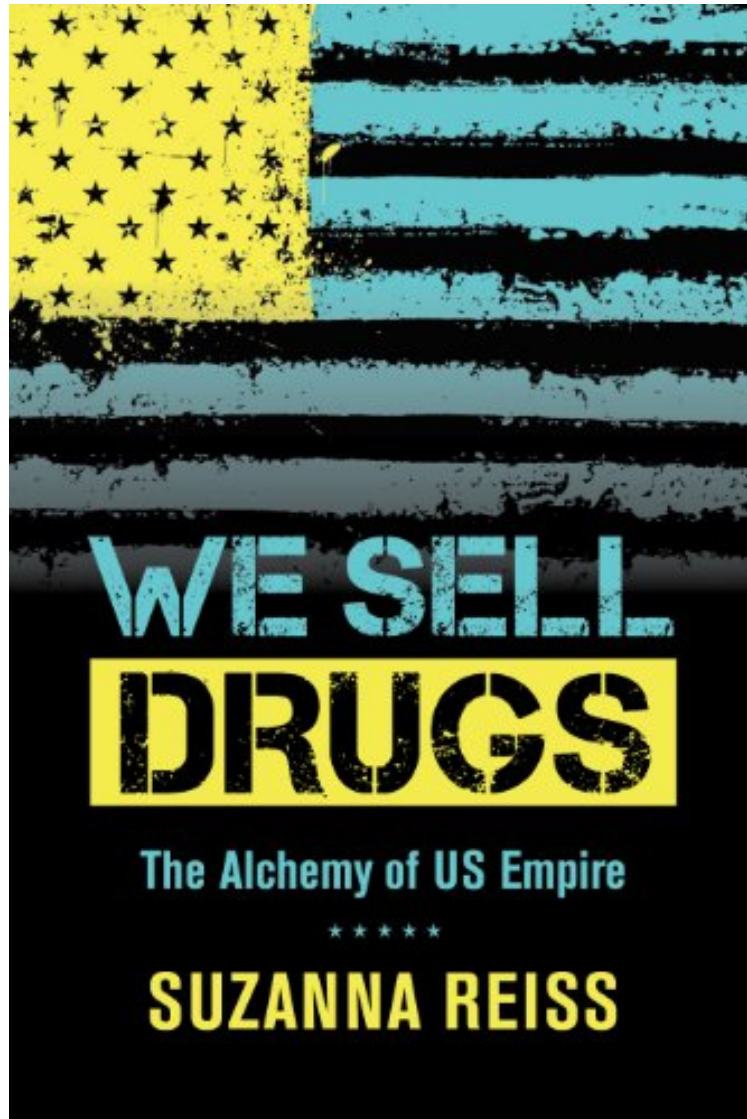


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We Sell Drugs: The Alchemy of US Empire (American Crossroads)

Suzanna Reiss

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Suzanna Reiss : We Sell Drugs: The Alchemy of US Empire (American Crossroads) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised We Sell Drugs: The Alchemy of US Empire (American Crossroads):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerAll good. Thanks.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. AmbitiousBy Brien HallettReiss covers the hyphen in the US "War on Drugs," 1940-1960. This is the period between the initial legislating of US drug attitudes, policies, and laws, 1900-1940, and the full-blown, billion-dollar-a-day "War on Drugs," 1970-present. Needless to say, this period is dominated by World War II. Rapid transformation of the existing regulations and market was imperative to supply escalating US and Allied

demand for all drugs, including cocaine, and, equally important, to deny the Axis powers these same drugs. "Fortunately," this was all accomplished so as to expand the international reach of US drug attitudes, policies, and laws; and, equally important, to expand the competitive advantages of US pharmaceutical firms during the Cold War and beyond. Within this 1940-1960 period, Reiss focuses almost exclusively on the political economy of coca leaves and cocaine, Coca-Cola, US relations with Peru and Bolivia, and the rise of the synthetic drug industry during and after World War II. She also makes clear how the pre-World War II regulatory and market regime were refined and expanded internationally so as to provide a "firm" basis for the "War on Drugs" after Nixon declared it in 1969. The principal criticism of *We Sell Drugs* is that it is, perhaps, too ambitious. It tries to show how legal and illegal drugs were important aspects of large swaths of the US and international political economy, 1940-1960. While true, the information and the relationships are, at times, overwhelming. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Explosive Expose' of America's Darkest Secrets! By Robert K. Suzanna has exposed no less than explosive information about the global drug trade that has far reaching ramifications. The fact that legal and illegal drugs are controlled by the same financial and government agencies, by itself, is enough to boggle the mind. Further, that these drugs go back and forth between the legal and illegal global markets, for obscene profits, can make one's imagination run literally wild. Is this why the CIA's Air America was flying South East Asian opium to market? And could this be the reason that the U.S. ALWAYS has wars going on where the world's drugs are grown? Another mind-bender is that tons of narcotics are being stored by the U.S. Treasury in Washington and Fort Knox! Is this where confiscated cocaine and heroin end up? Suzanna tells us that these drugs are not destroyed, and this book will tell you where they go! This incredible book opens up America's darkest secrets, asks and answers questions that are no less than profound. The real story about what happens to trillions of dollars of drug profits, and who gets those profits are in this book. It is the Rosetta Stone of the global drug trade!

Robert Kirkconnell, author of: *American Heart of Darkness: Volume I: The Transformation of the American Republic into a Pathocracy (Volume 1)*

This history of US-led international drug control provides new perspectives on the economic, ideological, and political foundations of a Cold War American empire. US officials assumed the helm of international drug control after World War II at a moment of unprecedented geopolitical influence embodied in the growing economic clout of its pharmaceutical industry. *We Sell Drugs* is a study grounded in the transnational geography and political economy of the coca-leaf and coca-derived commodities market stretching from Peru and Bolivia into the United States. More than a narrow biography of one famous plant and its equally famous derivative products—Coca-Cola and cocaine—this book situates these commodities within the larger landscape of drug production and consumption. Examining efforts to control the circuits through which coca traveled, Suzanna Reiss provides a geographic and legal basis for considering the historical construction of designations of legality and illegality. The book also argues that the legal status of any given drug is largely premised on who grew, manufactured, distributed, and consumed it and not on the qualities of the drug itself. Drug control is a powerful tool for ordering international trade, national economies, and societies' habits and daily lives. In a historical landscape animated by struggles over political economy, national autonomy, hegemony, and racial equality, *We Sell Drugs* insists on the socio-historical underpinnings of designations of legality to explore how drug control became a major weapon in asserting control of domestic and international affairs.

"Suzanna Reiss presents a novel and compelling argument . . . *We Sell Drugs* brings drugs into conversations where they did not participate before."