



# Home Grown: Marijuana and the Origins of Mexico's War on Drugs

By Isaac Campos



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Historian Isaac Campos combines wide-ranging archival research with the latest scholarship on the social and cultural dimensions of drug-related behavior in this telling of marijuana's remarkable history in Mexico. Introduced in the sixteenth century by the Spanish, cannabis came to Mexico as an industrial fiber and symbol of European empire. But, Campos demonstrates, as it gradually spread to indigenous pharmacopoeias, then prisons and soldiers' barracks, it took on both a Mexican name--marijuana--and identity as a quintessentially "Mexican" drug. A century ago, Mexicans believed that marijuana could instantly trigger madness and violence in its users, and the drug was outlawed nationwide in 1920. Home Grown thus traces the deep roots of the antidrug ideology and prohibitionist policies that anchor the drug-war violence that engulfs Mexico today. Campos also counters the standard narrative of modern drug wars, which casts global drug prohibition as a sort of informal American cultural colonization. Instead, he argues, Mexican ideas were the foundation for notions of "reefer madness" in the United States. This book is an indispensable guide for anyone who hopes to understand the deep and complex origins of marijuana's controversial place in North American history.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

A most welcome and important contribution to the history of marijuana prohibition. It has broadened our understanding of how we got to this place, and it belongs on the book shelf of every serious student of the topic.--*Drug War Chronicle*

Recommended. All levels/libraries.--*Choice*

Campos has reconfigured our understanding of the flow of ideas about marijuana.--*Hispanic American Historical Review*

Campos has dug deeply into the digital and paper archives of Mexican popular media (newspapers and broadsides), government agencies, and medical and botanic sciences, from the age of conquistadors to the twentieth century. . . . Worthy of praise.--*World Medical and Health Policy*

Campos remedies the scarcity of historical work on the origins of drug prohibition in Latin America while pointing out the need to better understand the causes and consequences of these prohibitions if we are to grasp the current 'War on Drugs.' . . . [This] book is a call to arms.--*American Historical Review*

A wonderfully unique discussion of the historical context of the origins of marijuana that no author has provided before.--*Journal of the North Carolina Association of Historians*

An engaging work of sociocultural history. . . . It deserves a wide reading.--*The Americas*

*Home Grown* is a necessary resource for any scholar of drug cultures, drug prohibition, or Mexican studies.--*Journal of Historical Geography*

*Home Grown* is a must read for historians, criminologists, analysts, and policy-makers, alike, especially those interested in understanding the origins of Mexico's current political and social unrest, the cultural

underpinnings for marijuana prohibition, or the broader 'War on Drugs.'--*Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Book Review*

A notable contribution.--*The Historian*

You don't have to be a 'pothead' to enjoy and learn from Isaac Campos's pioneering and carefully researched inquiry into the special plant-commodity identified botanically as cannabis. . . . Campos's study comprehensively examines the ecological, sociocultural, and political dimensions of the history of human interaction with a plant.--*Southwestern Historical Quarterly*

#### Review

Isaac Campos is, for my money, the best historian at work today on the history of marijuana, and he has written the best book that anyone could read on that topic.--John Charles Chasteen, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

This book is erudite, engaging and extremely relevant. A multidimensional history of marijuana, it examines the drug as an ancient commodity (both 'Oriental' and deeply Mexican), the beliefs about its effects through violent madness, and the prohibitionist obsession that, as Campos argues, Mexico also exported to the United States.--Pablo Piccato, Columbia University

Rigorous, learned, and accessible, *Home Grown* offers the richest account yet of marijuana's early history in Mexico. It is cultural history at its best--interdisciplinary, materially grounded, deeply researched, and full of discoveries.--Emilio Kouri, University of Chicago

#### About the Author

Isaac Campos is assistant professor of history at the University of Cincinnati.

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Joshua Rodrigue:**

Reading a book tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the information about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write to their book. One of them is this

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**Michael Burr:**

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**Barbara Corbin:**

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