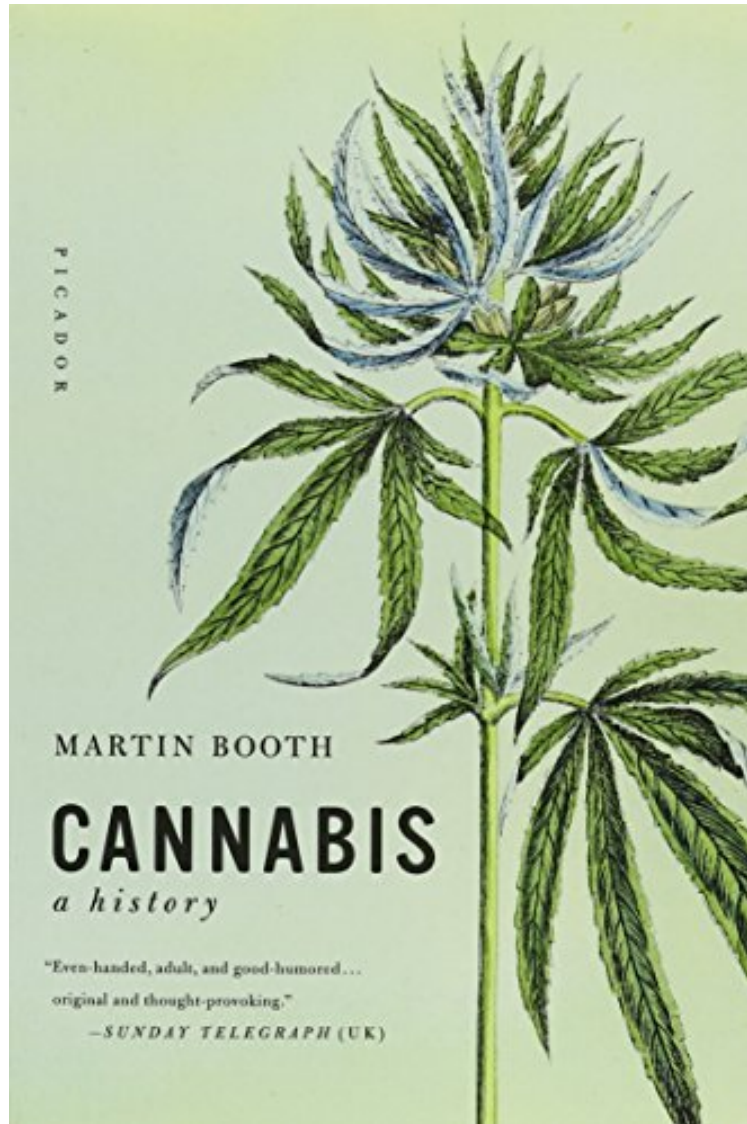


## Cannabis: A History

*Martin Booth*

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**Martin Booth : Cannabis: A History** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cannabis: A History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cannabis: A History Repeating Itself By Brian Reich Wow. What an entertaining and informative book. I am developing a website that offers historical and scientifically-based information on cannabis, and this was my first piece of offline reference material. It should be named "Cannabis: A History Repeating Itself." I still have about 80 pages to go, but this book has been incredibly informative. We all know the

mythology behind marijuana but *Cannabis: A History* tells the real story. The story is one of religious, medicinal, and recreational use that goes back thousands of years on every continent. Also, sad as it is, it is also a story of cannabis used as a tool of institutional racism going back far further than most of us realize (British Colonies). While Booth has a clear opinion about marijuana, I think he does a terrific job of keeping it out of the history. When it has played an ugly role, he does not try to hide it (such as the overuse and psychological dependency of some of the "Beats" including Jack Kerouac and William S. Burroughs). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended for Scholastic Studies and anyone seeking Truth and Knowledge regarding this subject !By Yolanda AllisonPurchased for school (College) , packed with wealth of information very legit factual ! Very well written love the author purchase two versionsBoth Paperback and Kindle Version, Term Paper based on this book is required for Course:Medical Cannabis and the Law0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great historical accounts, dry writingBy oatmealGreat factual accounts of the history of cannabis use.The writing style, however, is so dry, I find myself often drifting and getting bored despite my natural interest in the subject. A little storytelling flair wouldve gone a long way.

To some it's the classic "gateway drug," to others it is a harmless way to relax, or provide relief from pain. Some fear it is dangerous and addictive, while others feel it should be decriminalized. Whatever the viewpoint, cannabis incites debate at every level, and the effect it has on every corner of the globe is undeniable.In this comprehensive study, Martin Booth crafts a tale of medical advance and religious enlightenment; of political subterfuge and law enforcement; of cunning smugglers, street pushers, gang warfare, writers, artists, and musicians. And above all, Booth chronicles the fascinating process through which cannabis became outlawed throughout the Western world, and the effect such legislation has had on the global economy.

From Publishers WeeklyQuick?what do Napoleons troops, Asian cooking, Armani jeans, the Gutenberg Bible and the Parke-Davis pharmaceutical company have in common? According to British novelist Booth (*Opium*; *Hiroshima Joe*; etc.), all of these have used some part of the versatile cannabis plant. In this densely packed, wide-ranging history, Booth draws on religion, history, ecology, horticulture, linguistics, pop culture and medical research to correct the falsehoods surrounding the oft-banned plant and to painstakingly build his case that the war on cannabis has little to do with concerns for public health or order. Along the way, Booth introduces a dizzying parade of historical persons that includes visionaries, scientists, beatniks, farmers, artists, soldiers and smugglers. Unlike many of the other more partisan books on cannabis, the overall tone of Booths volume is objective, unemotional and factual-a stance that makes for fine impartial argument, but also occasionally dull reading. At its best, however, the books attention to detail lures the reader ever more deeply into cannabis history. Descriptions of hip, mid-century New York, London and Amsterdam, for example, help illuminate the role of cannabis in more recent cultural movements. And a quick survey of the myths about the drugs psychological effects shows how laws banning cannabis were often used as an excuse to suppress blacks and migrant Mexican workers. Booth also discusses provocative legal, political and economic actions (for and against cannabis) that have affected millions of people. In his profile of a plant that can be an intoxicant, fiber, cooking ingredient, medicine and potential source of environmentally friendly products, he gives readers a fascinating sourcebook about "the most widely produced, trafficked and used illicit drug on earth." Photos.Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistBooth chronicles that "adaptive and highly successful annual found . . . throughout the temperate and tropical zones," cannabis, with the panache he exhibited in *Opium* (1998). Though the noble plant's precise origins are hazy, the name cannabis probably evolved from antecedents meaning fragrant cane. Whatever it has been called, it has been beloved and reviled by personages ranging from twelfth-century Sufi monks, who chewed it for its mood-altering properties, to anti-pot Depression-era federal agent Harry Anslinger and today's drug warriors. Favored by poets (Coleridge sought to wean himself from opium with it), musicians and actors (Gene Krupa and Robert Mitchum, both busted in Anslinger's "star-bust campaign"), and worse (black-magician Aleister Crowley, who put it in his recreational-substance armamentarium). Besides famous users, Booth discusses home-growing ganja and present-day international trafficking in it, though from a British perspective. His pithy coverage of Rastafarians is a particular treat. While no brief for legalization, *Cannabis* objectively raises points and issues threatening to zero-tolerance environments; more open collections, however, should welcome it. Mike TribbyCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Amazingly informative and riveting...quite intoxicating. Financial Times (UK)Fascinating...a clear-headed and sustained case. The Sunday Times (UK)Even-handed, adult and good-humoured...original and thought-provoking. Sunday Telegraph (UK)Well-researched. The Seattle Times