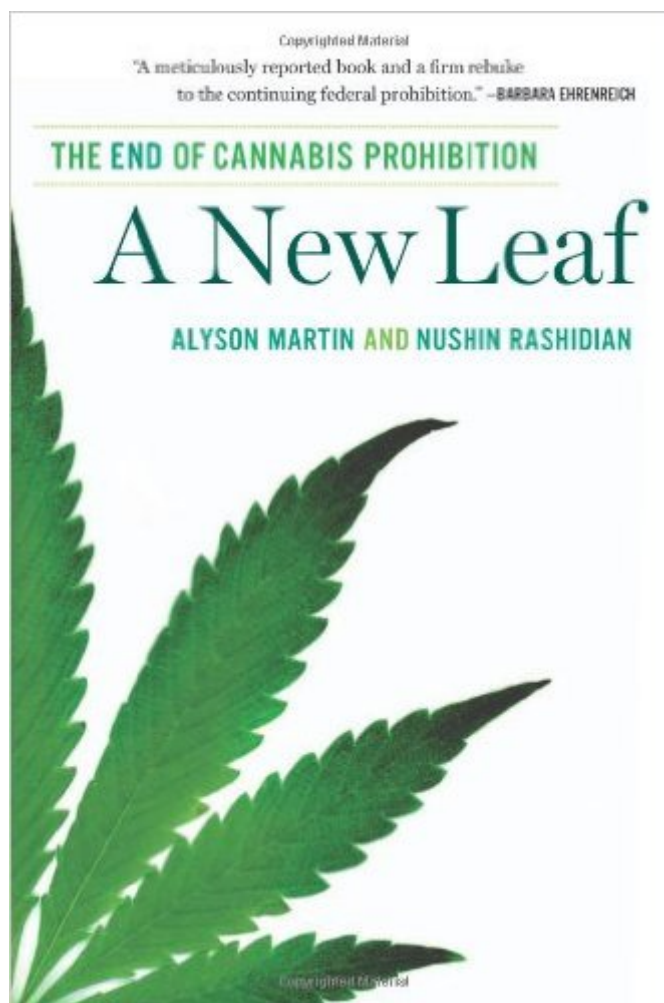


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A New Leaf: The End Of Cannabis Prohibition



Synopsis

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 Café." 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.
anewleafbook.com

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Customer Reviews

• A New Leaf • by Alyson Martin and Nushin Rashidian is a timely narrative and analysis about America's 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. government's 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.

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.

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