

textbook. The study guide includes chapter summaries and self-test questions with answers.

This textbook is well written, well organized, and reader friendly. While covering what have become the traditional chapters in introduction to criminal justice textbooks, this book breaks new ground and might set a precedent by presenting the tensions that exist within the criminal justice system. Professors searching for a book with substance, reality-based information, and research-based findings will be greatly pleased by Professor Gottfredson's contribution. Students, especially those in introductory courses such as the target audience for this text, will have plenty of opportunities for lively discussions in class.

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Drug War Heresies: Learning From Other Vices, Times, and Places. By Robert J. MacCoun and Peter Reuter. (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2001. Pp. xvi, 479)

MacCoun and Reuter analyze the heresy found in current United States drug policy. Their book is well written and challenges the hypocrisy found today in the status quo enforcement of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana drug laws. It reinvigorates the drug debate and asks the question, "Should the U.S. legalize cocaine, heroin, and marijuana?" In attempting to answer this question, the authors examine policies and the societal impact of cocaine and heroin on the U.S. when these drugs were legal. Further, they examine the current U.S. policy of regulating and controlling such vices as prostitution and gambling and other substances such as alcohol and cigarettes. Finally, the authors present data gathered from Western European countries that have less absolutist and punitive drug policies.

The authors do a superb job of examining the consequences of prohibition versus legalization regimes and the tradeoffs and uncertainties of implementing U.S. drug policy. In the final analysis, they argue for drug policies that help to alleviate both the harms of combatting drugs and the harm that the drugs cause, based on scientific data and other historical experiences.

This book challenges the conservative philosophy of zero tolerance as well as the liberal philosophy of full legalization for cocaine, heroin, and marijuana as unacceptable and producing great harm to the individual and to society in general. However, the authors acknowledge that it will be difficult for the U.S. to move from current absolutist policies to a more harm-reduction-oriented strategy.

The book is divided into four main parts. The first part consists of an overview of the American drug problem. The second part explores the philosophical underpinnings of prohibition and examines how prohibition harms users and society. The third part discusses other vices such as prostitution and gambling and other legal substances such as alcohol and cigarettes. Here, the U.S. can learn from Western European harm reduction experiences and cannabis policies in the Netherlands. The final part of the book assesses alternatives through an analytical framework, projects the consequences of alternative regimes, and discusses the obstacles to moving beyond the drug war.

This book also helps to explain how current drug policy negatively and disproportionately affects young African-American males and why some scholars view this as a way to maintain white dominance. Harm reduction drug policies carefully planned and scientifically supported should lead to less punitive regime strategies for cocaine, heroin, and marijuana.

The book challenges citizens' attitudes toward the continued use of devastating drug regime policies that cause so much harm. It can help to lift the veil of ignorance to move American public opinion and U.S. political and criminal justice systems toward a just apparatus to alleviate drug harm. Because this book has the potential to redefine public perception of drug policies in American society, it is appropriate for undergraduate as well as graduate students in the fields of social sciences (specifically, criminal justice, criminology, political science, sociology, social work, and interdisciplinary courses such as addiction studies and public administration courses that deal with drug policies and social justice). Furthermore, this book is appropriate for criminal justice practitioners involved in all phases of the criminal justice processes that impact minority communities. This book should also be read by journalists because they influence American attitudes and perceptions

about drugs (specifically in minority communities) and their detrimental impact under the current absolutist regime.

The greatest strength of this book is that it offers a comprehensive understanding of America's drug regime policies, the effects of these drug policies, and the need to change these policies as they relate to cocaine, heroin,

and marijuana. The political system in the U.S. needs to live up to the ideals of social justice and intrinsic fairness for all citizens. If the current punitive drug regime is not changed, it will continue to be a heresy.

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