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Pot Politics: Marijuana and the Costs of Prohibition

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From Oxford University Press : Pot Politics: Marijuana and the Costs of Prohibition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pot Politics: Marijuana and the Costs of Prohibition:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Pot Politics is particularly helpful in that it presents a diverse spectrum of well-researched, well-argued viewpoints. By Midwest Book Review Edited by Mitch Earleywine (Associate Professor of Psychology, University at Albany), Pot Politics is an anthology of essays by learned international authors critically reviewing marijuana policy. Addressing the matter from medical, ethical, religious, and social perspectives, Pot Politics essays include "Marijuana and the Media: Science, Propaganda, and Sloppy Reporting in the U.S. News Media", "Judaism and Marijuana", "A Cautious Case for Cannabis Depenalization", "The [Often Unheard] Case Against Marijuana Leniency", and much more. Enthusiastically recommended for anyone studying law or social policy with regard to marijuana, or seeking to educate themselves about the drug, Pot Politics is particularly

helpful in that it presents a diverse spectrum of well-researched, well-argued viewpoints.

Marijuana use continues to attract interest and fuel controversy. Big, green pot leaves have adorned the covers of Time, National Review, and Forbes. Almost 100 million Americans have tried marijuana at least once. Groups such as The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana (NORML) and The Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) have tens of thousands of members. Polls suggest that 70-80% of Americans support medicinal marijuana. At least 11 U.S. states have experimented with decriminalization and medical marijuana laws, with new initiatives appearing each year. Meanwhile, other groups such as Partnership for a Drug Free America and Mothers Against Drugs protest legalization. Clearly, debate about marijuana policy shows no sign of abating. In his earlier book, *Understanding Marijuana*, Mitch Earleywine forced researchers, policy makers, and citizens to avoid oversimplification, separate empirical findings from their interpretations, and understand that some things may be neither good nor evil. *Pot Politics* continues with these same themes, showing multiple perspectives from a variety of experts on an important problem with vast implications. The volume presents ethical, religious, economic, psychological, and political arguments for cannabis policies that range from prohibition to unrestricted legalization. By presenting a unique perspective on overlapping issues, each chapter demonstrates how even recognized experts draw markedly different conclusions from the same data. Some contributors evaluate policy by weighing the costs and benefits of control while others eschew policy by presenting moral arguments against our attempts at control. *Pot Politics* should be read by everyone interested in the politics of both marijuana use and governmental regulation of our actions.

"*Pot Politics* will help the movement marshal its best arguments--moral, legal, theological, pragmatic...it will be an eye-opener for students and movement newcomers, and even for seen-it-all movement graybeards...a welcome addition, both to the knowledge base on marijuana policy and its consequences and to the drug reformer's arsenal."--*Drug War Chronicle*"It is an important contribution to a debate that should concern all citizens who value justice and health in our society."--*PsycCRITIQUES*About the Author Mitch Earleywine is Associate Professor at University of Albany, SUNY.