

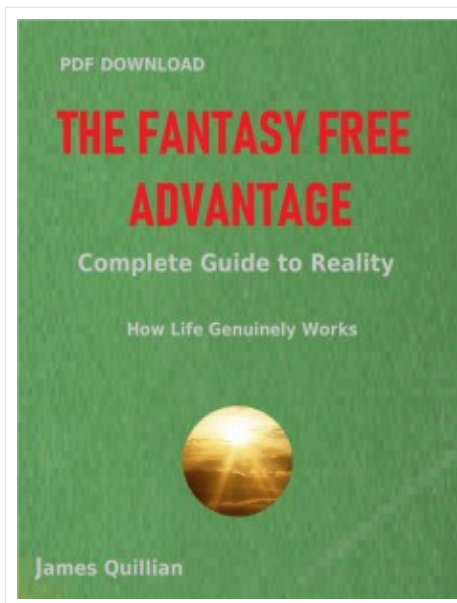
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How To Legalize Marijuana And Reform Other Drug Laws

Posted on [June 1, 2023](#) by [jamesq](#)



Opinions vary as to the goodness or badness of using cannabis. Regardless of one's position on the matter, it is impossible for a law to enhance the public good, if only half of the population is offended by the behavior the law is charged with eliminating. The law is never going to be effective.

Suppose a thief was seen breaking into a house on a certain street. The neighbors would call the police immediately, without hesitation. Suppose neighbors saw someone across the street, smoking a joint on his front porch. Would they call the police? I wouldn't count on it. If someone did call the police, would they bother to come? I wouldn't count on that either.

When and how do folks get charged with marijuana law violations? I studied this awhile back. Most counties publish their daily arrests along with what the charges are.... online. In my

county, Bexar County, Texas.... after laboring through an enormous amount of data – this is what I found. Except in a very few add cases, everyone charged with marijuana possession, was arrested for another crime while they had a joint in their pocket. So, they got charged with possession on top of being charged with something like shoplifting.

I taught high school for a number of years. Kids were very open with me. I bring that out in people. All kids who wanted marijuana had it. So, what are marijuana laws preventing?

With these factors, is society getting their moneys worth out of current drug laws? You decide.

Why is it so hard to get marijuana laws repealed? It is simple. The laws in place, have economic benefits to powerful entities who are adamant about keeping them in place. The pharmaceutical industry, which has enormous political power, opposes anything that might compete with prescription drugs. Drug laws create enormous profit margins for organized crime.

Those who benefit financially from drug laws being in place simply have more political power than do the parties which want the laws repealed.

There is also a factor that applies to any law that needs to be repealed. That is the Stockholm Syndrome. The Stockholm Syndrome is routinely applied to people who are captured against their will. It is a tendency to identify with one's capture-rs. Clearly, this is instinctive and increases the chances those having been captured will survive.

Captives are prone to submit to their capture-rs and join them in their agendas. The Stockholm Syndrome extends much further than situations where a person gets captured. People are likely to submit to any authority which has power over them. People also submit to and support laws, even when the laws are bad. This is human nature.

In order to legalize marijuana, the practice isof voters begging their representative to do the right thing. In order to get representation on an issue, citizens must make the costs of not representing them greater than the benefits of representing those working outside the formal system for personal gain.

Doing this requires an assertive and demonstrative general public. That type of population has gone missing since the beginning of the 2000s. Despite this, here is what I suggest.

We have organizations like NORML, which have become happy bureaucracies themselves. Suppose folks in favor of legalization stopped sending dues to entities which really have no idea how politics actually works.

Suppose instead, money was sent to some kind of legal foundation which started selectively defending charged defendants and making legal entities expend countless resources prosecuting what are now guaranteed to win cases for them.

To repeal any law, it is necessary, to make those who benefit from the law to pay enormous expenses.

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