

## Prohibition

As the media reports on the issue of people from all over Central America piling up on the Mexican border fleeing lawless violence, poverty, and impending famine, they're completely ignoring the roots of the problem. First we propped up the corrupt dictators who oversaw American slavery throughout Central America. Then we flooded them with lots of guns during the revolutions. Then came a population explosion. Then came the drug trade. Then came Nafta, which drove a large percentage of the population back into poverty and slavery. Then came climate change. Now we have a lot of unemployed, uneducated kids with lots of guns and the local currency is mostly US drug money. The lawless gangs, cartels, and corruption that most of the refugees at the Mexican border are fleeing from were largely created by and are sustained by many billions of US dollars. Most of the current wave of people from Central America trying for asylum in the US are running for their lives from violence directly created and funded by the US prohibition industry. We owe these refugees a huge debt, but instead of accepting responsibility for our actions, we send them back to the hell we made for them while we build a wall.

Putting pressure on Mexico adds insult to injury. The good people of Mexico are doing what they can, but they're already overwhelmed dealing with the immensely wealthy cartels created and largely funded by the prohibition industry. The US prohibition industry has been a tragedy for the people of Mexico.

All around the world, the prohibition industry has always been a tragedy. The prohibition industry also finances the Taliban, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, and numerous other violent extremists. Prohibition finances the bad guys. At any time during the US involvement in Afghanistan, we could have put an end to it in a matter of months. Just take a few dozen A10s and burn the poppy fields; the Taliban's source of cash to buy weapons, follow it up with an end to the war on drugs, which would permanently cut their funding, and give the farmers seeds to replant food. Too late now.

When I say the prohibition industry, I'm talking about the dealers, the runners, the growers, the processors, the gangs, the cartels, the government corruption, the border patrol, the DEA, ICE, local, state, and federal police, the courts, the prisons, and the addiction driven thievery with all its many ramifications. All this is many times the wasted time, energy, resources, and lives caused by drug abuse.

No one wants the rotted out body of a tweaker or any other kind of speed freak. No one wants the wasted life of opioids. No one wants to OD on fentanyl, but they're addicted before they know any better, or maybe they're dead before they even get the chance to be addicted. Education has worked rather well with tobacco, one of the most addictive drugs, although the nicotine addiction industry side stepped it with the vaping con. It can do the same with other addictive substances. It will take a bit of time, but education is the only real answer to drug addiction. If even a fraction of the money spent on law enforcement associated with prohibition was spent on actual education about the dangers of addictive drugs, drug abuse would substantially decrease. If they were legal, the results of drug addiction wouldn't stay so hidden, and most of the cartels' profits would disappear.

With the enactment of the Eighteenth Amendment in 1920, levels of alcohol consumption substantially decreased, with a subsequent large decrease in alcohol induced violence, especially spousal abuse, but levels of organized violence went way up. In the first few years of alcohol prohibition, alcohol consumption dropped by about half, but as organized crime filled the void and the sale of stills skyrocketed, consumption quickly went back up. Much of the money pouring into organized crime ended up corrupting a substantial portion of law enforcement. Prohibition caused a major decline in respect for government. Prohibition also took a portion of the economy out of the tax base. The diversion of human energy and focus caused by alcohol prohibition from 1920 to 1933 was a substantial contributor to the causes of the great depression. Along with alcohol prohibition we also put a sin tax on tobacco. The result was the need for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. In the long run, the legacy of alcohol prohibition was