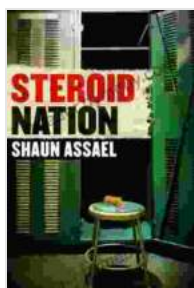


# The Secret History of America: True Drug Addiction

The United States has a long and complex history with drug addiction. From the earliest days of the republic, when alcohol and opium were widely used, to the present-day opioid crisis, drug abuse has been a persistent problem in American society.



## Steroid Nation: Juiced Home Run Totals, Anti-aging Miracles, and a Hercules in Every High School: The Secret History of America's True Drug Addiction

by Shaun Assael

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 589 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 357 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



In "The Secret History of America: True Drug Addiction," historian and journalist David Courtwright provides a comprehensive overview of this troubled history. Drawing on a wealth of archival research, Courtwright traces the origins of drug addiction in America to the colonial era, when alcohol and tobacco were introduced by European settlers.

Courtwright argues that the American Revolution played a key role in the rise of drug addiction. In the aftermath of the war, many soldiers returned home with addictions to alcohol and opium, which they had used to cope with the horrors of combat.

In the 19th century, the United States experienced a wave of immigration from China, which brought with it the use of opium for recreational purposes. Opium dens became popular in major cities, and addiction rates soared.

In the early 20th century, the United States government began to crack down on drug use. The Harrison Narcotics Tax Act of 1914 made it illegal to sell or possess opioids without a prescription. This law was followed by a series of other laws that criminalized the use of other drugs, including marijuana and cocaine.

The criminalization of drug use led to a sharp increase in the number of people incarcerated for drug offenses. In the 21st century, the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, with a large percentage of prisoners serving time for drug-related crimes.

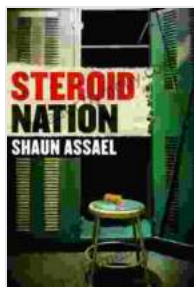
Courtwright argues that the criminalization of drug use has failed to solve the problem of drug addiction. Instead, it has created a cycle of poverty, crime, and social stigma.

"The Secret History of America: True Drug Addiction" is a powerful and timely book that sheds light on one of the most pressing problems facing American society. Courtwright's meticulous research and insightful analysis provide a valuable resource for understanding the roots of drug addiction and the challenges we face in addressing it.

If you are interested in learning more about the history of drug addiction in America, I highly recommend reading "The Secret History of America: True Drug Addiction" by David Courtwright.

## Additional Resources

- National Institute on Drug Abuse
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Drug Overdose



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