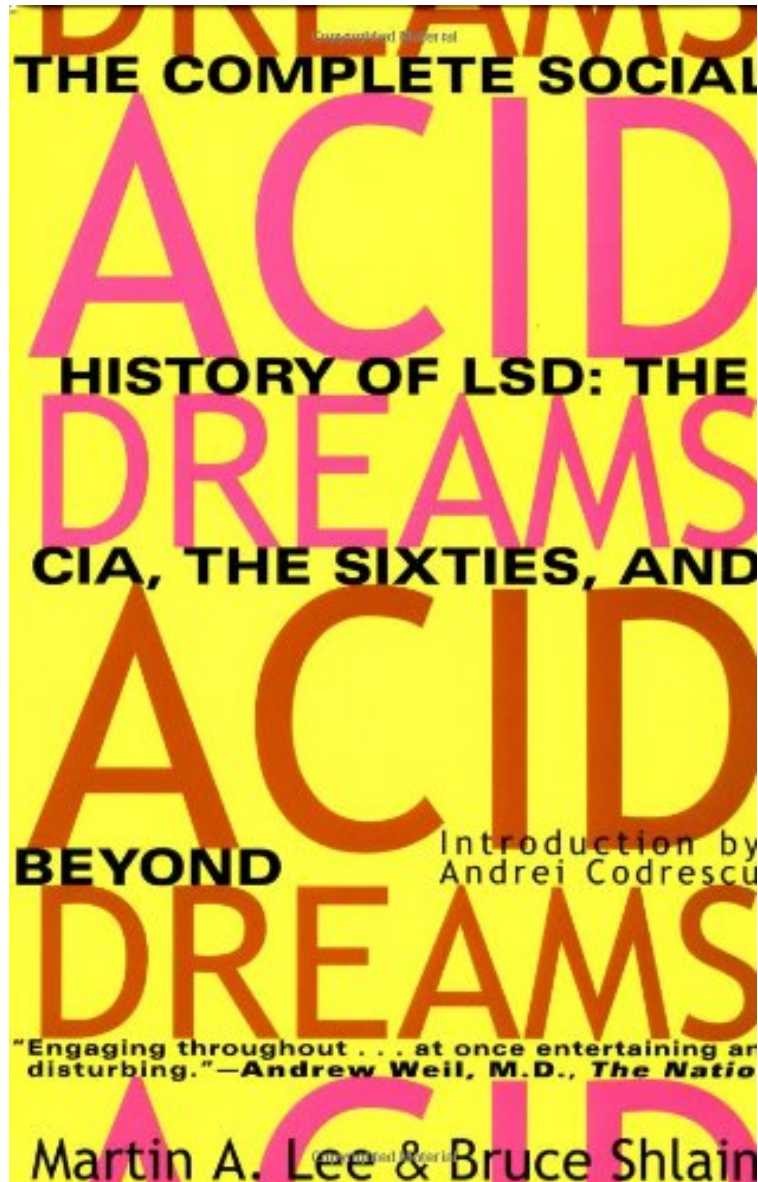


[Library ebook] Acid Dreams: The Complete Social History of LSD: The CIA, the Sixties, and Beyond

## Acid Dreams: The Complete Social History of LSD: The CIA, the Sixties, and Beyond

*Martin A. Lee, Bruce Shlain*

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**Martin A. Lee, Bruce Shlain : Acid Dreams: The Complete Social History of LSD: The CIA, the Sixties, and Beyond** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Acid Dreams: The Complete Social History of LSD: The CIA, the Sixties, and Beyond:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Far-Out Man!By jamesmoreNo, but really...this book is very informative, almost too much information (if there could ever be such a thing) to take in. Aside from all of the lurid LSD parties and shenanigans, from a historical point, this book has it all. If you lived through this time period, and have difficulties recalling what was going on at the time, then this book will help put things into perspective, and maybe give you an "Aha" moment, or two, or three, or more... This book touches on the CIA, U.S. government, politics, rock 'n roll, drug trafficking, Hippies, Beats, and many of the protests of the turbulent 60's and 70's. I recommend that everyone read this book, especially those too young to remember!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fresh FlashbacksBy MichaelFascinating book. At times a bit slow, but all in all this history/documentary clips along very well and holds the reader's interest as it unfolds the LSD story in considerable detail. This is about as wide-ranging a book as one could possibly imagine on the subject.After reading it, many people would feel the most important conclusion to be drawn from this story is that the CIA inadvertently triggered much of the anti-war movement of the 1960s, along with the emergence of the hippie counterculture and its culmination in the 1967 San Francisco Summer of Love, as unlikely as all that might seem.This book tells how and a lot more.Interesting stuff about Timothy Leary and his place in the Acid story, with a passing bow to Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters. Fascinating glimpses behind the scenes of the shocking protests and police repression that took place outside the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago; the advent of the Students for a Democratic Society, and even some of the inner workings of the Black Panthers.In somewhat of a surprise, the author suggests that LSD may have had a significant dampening effect on the more radical political movements of the mid to late 60s.As an indication of how wild (almost eccentric) this book is in places, picture CIA agents secretly spiking fellow agents' drinks with LSD. Be a fly on the wall observing the inner workings of the business operations of the Southern California Acid mafia that took over distribution of LSD after Owsley Stanley split the scene.This reviewer hesitates to label any book as a Must Read; but for anyone doing extensive research into the phenomenon of the 1960s, this book is in fact a must-read. And for those who participated in the wild ride of the acid-drenched days of the 1960s, this book will prove to be a fun (and instructive) read as well. For those who never tripped, it will nevertheless give a much clearer understanding of this drug and its place in what was surely the most radical period of change in American cultural history.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read for all those interested in the history of the CIA and/or Drug use in the 50s and 60sBy Stephen H. FisherA world of dubious, crazed, hopeful rebels and the stories they lived and lost.Oh, and the government agencies which may have manipulated them heavily.I enjoyed this book, even the parts which disgusted me like the CIA addicting people to heroin to use withdraw as an interrogation tools during the 50s or the Army's testing of BZ on troops among many other examples.I'd have given it 5 stars if not for the criticisms of Art Kleps and Jan Irving. While both these men are dubious in their own way, Art as the founder of the first formal Psychedelic Religion and one of the main factions at Millbrook and Jan as a thinker who assumes conspiracy from rather threadbare evidence.Kleps' criticisms involve misrepresentations based on poor research and unreliable sources which you can read at the end of his book, "Millbrook" freely available here: [okneoac.org/millbrook/](http://okneoac.org/millbrook/)He cites several examples of incompetent research, fact conflating, and made up timelines through much of the book's narrative. I'll leave you to determine the value of criticisms by a lifelong alcoholic solipsistic nihilist defending himself in his own book. My own biases at least agree with many of his overall views, excepting his racism.Irving comes out and says Acid Dreams is one in a long series of half-truth half-deception books published on the subject of the CIA's research on mind control tested on American citizens and against any definitions of ethics or even the CIA's own charter.Since much of the full extent of MK Ultra is probably forever hidden by Richard Helms' ordering the records destroyed in 1973 (also against CIA's official policy), it's likely the publically verifiable information only represents a fraction of their activities. Since determining how much we know about the project is only possible with full knowledge of what the CIA actually did, it seems sensible to agree with Irving's broad conclusion that we probably don't know the worst of their activities.Interestingly, and against Irving's overall claim, Acid Dreams itself makes this broader point. Attempted accuracy or complicated double-triple-or-quadruple bind? Who knows.In the end, Art Kleps' advice to suspend belief in anything until you've checked their sources is a wise one.Even if propaganda, Acid Dreams is an important document of the history of Psychedelics and their shadier dealings. Do your own research, come to your own conclusions.

Few events have had a more profound impact on the social and cultural upheavals of the Sixties than the psychedelic revolution spawned by the spread of LSD. This book for the first time tells the full and astounding storypart of it hidden till now in secret Government filesof the role the mind-altering drug played in our recent turbulent history and the continuing influence it has on our time.And what a story it is, beginning with LSDs discovery in 1943 as the most potent drug known to science until it spilled into public view some twenty years later to set the stage for one of the great ideological wars of the decade. In the intervening years the CIA had launched a massive covert research program in the hope that LSD would serve as an espionage weapon, psychiatric pioneers came to believe that acid would shed light on the perplexing problems of mental illness, and a new generation of writers and artists had given birth to the LSD sub-culture.Acid Dreams is a complete social history of the psychedelic counter-culture that burst into full view

in the Sixties. With new information obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, the authors reveal how the CIA became obsessed with LSD during the Cold War, fearing the Soviets had designs on it as well. What follows is one of the more bizarre episodes in the covert history of U.S. intelligence as the search for a truth drug began to resemble a James Bond scenario in which agents spied on drug-addicted prostitutes through two-way mirrors and countless unwitting citizens received acid with sometimes tragic results. The story took a new turn when Captain Al Hubbard, the first of a series of Johnny Appleseeds of acid, began to turn on thousands of scientists, businessmen, church figures, policemen, and others from different walks of life. Timothy Leary, Ken Kesey and his band of Merry Pranksters, Allen Ginsberg and the Beat generation, the Diggers and the Age of Golden Anarchy in Haight-Ashbury, William Mellon Hitchcock, Abbie Hoffman and the Yippies, the Beatlesthese are just some of a motley cast of characters who stride through the pages of this compelling chronicle. What impact did the widespread use of LSD have on the anti-war movement of the late Sixties? Acid Dreams traces the way the drug intensified each stage of counter-cultural transition to break the mind-forged manacles of a new generation in rebellion. In Acid Dreams, Martin Lee and Bruce Shalin have written the history of a time still only dimly understood. The events they recount and the facts they uncover supply an important missing piece of the puzzle of a crucial decade in our recent past. Praise Engaging throughout. . . . At once entertaining and disturbing. Andrew Weil, M.D., The Nation Marvelously detailed . . . loaded with startling revelations. Los Angeles Daily News Excellent. . . . Captivating. . . . A generalists history that should replace all others. San Francisco Chronicle A landmark contribution to the sociopolitical history of the U.S. . . . Some of the liveliest, most absorbing, best-documented historical analyses to appear in recent years. . . . A seminal contribution to understanding Americas most turbulent modern decade. Choice This funny and irreverent book brings it all back. The Washington Post Recounts some of the most bizarre incidents in the history of U.S. intelligence. The Boston Globe A monumental social history of psychedelia. The Village Voice A blistering expos of CIA drug experimentation on Americans. Its all there. John Stockwell Highly readable. . . . Well researched. . . . Filled with entertaining and bizarre episodes. The Detroit Free Press An important study of cultural history. . . . The scholarship is exquisite and the methods sensible. Allen Ginsberg An engrossing account of a period . . . when a tiny psychoactive molecule affected almost every aspect of Western life. William S. Burroughs A missing link, a work of combat history, a devastating combination of facts and poetry that is bound to arouse controversy. Paul Krassner An important historical synthesis of the spread and effects of a drug that served as a central metaphor for an era. John Sayles

From Publishers Weekly This fascinating study examines how the CIA tested LSD on unwitting residents of Greenwich Village and San Francisco. Of particular interest are profiles of Timothy Leary, LSD chemist Ronald Stark and others. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Bruce Shlain is the author of Oddballs and Baseball Inside Out. He has written for The New York Times, Rolling Stone, and other publications.