the report results and a few months later, the report was released despite Nixon's wishes.

The Shafer Commission concluded: "[T]he criminal law is too harsh a tool to apply to personal possession even in the effort to discourage use. It implies an overwhelming indictment of the behavior which we

believe is not appropriate. The actual and potential harm of use of the drug is not great enough to justify intrusion by the criminal law into private behavior, a step which our society takes only with the greatest reluctance.”

Disregarding the Shafer Commission Report the US legislature and Nixon administration defined cannabis as a schedule 1 drug along with heroin and LSD.

Seeing the social-injustice, resultant black-market, and punitive politics of cannabis prohibition, a young lawyer named Keith Stroup started a Washington, DC based cannabis law-reform organization named the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws or NORML (note: there is no “a” in this spelling of normal, making it not quite “normal”) in 1970. NORML soon became the largest legalization organization in America.

The federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) was formed in 1973 and became the administrative body for all national drug law enforcement. Realizing that a large portion of their funding (over 30%) is dependent on maintaining the illegality of cannabis, the DEA has worked diligently against the legal availability of both medical and industrial cannabis.

For instance, in 1972 when NORML sued to have cannabis removed from its schedule 1 status due to its medical usefulness, the DEA fought for 16 years and won. This was despite the finding of DEA Law Judge Francis Young’s finding in 1988 that, “Marijuana, in its natural form, is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man.... Marijuana has been accepted as capable of relieving distress of great numbers of very ill people, and doing so with safety under medical supervision. It would be unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious for DEA to continue to stand between those sufferers and the benefits of this substance in light of the evidence in this record.” Judge Young further recommended that marijuana be made available as a legal medicine. The DEA Administrator overruled Judge Young, and the Court of Appeals allowed that decision to stand, denying medical marijuana to seriously ill patients.

Another example of the DEA obstruction of reform to protect its self-interests is their continued denial of permits for the growth of industrial hemp. To date, twenty-six states have defined industrial hemp as distinct and removed barriers to its production. These states are able to take immediate advantage of the industrial hemp research and pilot program provision, Section 7606 of the 2015 Farm Bill: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. Despite the fact that federal legislation specifically forbids the DEA using funds to interfere with hemp grows allowed by the bill, including hemp grows on Indian reservations, DEA interference continues.

Jimmy Carter, American President, 1977-1981, said, "Penalties against possession of a drug should not be more damaging to an individual than the use of the drug itself; and where they are, they should be changed. Nowhere is this clearer than in the laws against possession of marijuana in private for personal use... Therefore, I support legislation amending Federal law to eliminate all Federal criminal penalties for the possession of up to one ounce [28g] of marijuana."

Between 1973 and 1981 several states "decriminalized" the possession of marijuana, including: Oregon (first to do so, 1973), Alaska, California, Colorado, Mississippi, New York, Nebraska, North Carolina, Nebraska, Minnesota and Ohio. Decriminalization changed possession of an ounce (2 ounces in Maine) a citable offense rather than arrestable offense. Those found in possession of an ounce or two were then issued a citation with a fine, rather than arrested. This also meant minor marijuana law offenders were not given an arrest record. Decriminalization came to Massachusetts (2008), Connecticut (1/2 ounce, 2011), Rhode Island (2013), Maryland (2014) and several other states many years later. Today 19 states have decriminalized possession.

High Times magazine was first published in 1974 by Tom Forcade, who made a fortune flying planes full of marijuana from Mexico to the USA. Though at first publishing articles and information on a wide variety of recreational drugs, including mushrooms, mescaline, LSD and cocaine, High Times now focuses almost exclusively on recreational cannabis use. High Times has been closely involved in the cannabis law reform movement. For a while in its early years High Times ran an activist organization called Patriots for Pot and the editor of their newsletter was a MASS CANN/NORML founder, Linda Noel.

In 1976, glaucoma sufferer Robert Randall brought suit in federal court for access to medical cannabis and won by demonstrating evidence that it could reduce the intraocular pressure that causes glaucoma. His court victory led to the establishment of the Compassionate Investigational New Drug Program (IND). Randall was sent tins of joints made with marijuana grown at the federal government's cannabis farm at the University of Mississippi. Eventually 30 patients sued and gained access to the IND program. Randall also started America's first medical cannabis activist organization called the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics (ACT) in 1981.

In that same year medical science first defined acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). When it was found that cannabis was useful for treating wasting syndrome, a common AIDS related cause of death through lack of appetite, many AIDS patients sued to gain access to the IND program. In 1992, his dislike of both the gay lifestyle, which was associated with the transmission of AIDS, and marijuana led the president George Bush to shut-down the IND program.

In 1980, first lady Nancy Reagan began her "Just Say No" advertising and public-speaking campaign hoping to discourage drug use by suggesting those offered drugs should, "Just say, 'No'."

In 1985 Jack Herer self-published his second book-*The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, where many of the facts in this cannabis history were first shown to the public. Drug reform had been becoming less popular

during the presidencies of staunch drug-warrior Ronald Reagan (1981-1989) and the broad dissemination of the information in *The Emperor* was instrumental in the reversal of that trend.

1988 brought the establishment of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) also known as the Drug Czar's Office. The ONDCP is used as a bully-pulpit for the ideological leaders of the drug war. A major function of the ONDCP has been involving itself in politics in order to discourage drug-law reform. Cannabis law reformers have long questioned the appropriateness of federal agencies being used to in an attempt to twist political opinion and have tried several times to sue the Czar and the ONDCP on those grounds without success.

Despite the efforts of the ONDCP the late 1980s saw a resurgence of the cannabis law reform movement. The first Freedom Rally (1989) was held in a parking lot in North Adams, Massachusetts and about 200 people were in attendance. Shortly thereafter, in 1990, what was to be the New England's largest cannabis law reform organization, the Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition (MASS CANN) was formed. In 1992 the Freedom Rally was moved to Boston Common, where it has been held annually since then. The freedom Rally has become the second largest cannabis law reform rally in the US, with only the Seattle Hempfest being larger. In 1998, MASS CANN became the Massachusetts state affiliate of NORML.

1990 saw the formation of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Cannabis Reform Coalition (UMACRC), which is now the longest standing student run-political organization in the USA.

In attempts to allow access to federal medical cannabis several states set-up cannabis therapy research programs. Work by MASS CANN activists, under the name Massachusetts Coalition for Medicinal Cannabis (MC2), allowed then Governor William Weld to sign the Cannabis Therapeutic Research Act in 1991. Unfortunately the act depended on the federal government to provide the cannabis for research, which it refused to do. In 1997, Weld signed a second bill, the Medical Necessity Defense Act or Joe

Hutchins Act, which allowed for a defense against cannabis possession charges for patients, but language was added at the last minute requiring the cannabis had to be from the Therapeutic Research Program, which never had any cannabis.

In 1996, a bill written by cannabis activist Dennis Peron was passed by initiative in California making that the first state to legalize the medical use of marijuana. Known as Prop 215, the California law prompted many other states to follow suit so that as of this writing 23 states, including Massachusetts (2012) and the District of Columbia all have legalized medical access to cannabis despite its continued schedule 1 federal status defining cannabis as having no medical use.

In 1999, New York longtime cannabis activist and Yippy! (Youth International Party) spokesman Dana Beal organized the Million Marijuana March, now known worldwide as the Global Marijuana March. Hundreds of thousands of people have participated in over 829 cities around the world every year on or around May 1 since 1999.

In 2008, the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) financed a ballot initiative in Massachusetts that decriminalized cannabis so that possession of one ounce or less would result only in a \$100 citation. MPP was started in 1995 by Rob Kampia, its present Executive Director, and Chuck Thomas, both of whom had worked at NORML. For many years NORML and MPP were at odds as when Rob and Chuck started MPP they did so by using NORML's mailing list without permission.

The 2008, decriminalization initiative specifically allowed municipalities to add fines for "public possession" and, with the encouragement of then Attorney General Martha Coakley, many towns boosted the fine to \$350. Martha Coakley led opposition to both decriminalization and medical marijuana in Massachusetts before her failed bid for governor. The decriminalization initiative also, uniquely and strangely, redefined possession to include the internal possession of THC in one's blood.

In 2012, the founder of Progressive Insurance, billionaire Peter Lewis, financed a Massachusetts ballot initiative that allowed for the legal medical use of cannabis. Lewis was a medical marijuana user himself, having suffered a leg amputation, and died in 2013 of a heart attack.

That same year, 2012, ballot initiatives in Colorado and Washington legalized the adult use, possession and purchase of cannabis. Colorado also allowed adults to grow their own cannabis. Two years later Alaska and Oregon followed suit and the District of Columbia allowed adults to grow cannabis.

The New England Journal of Medicine published a survey of physicians worldwide in 2013 where 76% supported medical access to cannabis.

Also in 2013, the president of Uruguay, Jose Mujica, legalized cannabis with the growth and sale of it to be run by the state. This action, as well as the legalizations in Colorado, Washington, Oregon and Alaska all are violations of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961.

The ACLU published a major report - Marijuana Arrests by the Numbers, and exposed that African Americans are almost 4 times more likely to be victims of a cannabis arrest than caucasians, 52% of drug arrests are for marijuana, and from 2001 until 2010 seven million people have been arrested for marijuana "crimes."

In 2014, Alaska and Oregon joined Colorado and Washington and regulated the adult marijuana market. Also, the District of Columbia made it legal for adults to possess and to grow.

2014 saw the establishment of the Northeastern Institute of Cannabis in Natick, Massachusetts, a singularly monumental event.

Thought Provoking Questions

- How could human evolution be different if cannabis hemp not been discovered?
- How did cannabis hemp influence modern art?
- How have the terms for cannabis changed and evolved with modern times?
- Why did early societies associate cannabis with higher beings?
- What did people expect in return for cannabis offerings?
- How did cannabis hash influence human use of cannabis?
- What are the little known early industrial uses for hemp?
- What made hemp so invaluable to the shipping industry?
- What were the major changes to society when hemp processing became efficient?
- Why did growing literacy rates change society so drastically?
- How did cannabis effect the development of the United States?
- What made hemp so valuable to the US government?
- How does hemp become a substitute for all the nutrients?
- How did the War of 1812 nearly change the borders of the United States?
- Why was cannabis medicine studied?
- What did cannabis research change for the legitimacy of cannabis medicine and use?
- How did the mistaken identity of cannabis as "locoweed" have longer term effects on prohibition?
- What influence did false claims for cannabis use have on prohibition?
- How did prohibition campaigns change the public perception of cannabis?
- Had hemp continued to grow in the United States, how would that have effected other industries?
- What was the goal for Harry Anslinger?
- How did NORML become the most important organization for ending prohibition?
- What was the cultural allure to cannabis in the 1960s?
- What does ending prohibition change for the United States?
- How will cannabis legalization change the use in the US?