

THE CRIMINALIZATION OF CANNABIS IN BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Part 1: History of Cannabis in the United States

<p>1850</p> <p>CANNABIS IN US PHARAMCOEPIA</p> <p><i>In the U.S., cannabis was widely utilized as a patent medicine during the 19th and early 20th centuries, described in the United States Pharmacopoeia for the first time.</i></p>	<p>1600S</p> <p>HEMP A CASH CROP IN BRITAIN</p> <p><i>In addition, cannabis was utilized as medicine as well in the treatment of certain ailments including, nausea, asthma, stress, sleep disorders, and more</i></p>
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<p>1937</p> <p>MARIHUANA TAX ACT</p> <p><i>William Randolph Hearst owner of an infamous journalist conglomerate, was the final catalyst in the passage of the 1937 Marihuana Tax Act. He launched numerous campaigns linking Mexicans to white women promiscuity and violence and denoting cannabis as the "murder drug"</i></p>	<p>1920-1930</p> <p><i>Mexican immigration to the U.S. grew. Many immigrants, being casual cannabis users, brought cannabis with them, which resulted in the popularization of this substance</i></p>
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<p>1981-1989</p> <p>REAGAN ADMINISTRATION</p> <p><i>Reagan infamously stated that "leading medical researchers are coming to the conclusion that marijuana... is probably the most dangerous drug in the United States," concluding that it has "permanent ill-effects [such as] the loss of memory".</i></p>	<p>1970-1980</p> <p>THE START OF THE WAR ON "DRUGS"</p> <p><i>In the 1970s through 1980s, Nixon and Reagan initiated the War on Drugs, strengthening the "efforts against the sale, distribution, and consumption of illicit drugs," but relying on increased criminal justice and carceral systems to do so</i></p>
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