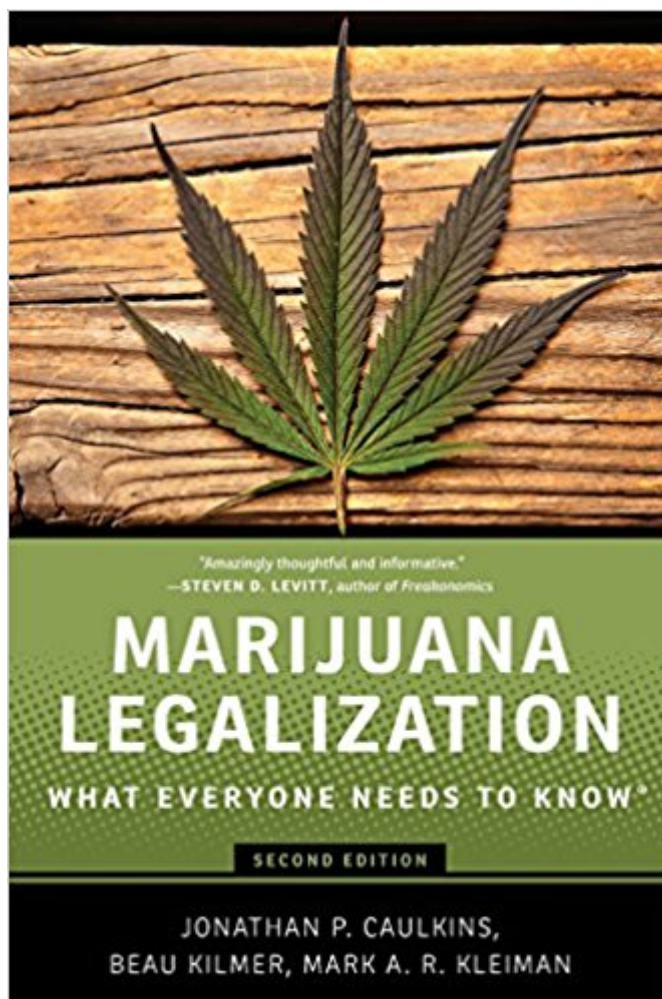




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# Marijuana Legalization: What Everyone Needs To Know™



## Synopsis

Should we legalize marijuana? If we legalize, what in particular should be legal? Just possessing marijuana and growing your own? Selling and advertising? If selling becomes legal, who gets to sell? Corporations? Co-ops? The government? What regulations should apply? How high should taxes be? Different forms of legalization could bring very different results. This second edition of *Marijuana Legalization: What Everyone Needs to Know*® discusses what is happening with marijuana policy, describing both the risks and the benefits of using marijuana, without taking sides in the legalization debate. The book details the potential gains and losses from legalization, explores the "middle ground" options between prohibition and commercialized production, and considers the likely impacts of legal marijuana on occasional users, daily users, patients, parents, and employers - and even on drug traffickers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

**WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW About This Series** Who it's for: Busy people with diverse interests, ranging from college students to professionals, who wish to inform themselves in a succinct yet authoritative manner about a particular topic. What's inside: An incisive approach to a complex and timely issue, laid out in a straight-forward, question-and-answer format. Meet Our Authors Top experts in their given fields, ranging from an Economist correspondent to a director at the Council on Foreign Relations, you can trust our authors' expertise and guidance.

Popular Topics in the "What Everyone Needs to Know" Series International Politics Environmental Policies World History Sciences & Math Religion & Spirituality --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

In this nonpartisan book (the authors themselves, all public-policy academics, don't even personally hold the same viewpoints), readers will learn about the risks and benefits of marijuana legalization. The work outlines marijuana basics in a Q&A format—such as “Has marijuana been getting more potent?” and “Is marijuana really the nation's leading cash crop?”—and considers legal and personal ramifications, from distribution to taxation to addiction. A valuable primer for anyone interested in the current debate about the war on drugs. --Rebecca Vnuk --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

In some ways I am not sure how to review this book. It reads more like a very critical piece with much discussion of addiction/dependance which the authors weave into most topics. While not addictive, a few people, especially young people, can certainly become dependent but it seemed to me cannabis dependence is over stated. I think one thing of value here is an honest discussion of some claims about the economics of legalization. However, having said that, I also think the authors give short shrift to hemp. The extrapolate from current use which does not strike me as valid. If hemp was legal, I believe many more uses as well as the economies of scale would result in a healthy, environmentally friendly industry. I recommend that those who advocate legalization as I do, should read this book so as to help keep their discussions more factual. If this review seems to vacillate between positive and negative it is because does but that's the value of the book.

There are many books and other sources of information with strong points of view, pro and con, for legalization of marijuana. There are precious few that give a balanced view on both sides of the issue, and this one is essential reading for anyone who wants to be informed, who hasn't already made up their minds. Some of the facts covered here: Americans are increasingly open to the idea. Rasmussen released a poll in May, 2012 which found that 56 percent of Americans were in favor of "legalizing marijuana and regulating it in a similar manner to the way alcohol and tobacco cigarettes are regulated today." Older Americans tended to be much more negative than younger Americans, so it may be that the pressure to legalize will continue to grow. A key analysis: legal Marijuana might be incredibly cheap. As the authors point out, marijuana is a nonperishable bulk commodity like wheat, corn, coffee and tea. For those kinds of commodities, cost of production is the key driver.

Modern American agriculture and its related packaging and transportation methods are incredibly efficient, especially on a large scale and in areas conducive to large yields. Canada produces industrial hemp industry for about \$500 per acre. If mid-grade commercial marijuana (a similar plant) could be grown at that cost, the price to the consumer would be about 20 cents per pound. Better grades of marijuana would cost more; as the authors write: "production costs for crops that need to be transplanted, such as cherry tomatoes and asparagus, are generally in the range of \$5,000-\$20,000 per acre." Those more labor intensive crops suggest a consumer price of under \$20 per pound to less than \$5 a pound depending on quality. Those prices compare with price of "other legal herbs such as tea or tobacco ... 100 times lower than the current prevailing price of \$300 per ounce --- or a few cents per joint." Whether you support or oppose legalization, this data is useful: increases in consumption might be very high, but tax revenues might be significantly higher as well. Federal cigarette taxes bring in about \$10 billion a year, but the authors believe legalization couldn't yield revenues at that level. Nonetheless, it is very helpful to have firm data from which to reach policy decisions, and the authors provide that sort of information -- not only on the costs of production and possible tax revenues, but on other possible benefits -- and disadvantages. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the issues. Robert C. Ross July 2012 Addendum: It may be worth mentioning that I have never used marijuana -- my drug of choice is five to ten glasses of red wine a week -- but the issue of legalization seems very important to me as a policy matter. R.

This is a good book written by people who write for the RAND corporation, a well known think tank, often employed by the government and other large organizations. It is thorough and a more scholarly writing than most books on marijuana. The authors point out many of the pros and cons that may be associated with marijuana legalization. In most cases they note that much of what is stated today by proponents as well as opponents of legalization is currently not able to be verified scientifically. They frequently use the phrase "unintended consequences" when talking about legalization. In one of the later chapters the four authors each summarize their own position. Only one would not legalize or make many changes to current laws the other three all would like to see changes made but each has concerns and each vary in his/her approach to legalization. I had previously read Marijuana is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink (2nd edition) and this book, along with additional research tempered my views. I now would like to see the Federal government turn this question over to the states, and have the DEA reduce marijuana from its current Schedule 1 status to a Schedule 3, 4 or 5.

Cut and paste job thrown together by a bunch of academics attempting to jump on the bandwagon of illicit substance reform policy research. Good thing they were already accomplished or this book wouldn't get half as much attention as it has; too bad for those of us who have been researching this policy area for the last 15-20 years and were trying to make a career. Don't bother, you can find better...a lot better.

good but limited information

A quick read with interesting facts - and information regarding a lack of facts in many areas regarding marijuana. I found the book a little bit disjoint - perhaps a sign of multiple authors who don't agree with one another on many relevant pieces of the book. Nevertheless worth the read.

I started the book PRO legalization and am now more concerned about legalization despite seeing the benefits. This book does a great job of opening your eyes to all the issues. The most compelling argument to me is the social pressure argument. The more smoking pot becomes socially acceptable, the more likely people who abstain today will try it. This argument alone is not a good one but it flew in the face of my previous thinking that use would not increase much. It will. The economics were fascinating to work through as well. The revenue potential is not as cut and dry. The book also covers the middle ground well and shows most of the benefits that support legalization can be had with fewer risks. Some form of legalization will occur and Colorado will help work through the laws for the rest of the United States. As for now, we need to decriminalize use nationally.

Used for research paper. Tons of information.

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