



Drug War Crimes: The Consequences of Prohibition

By Jeffrey A. Miron

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A balanced and sophisticated analysis of the true costs, benefits, and consequences of enforcing drug prohibition is presented in this book. Miron argues that prohibition's effects on drug use have been modest and that prohibition has numerous side effects, most of them highly undesirable. In particular, prohibition is shown to directly increase violent crime, even in cases where it deters drug use. Miron's analysis leads to a disturbing finding—the more resources given to the fight against drugs, the greater the homicide rate. The costs and benefits of several alternatives to the war on drugs are examined. The conclusion is unequivocal and states that any of the most widely discussed alternatives is likely to be a substantial improvement over current policy.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A powerful economic analysis...advances the only practical alternative to the present failed policies." -- *Joseph D. MacNamara, former Chief of Police of San Jose, California*

"Jeffrey Miron strengthens and enriches the case with his analyses of data from the prohibition era and from other countries" -- *Steven B. Duke, professor of law, Yale University*

"Legislators and other policy-makers would benefit from his non-politicized, non-moralistic approach; everyone can benefit from reading this important, insightful work." -- *Margaret M. Russell, vice president, ACLU*

"[T]he standard for judging all else in the field . . . has been needed for a very long time." -- *John L. Kane, Jr., senior judge, U.S. District Court*

About the Author

Jeffrey A. Miron is professor of economics at Boston University. His articles on drug policy have appeared in *Social Research, Journal of Law and Economics, Boston Globe*, and the *London Observer*. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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