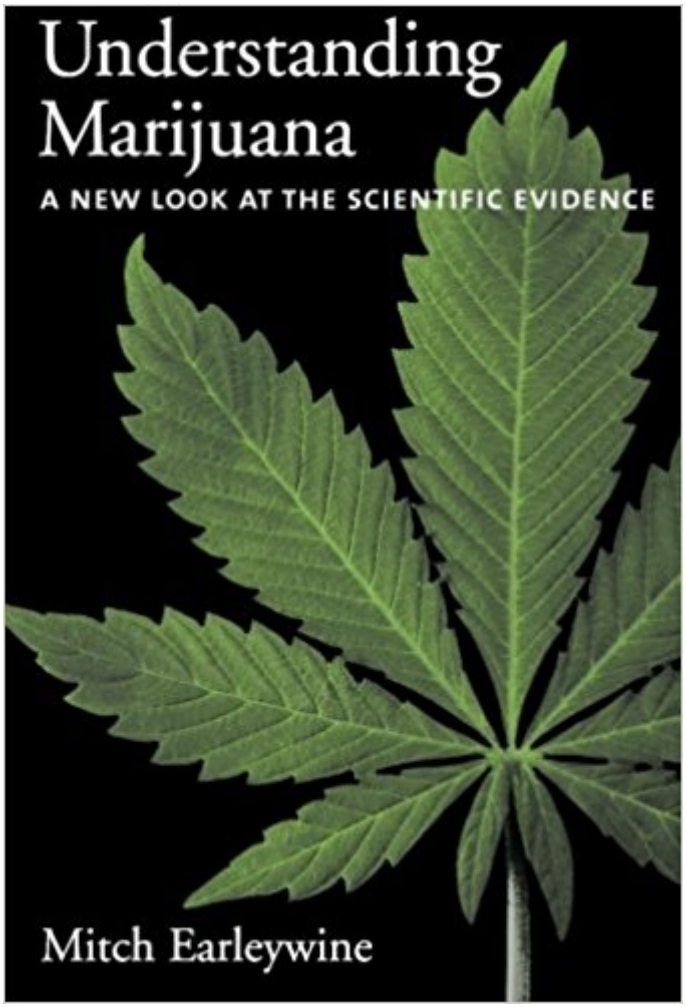
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Understanding Marijuana: A New Look At The Scientific Evidence



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Synopsis

Marijuana is the world’s most popular illicit drug, with hundreds of millions of regular users worldwide. One in three Americans has smoked pot at least once. The Drug Enforcement Agency estimates that Americans smoke five million pounds of marijuana each year. And yet marijuana remains largely misunderstood by both its advocates and its detractors. To some, marijuana is an insidious "stepping-stone" drug, enticing the inexperienced and paving the way to the inevitable abuse of harder drugs. To others, medical marijuana is an organic means of easing the discomfort or stimulating the appetite of the gravely ill. Others still view marijuana, like alcohol, as a largely harmless indulgence, dangerous only when used immoderately. All sides of the debate have appropriated the scientific evidence on marijuana to satisfy their claims. What then are we to make of these conflicting portrayals of a drug with historical origins dating back to 8,000 B.C.?Understanding Marijuana examines the biological, psychological, and societal impact of this controversial substance. What are the effects, for mind and body, of long-term use? Are smokers of marijuana more likely than non-users to abuse cocaine and heroine? What effect has the increasing potency of marijuana in recent years had on users and on use? Does our current legal policy toward marijuana make sense? Earleywine separates science from opinion to show how marijuana defies easy dichotomies. Tracing the medical and political debates surrounding marijuana in a balanced, objective fashion, this book will be the definitive primer on our most controversial and widely used illicit substance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"a well-balanced, up-to-date, non-specialist book that should appeal to a wide audience."--Nature"a valuable and instructive resource for anyone interested in cannabis and/or the reform of marijuana laws. The book achieves its objective of providing a balanced and definitive primer on the most widely used illicit substance in the United States...[and] convincingly debunks many widely held myths."--Jon Gettman, High Times"Earleywine ... has contributed a well-balanced, up-to-date, and scholarly overview of this controversial and illegal controlled substance ... and the scientific evidence of its biological, psychological, and societal impacts. ... Earleywine's highly readable book clears up some common marijuana myths and helps readers to better evaluate and understand the current cannabis debate. This volume will be a welcome addition to college and university libraries."--Choice

Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Clinical Science and Director of Clinical Training in Psychology at the University of Southern California. He has received nine teaching awards for his courses on drugs and human behavior and is a leading researcher in psychology and addictions. He is Associate Editor of The Behavior Therapist.

I have some professional reasons for trying to collect the best information I can about marijuana. I literally could not find another volume that attempts to collect all the extant research on pot. This is it. A friend who read it argued that the book was biased, because, although Earleywine explicitly states that pot is neither completely harmless or clearly badly harmful, the book is probably going to be admired by pro-pot folks than anti-pot folks. But, for the anti-pot folks, to paraphrase Stephen Colbert, it may turn out that the facts are biased against them. There are plenty of perfectly good reasons people should encourage others, especially teenagers, to avoid pot. There's no reason to make stuff up. This is an excellent, well-researched and indispensable read for people interested in the topic. Would love to see a new edition.

This was one on the first books I purchased on this subject and I'm really glad I found it. The author does present with some humor, but this is a much more serious and scholarly book than any others I have read so far. Facts, facts, facts. Everyone on the side of legalization of cannabis for medical or recreational use should arm themselves with the facts and not hearsay on this subject, and this book should be in your library. I hope a newer edition is forthcoming as new evidence presents itself.

The author does a masterful job of thoroughly debunking many widely held myths from health scares to addiction myths. He presents well researched evidence in a logical and methodical manner. His findings were eye opening in a number of areas and cast a truthful light on many misconceptions that I held for so long. I am grateful that I now have factual information that replaces misinformation that I held unto for so long. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who wishes to replace myths with knowledge.

I like it but it needs an update. Very well written and far ahead of other works at the time. Old information in a field budding with new insights. It is a scholarly work when most others are elementary. Great resource for research and the history of cannabis.

With all of the misinformation circulating about cannabis over the last 70 years its nice to have a refreshing, scholarly, intelligent review of the subject. I wish everybody in the country who had anything to do with the War on Drugs - from both sides of the debate, would stop bantering about unsupported nonsense and old cliches about that vegetation and look at the evidence, the history, and see the nonsense that is currently floating unabashedly about on that subject. Thanks Dr. Earlywine for your significant effort to try to get out the facts. Del

This is a comprehensive work that systematically covers just about every aspect of marijuana usage, and does so quite objectively, with lots of scientific backing.After reading this, you'd have to be pretty hardcore not to admit there's a good case to be made for general decriminalization. Congress should have to read it.

Since the 2012 November election the level of interest in the legalization of Marijuana has reached some significant momentum. I was sceptical about making the consumption of Marijuana legal but this book certainly changed my view about the possibility.Through and well argued science will hopefully overcome old and misguided social norms.

a "new look" at evidence that was been there all along. the mainstream population needs to be aware of the scientific investigation in the responsible use of the plant medically, recreationally and economically

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