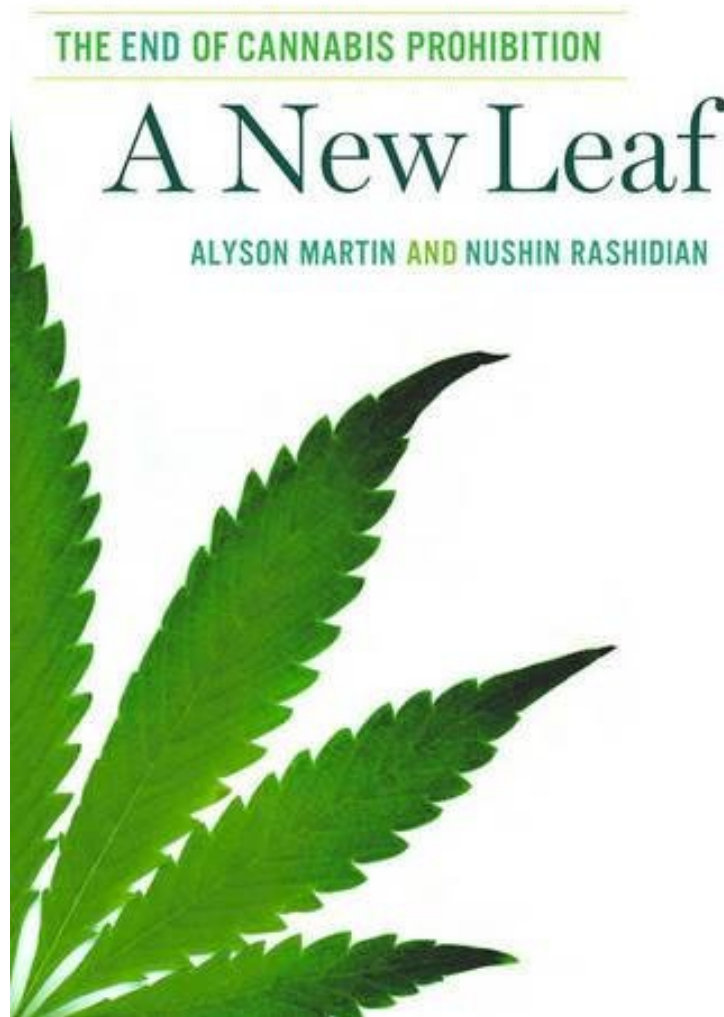


[Download] A New Leaf: The End of Cannabis Prohibition

A New Leaf: The End of Cannabis Prohibition

Alyson Martin, Nushin Rashidian

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Alyson Martin, Nushin Rashidian : A New Leaf: The End of Cannabis Prohibition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A New Leaf: The End of Cannabis Prohibition:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. How the people have definitively spoken truth to powerBy MalvinA New Leaf by Alyson Martin and Nushin Rashidian is a timely narrative and analysis about Americas rapidly changing relationship with cannabis. Martin and Rashidian are award-winning journalists who succeed at bringing this fascinating, dramatic and important story to life. This well-written book helps readers understand why the American

people have declared an end to the war on weed including what the future may hold. Martin and Rashidian believe that cannabis criminalization bears a resemblance to the failures of alcohol Prohibition. The authors briefly discuss the use of cannabis through the centuries, the discovery of the endocannabinoid system, and the science of how cannabis provides a number of therapeutic benefits to humans. Of course, the authors critique the U.S. governments regressive and inhumane cannabis policies from the use of misinformation and propaganda in the 1930s to criminalization in the 1970s and militarization from the 1980s to today. The weight of the authors evidence suggests that the so-called War on Drugs has largely been about empowering the police state while repressing millions of otherwise law-abiding citizens; especially minorities and the poor. Martin and Rashidian tell the story of how courageous Americans have pushed back against institutionalized injustice. We learn how sick patients in San Francisco inspired a medical marijuana movement that has subsequently spread across the country through dozens of state referendums and legislations. However, the authors discuss how contradictions in the patchwork of state and local laws have created myriad problems for entrepreneurs and consumers. Martin and Rashidian contend that the Great Recession has prompted a green rush to create jobs and tax revenues from cannabis. We see how some legislators are keen to implement proven laws and regulations while some reactionaries have dug in their heels to push back against the will of the people. Not the least of these has been the Obama administration which is severely criticized here for its IRS intimidation tactics and paramilitary-style busts of dozens of lawful dispensaries. The authors write that the Proposition 19 campaign in California, while unsuccessful, demonstrated that the nation was ready for a mature conversation about cannabis. Fortunately, the triumph of the Colorado and Washington state legalization campaigns seems to have finally turned a new leaf on history as millions of people have definitively spoken truth to power. The authors conclude with their thoughts on how things might evolve from here, including the likely path forward for the medical and recreational cannabis industries, state and federal regulation, foreign policy, and related issues. I highly recommend this outstanding book to everyone.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Investigative journalism at its best... By Jeannette Brown The authors provide an incisive examination of the history, politics, and implications of legalization, which is particularly important at a time when the country's drug and regulatory landscape is rapidly changing. Through investigative journalism and clear-eyed analysis, this book diligently documents recent developments through a mix of memorable interviews with pertinent stakeholders as well as considerable research. Martin and Rashidian manage to provide a comprehensive take on recent milestones in a way that gives the reader an easy understanding of whats at stake when it comes to such a complex issue. A New Leaf is a must-read for any citizen who wants to be informed about the past, present, and future of cannabis prohibition.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Necessary Read On An Impending Topic By Chester A. Arthur A comprehensive synopsis of the history of cannabis legislation in America, "A New Leaf" provides an enlightening look into the systematic and flawed approach the federal government has taken to outright ban a substance more and more Americans agree can, and should be used, legally and hassle free. Using the 2012 landmark victories for legalization in Colorado and Washington as a framework, authors Alyson Martin and Nushin Rashidian expertly narrate their trek across America, documenting the experiences and viewpoints of different legislators, experts, patients prescribed marijuana, distributors and everyone in between on the topic of decriminalizing pot. Among other interesting avenues explored by Martin and Rashidian, is the similarity between the prohibitions of alcohol and cannabis. While one limit was swiftly rescinded, the other, through a series of dark, baseless and at times, racist motivations has been upheld as a political tactic, even in the face of increasingly documented medical productivity. Starting with a drug war initiated by Richard Nixon, and later championed by Ronald Reagan, that has cost more than \$1 trillion, the authors patch together expert opinions, scientific explanations of human interaction with marijuana and testimonies from countless patients who depend on it to live a more pain free life, to illuminate the societal shift the country has witnessed in the past two decades. Moreover, when discussing the particularly brutal battles waged by drug traffickers to smuggle narcotics across the Mexican border into the United States, Martin and Rashidian estimate full legalization would take away billions of dollars from an international trade that has claimed the lives of more than 60,000 people. Indeed an ugly topic, the disheartening cause for this deadly, expensive embargo has been, and continues to be, a political battle for influence. Locally, "A New Leaf" examines policy effects at multiple levels in several states. From a startling tie-in between 'stop-and-frisk' protocols in New York and an alarmingly high (and unnecessary) number of arrests of minorities for mere possession, to the rise of "certification mills" as a product of federal restrictions, the consequences of outlawing a drug that some states in the union allow for may be higher than the price of outright permitting its usage. In their travels, Martin and Rashidian already speak with several farms and outlets that allow for use and distribution, while maintaining order and helping people learn more about the potential health benefits of cannabis. Citing a Pew poll from 2013, the authors mention the country's growing approval of marijuana, where 77 percent of those questioned support its medicinal use, while 52 percent back it for recreational employ. From the comfortable environment at the World Famous Cannabis Cafe in Portland, Oregon, to the heavily scrutinized products offered at Ms. LaForce's Farmacies in West Hollywood, more Americans are opening themselves up to new theories and research, and abandoning old cliches and unfounded rumors. For those looking for a way to catch up, "A New Leaf" is a good start.

In November 2012, voters in Colorado and Washington passed landmark measures to legalize the production and sale of cannabis for social use--a first not only in the United States but also the world. Medical cannabis is now legal in twenty states and Washington, D.C., and more than one million Americans have turned to it in place of conventional pharmaceuticals. Yet the federal government refuses to acknowledge these broader societal shifts and continues to raid and arrest people: 49.5 percent of all drug-related arrests involve the sale, manufacture, or possession of cannabis. In the first book to explore the new landscape of cannabis in the United States, investigative journalists Alyson Martin and Nushin Rashidian present a deeply researched, insightful story of how recent developments tie into cannabis's complex history and thorny politics. Reporting from nearly every state with a medical cannabis law, Martin and Rashidian enliven their book with in-depth interviews with patients, growers, doctors, entrepreneurs, politicians, activists, and regulators. They whisk readers from the federal cannabis farm at the University of Mississippi to the headquarters of the ACLU to Oregon's "World Famous Cannabis Caf." They present an expert analysis of how recent milestones toward legalization will affect the war on drugs both domestically and internationally. The result is an unprecedented and lucid account of how legalization is manifesting itself in the lives of millions. *A New Leaf* offers an essential guide for anyone who wants to understand the far-ranging implications of this rapidly changing drug landscape.

"Just in time: Martin and Rashidian bring us the first account of the lively new green economy that is springing up in the wake of marijuana decriminalization and legalization. This is a meticulously reported book and a firm rebuke to the continuing federal prohibition." Barbara Ehrenreich, author of *Nickel and Dimed* and *Bait and Switch*" *A New Leaf* is a comprehensive look at the political and social revolution taking place leading to the day when marijuana will inevitably be legal in all fifty states. The authors take us on a journey to meet the people on the front lines of this transformation." Dale Maharidge, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *And Their Children After Them* and *Bringing Mulligan Home*" With *A NEW LEAF*, Martin and Rashidian have given readers the most complete and up-to-date look at the history, science, politics, and personal stories of the movement for legalized marijuana. They drove across America four times to harvest the story. If there's something you need to know about weed, it's in here." Mike Sager, Esquire, author of *High Tolerance, A Novel* With great clarity, *A New Leaf* offers a sweeping and important view of today's changing attitudes toward marijuana. Amy Wilentz, Author of *The Rainy Season* and *Farewell, Fred Voodoo*" *A New Leaf* is a wonderful read for anyone who wishes to have a better idea of how dastardly this prohibition has been, particularly in its last years. Fortunately, it is now virtually over and what we are seeing is a culture desperately trying to find accommodations to this 'new leaf' on the block and this read will be valuable in helping the neighbors to achieve a better sense of both its value and its history." Dr. Lester Grinspoon, associate professor emeritus of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, author of *Marihuana Reconsidered* and *Marihuana, the Forbidden Medicine*" Martin and Rashidian have crafted a superb, lucid look at why cannabis prohibition has hurt the world in ways many of us would have never guessed. They put a human face on sterile laws and policies, and provide the most up-to-date information on today's controversies about the plant. They treat readers to an accessible and well-documented explanation of the backhanded and thoughtless way we've arrived in our current predicament, and emphasize that thorough and considerate approaches are our only way out." Mitch Earleywine, author of *Understanding Marijuana*" Nothing less than an indictment of a national disgrace a must-read for anyone who wants to participate in the urgent conversation about cannabis legalization, drug policy reform, and the assault of the drug war on civil liberties." Nadine Strossen, professor at New York Law School and former president of the American Civil Liberties Union I thought I knew everything about cannabis and its journey toward legalization. Well, *A New Leaf* proved me wrong. I emphatically recommend this eye-opening book to everyone, especially those who believe they know the entire story. A must-read. Neill Franklin, executive director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition About the Author Alyson Martin and Nushin Rashidian are both award-winning journalists. Martin's work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Nation*, and the *Albany Times Union*. Rashidian's work has been published in the *New York Times*, *The Nation*, and *Tehran Bureau*. This is their first book. They live in New York City. anewleafbook.com