

Hemp's Prohibition: *It's The Nutrition!*

the Postman

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The overwhelming majority of people still believes that hemp, (ok, marijuana or cannabis) was prohibited in 1937 out of sincere concern for the public's health. A much smaller, yet growing segment of society however believes that greed *alone*, on the part of wealthy industrialists, explains what actually took place. In reality, I believe that neither explanation could be further from the truth. Granted, greed may have played a part in hemp's prohibition – but it certainly wasn't the *driving* motivation.

A Crack in the Greed Hypothesis

Without much effort one will find that the *greed hypothesis* fails to explain some important aspects brought forth by the evidence. That Anslinger, Mellon, Du Pont and Hearst allegedly conspired in 1937 to increase their wealth, (the accepted *greed hypothesis*) is all nice and neat but history shows us that 1937 wasn't even the first time that such an attempt at prohibiting cannabis (a.k.a. hemp or marijuana) was undertaken. Cannabis prohibitionist measures go back long before the turn of the century and originate in other countries such as India 1798, 1838; Egypt 1800, (French troops), 1868, 1877, 1879, 1884, 1891, 1894; South Africa 1870, 1887, 1910; Turkey 1877 and Greece 1890. In the U.S. an attempt at prohibiting cannabis was made during passage of the *Harrison Narcotics Act of 1914*, and according to a source quoted in the Island Earth timeline, there was talk of prohibiting cannabis worldwide in 1911 at the Hague. In reality, the *Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906* could be considered a cannabis prohibitionist measure as it initiated the classifying of cannabis as a narcotic in the public's eye and instilled regulatory measures towards it's use. Attempts to prohibit cannabis on a world-wide basis occurred later in 1923 (the League of Nations Advisory Committee) and again in 1925 at the Second Geneva Opium Conference. No less than 29 states successfully prohibited cannabis for non-medical use from 1914 to 1931, apparently as a result of the failure of the *Harrison Narcotics Act* to prohibit cannabis at the federal level. For us to accept the passage of the *Marijuana Tax Act of 1937* as nothing more than an "act of greed", we must also accept that such act transcended a minimum period of 25 years, (in just the U.S. alone) and that it was being pursued simultaneously, not just at the state level, but *on an international level as well!* An operation of this magnitude and spanning this period of time would obviously have required immense planning, coordination and many more than just the four men cited by the greed hypothesis. So, who were all these people? Did greed motivate them and their successors for 25-plus years? When and where did the planning and coordination take place? How does greed involve so many people? The all but accepted-as-fact *greed hypothesis* doesn't even begin to answer all of these questions not to mention others.

A New Hypothesis

Clearly, there's more to the prohibition of the plant with many names than that which meets the eye. What could have motivated the prohibition of cannabis in this country if it wasn't done out of concern for public health or done as an act of greed? A cursory scan of the events immediately surrounding the passage of the Harrison Narcotics Act reveals some rather disturbing clues – The *First International Congress of Eugenics* in 1912, the *First National Conference on Race Betterment* in 1914, the *Second National Conference on Race Betterment* in 1915.

Hemp was prohibited, not because it posed any sort of danger to society nor because the men involved were necessarily greedy, but because the simple availability of hemp itself was at least *perceived* at the time to be a factor which could undermine the effectiveness of *Malthusian* policies which had been set in-motion during the 19th century. Hemp wasn't outlawed as an act of greed – if anything, it was outlawed as an act of *genocide*! I believe that one or more of the following were likely to have been known by the men who sought to take hemp beyond the reach of the masses:

- The prohibition of hemp would likely cause people *to turn to more dangerous drugs*. (Indian Hemp Drugs Commission report, 1894)¹
- Cannabis medications and extracts were generally effective at relieving a wide range of ailments *including opium addiction*.²
- The hemp seed had historically been used as a food staple by various populations in order to *survive famines*.³
- The hemp seed was used to successfully treat the consumptive disease *tuberculosis*, in which the nutritive processes are impaired and the body wastes away. (Czechoslovakian Tubercular Nutrition Study, 1955)^{4,5}
- *In the old country the peasants ate hemp butter. They were more resistant to disease than the nobility*. – R. Hamilton, ED.D., Ph.D. Medical Researcher-Biochemist, U.C.L.A. Emeritus⁶
- The additional fact that almost anyone, (especially the poor) could grow hemp in almost any soil, without costly fertilizers or pesticides only hastened its fate.

Anyone who has kept their finger on the pulse of the drug war has most likely observed numerous instances of what could only be termed "strange behavior" on the part of the U.S. government over the past decade or so. Without a doubt, the strangest behavior of all however, seems to coincide with enforcing the drug laws concerning marijuana, despite the fact that most experts agree that marijuana is the least dangerous of all drugs. Similar odd behavior regarding marijuana can certainly be seen all the way back to its prohibition in 1937 and beyond. Though it might be tempting to assume that greed alone explains the observed oddities, the reader might want to consider the following:

- Many of those who sought to outlaw narcotics, (including cannabis) since 1900 had ties to the eugenics movement.
- The eugenics movement, which lasted three decades, was a rapidly growing movement in the U.S. around the turn of the century and one whose legacy continues to this day. In reality, the eugenics movement, supported by the *pseudo-science* of eugenics, was little more than a vehicle to promote population reduction, (Malthusian) policies.
- Population reduction doctrine has roots that go all the way back to, and likely even precedes Thomas Malthus' disturbing essay on population written in 1798.
- The existence of *essential fatty acids* in hempseed oil, was in large part, the reason why

- peasants "were more resistant to disease than the nobility".^{7,8}
- The war of 1812 was fought *over access to hemp*.⁹
- Serious research on fats was undertaken by the Frenchman, Micheal Chevreul as early as 1810.¹⁰ In 1813 Chevreul isolated the first fatty acid – margaric acid, used later in creating margarine.¹¹
- Essential fats have been effectively removed from our diets using the *exact same modus operandi*, (of grouping the good with the bad and then vilifying both) that was employed in prohibiting cannabis. Ultimately, the vilification of fats, by placing them at the tip of the USDA food pyramid has been extremely successful at also vilifying the *good* fats – essential fatty acids. Interestingly, the trend today is no longer to refer to the good fats as *essential fatty acids* anymore but to refer to them using the more abstract, *omega-3, omega-6* designations which, in name, no longer implies an essential nature as it did before. Here we go again!
- The hydrogenation process – the result of which has been the removal of essential fatty acids from our diets – was perfected on a commercial scale during the 1930s.
- In 1920, long before marijuana was made illegal in the U.S., the practice of printing government documents on "hempen rag paper", which was required by law, was ceased.¹²

Unfortunately, greed is the ideal *scapegoat* of criminal motivation in a class society. We can't help but fall victim to the notion that greed is a totally satisfactory explanation for criminal behavior exclusive of all others. When someone fingers greed as the underlying motivation of a crime, we all raise our hands in disgust and chant a collective "Aha!" and no one ever questions further whether greed was truly the real motivation. We who are of "limited means" fail to appreciate that greed is not a universal motivation – that the powerful elite, rich beyond all imagination, don't necessarily regard money in the same way that you or I do. Contrary to popular belief, the rich and powerful elite sometimes commit crimes for reasons *other than greed* and when they do, they know that greed will be there to save them by throwing everyone off of the trail that leads to the truth.

- 1 David R. Ford; *Marijuana: Not Guilty As Charged*
- 2 *Marijuana - The First 12,000 Years*; Ernest L. Abel; See <http://www.hoboes.com/html/Politics/Prohibition/Notes/Marijuana12000.html#Heading1>
- 3 Rowan Robinson; *The Great Book of Hemp*
- 4 Jack Herer; *The Emperor Wears no Clothes*; See <http://www.jackherer.com>
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- 6 Jack Herer; *The Emperor Wears no Clothes*; See <http://www.jackherer.com>
- 7 Jack Herer; *The Emperor Wears no Clothes*; See <http://www.jackherer.com>
- 8 Udo Erasmus; *Fats That Heal, Fats That Kill*
- 9 Jack Herer; *The Emperor Wears no Clothes*; See <http://www.jackherer.com>
- 10 *Chronology of Some Events in the Development and Application of the Science of Nutrition*; See http://web.archive.org/web/20011129085913/http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/gr_frank/nutrchrn.htm
- 11 *The History of Margarine*; See <http://web.archive.org/web/19980506011249/http://margarine.org/history.htm>
- 12 *The Case For Hemp*; See <http://www.gozarks.com/hemp/index.htm>