

2012

Encyclopedia of Drug Policy [Review]

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Repository Citation

Jumonville, A. (2012). [Review of the book *Encyclopedia of drug policy*, by M. A. R. Kleiman & J. E. Hawdon (Eds.)]. *Reference Reviews*, 26(2), 15-16. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/09504121211205034>

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Kleiman, Mark, and James Hawdon. *Encyclopedia of Drug Policy*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, Inc, 2011. Internet resource.

This review pertains to the eBook edition (last accessed September 30, 2011).

The bumper crop of encyclopedias devoted to drugs, drug abuse, and drug policy published during the early 1990s has finally been brought up to date by the 2011 *Encyclopedia of Drug Policy*. With a time frame that focuses primarily on the 20th and 21st century United States and references events through 2010, this encyclopedia's entries have been laid out in six general categories: "drugs, laws and policies, organizations and individuals, control strategies and their underlying theories, drugs in select countries, and drugs and other social problems."

While other sources may be more comprehensive with regard to individual drugs (the 2002 *Encyclopedia of Addictive Drugs*) or particular time periods and level of international coverage (1999's *The War on Drugs: An International Encyclopedia*), none are really at the broad, explicitly sociological level of *the Encyclopedia of Drug Policy*. Of course, sometimes the sociology is too academic for a lay reader—an entry on "elite-engineered moral panics," for example, may be intellectually precise but strays from the editorial intent to create a scholarly work written "for the ordinary informed reader... [that] present[s] topics in an easy-to-understand manner, intentionally avoiding technical language as much as possible." But to be fair, sociological and other scholarly language is clearly explained and defined whenever it is employed. In addition, the court cases and entries on state and federal laws are especially readable and well-summarized.

The editors, Mark A.R. Kleiman and James E. Hawdon are professors of in the areas of public policy and sociology, respectively. Both are published in the field of drug policy, as well as drug use and rehabilitation, criminology, law, and economics. Contributors' affiliations are primarily colleges and universities, with a handful of independent scholars as well as writers associated with foundations, boards, hospitals, and other organizations, US and international (primarily North America, British Isles, and New Zealand). Although there is some stylistic variation across entries, given the range of contributors, on the whole the work is fairly consistent in tone and approach. The ebook edition of this work can be accessed via a number of entry points: basic search, advanced search, readers' guide, entries A-Z, and a subject index. Ebook technology has been leveraged well in several instances-- the Readers' Guide expands without having to leave the main menu, which is necessary considering that the initial choices are very broad categories (Presidential Administrations, Laws and Policies, etc), and index terms can be clicked to expand for further detail and sub-topics.

With regard to other formatting issues, the glossary is thorough, especially for chemical and physiological terminology. The Resource Guide—with recommended books, journals, and websites—is refreshingly to the point, with manageable list of other resources. Each entry contains a works cited page as well. The Appendices contain useful primary source material (President Richard Nixon's Remarks on Signing the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, and text of the Controlled Substances Act) and within each entry a list of related entries appears on the left for further investigation. Especially for readers who may be unfamiliar with the range of court cases, laws, and people associated with the making of drug policies, these links will be invaluable.

In short, the *Encyclopedia of Drug Policy* is a well-designed, readable, scholarly overview of United States drug policy and laws, primarily but not exclusively focusing on addictive and illegal drugs. Given the law and policy focus, this is inherently a "view from the top" and does not devote much attention to subjects like drug culture or drugs in everyday life. However, entries and references to twelve-step programs and grassroots organizations like MADD are addressed, and social issues that can be broadly characterized with an eye toward theoretical, organizational, and political dimensions receive attention as well, i.e., an analysis of campaigns such as "Just say no," overview of the "War on Drugs," history of the Temperance Movement and Prohibition, and drug legalization movements. With close to 400 entries and adequate attention to other countries directly impacting United States drug policy, this encyclopedia comes highly recommended for all academic and large public libraries.