

# Drugs in American Society, by Erich Goode

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Introduction Drug in the American Society is a book written by Eric Goode. This book, as the title indicates, is about drugs in the American Society. It is especially about the misuse of most drugs, licit or illicit, such as alcohol, marijuana and more. The author wrote this book to give an explanation of the use of different drugs. He wrote a first edition and decided to write this second edition due to criticism and also as he mentioned in the preface "there are several reasons for these changes. First, the reality of the drug scene has changed substantially in the past dozen or so years. Second much more information has been accumulated about drug use. And third, I'm not the same person I was in 1972." (vii). The main idea of this book is to inform readers about drugs and their reality. In the book, Goode argued that the effect of a drug is dependent on the societal context in which it is taken. Thus, in one society a particular drug may be a depressant, and in another it may be a stimulant. The first two chapters of the book are about drugs in general. The chapters explained how drugs have been used in the early history of the peoples for clients welfare, religious rites, but also to produce intoxication and euphoria. The third, fourth and fifth chapters are talking about two different drugs. One that is licit: alcohol and the other one illicit: marijuana. According to the book, alcohol is identified as a drug of the same sense as LSD, heroin and cocaine: they are all psychoactive. It is a recreational drug and is addicting. The chapter explains that alcohol

existed throughout human existence and how it was made by fermentation in early history. The chapter also talk about the effects of alcohol on the body such us dehydration, gastric irritation but it also affect the ability of the brain to process and utilize information. Marijuana is the most illegal used drug in America. In the chapter about marijuana, the author talked about the users of marijuana and the different factors that contribute to the use of marijuana such us age, sex or family influences. The effects are marijuana is frivolous, hedonistic nature. People use it most of the time for a recreational activity. In chapter five, readers can explore marijuana controversy. It is said that the most important issues surrounding marijuana are controversial and unresolved (p.

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