

A Drugged Out America

by

Phil Rasmussen

Although America's drug crisis is reported daily, little is being done to reduce, eliminate, or even avert it. There are three major reasons as to why this crisis continues to destroy people's lives, our economic structure, and national security.

Money

If you Google the "most profitable industry in the world" you will not find it listed in the first 10 pages of your search. In those 10 pages you will find several industries listed, including "Drugs and Pharmaceuticals." The problem is that the search only seeks out "legal" industries and yet all the industries listed dwarf the profit that the illegal drug industry accumulate over any given time period.

From as early as 1775 to 1914 opioids were legal until the Harrison Narcotics Act restricted the commercial use of them. However they were reintroduced as a medical treatment for chronic pain in the 1980s and '90s creating many addicts as a result of over prescribing and misuse. In 2011 the medical community was brought to task for their over prescribing of opioids. Consequently many patients turned to heroin and fentanyl in order to satisfy their addiction.

The Mexican cartels quickly discovered the enormous profitability of supplying illegal drug substitutes to American addicts. In 2017 the cartels amassed \$132.45 billion in profit while the average profit for the top 6 US pharmaceuticals was \$32.7 billion. It should also be noted that pharmaceuticals produce both prescription and non-prescription drugs while the cartels produce only illegal drugs. Additionally pain controlling/relieving prescription drugs represent a portion of a pharmaceutical company's total prescription drugs. Thus the profit level for pain relievers is much lower than the \$32.45 billion.

The cartels are also paying a lot of money to people who are financially strapped to smuggle illegal aliens into our country. Many of these illegals are actually drug carriers. The money is very attractive to those in need, both young and old.

Politics

Biden and his administration are undeclared socialists. This also applies to many of the Democrats in the House and Senate. Once we recognize this fact, we can then understand why there is a blind eye to illegal immigration and the increasing use of drugs.

For these politicians, money is not the driving force but rather power. They want to control the nation and our people. Their goal is for a socialist America. They are so intent in achieving their goal that they do not see the fallacies of their decisions and the eventual downfall of socialism.

Keep in mind that no socialist government has lasted longer than 80 years. The so-called socialist countries in Europe actually are a mixture of economic capitalism and socialist welfare. The political and economic structures of these countries is not what Biden's socialist administration is seeking but rather more of the Marxist-Leninist format.

The Biden movement is evidenced by its increasing use of government agencies (IRS, DOJ, FBI, DHHS, DHS, etc.) to oversee (spy on) the people. It is also evidenced by the increasing fearfulness that Americans have of these agencies and their actions.

By not acknowledging that we have a border and drug problem in our nation, that there is no true inflation, that there are no real shortages of food, materials, workers, etc. (in other words maintaining a "blind eye"), Americans are drawn away from cohesive, cooperative action into a quagmire of increasing inaction and frustration. This quagmire opens the doors for a coup d'état, whether violent or not.

It is important to keep in mind that there are many so-called forms of socialism. People often think of these forms as separate forms of government but they are really subgroups of socialism. The most notable forms in the US for the past 70+ years are communism and the New World Order movements, both of which have a strong foothold in our nation.

Apathy

The third reason for the increasing drug crisis is apathy. To understand America's apathy to drug use we need to understand its history. Narcotics (includes all illegal drugs and their medical equivalents) have been a part of American history since the 1700s. Opium dens have operated in the US since the mid-1800s. The first US law regulating the use of narcotics was enacted in 1914. However, San Francisco issues the nation's first anti-drug law in 1875 banning these dens.

Note: opium, morphine and heroin are natural opioids made from poppy plants. cocaine is made from coca leaves

In 1906, the Pure Food and Drug Act included alcohol among its list of narcotics as addictive.

In 1919, the drug wars started in earnest with alcohol being its primary target (Prohibition). During Prohibition little attention was given to narcotics. There are many theories as to why drugs were ignored. NIH's theory probably holds more truth than others in that alcohol typically agitated its users while the narcotic drugs tended to sooth their users.

As with alcohol, the social and economic impact of drug use became apparent over time. while more drug laws were enacted most of them had little bite. However as the addict population evolved, so did the laws.

The war on drugs took a dramatic turn in the 1960s as "drugs became symbols of youthful rebellion, social upheaval, and political dissent," (drugpolicy.org). A new drug emerged, marijuana, to become widely used throughout the US population.

In 1971, President Nixon brought the war on drugs into the limelight of American politics. With its widespread use, lack of "real scientific evidence," and the recent passing of the cigarette smoking act, a major push to decriminalize marijuana possession and use found its way into many state legislatures. In other words marijuana use was eventually deemed ok and the draconian policies were eventually overturned.

Since the 1970s, as a whole, the American population did not see any major issues with marijuana use and soon became indifferent to its existence, unless of course it negatively affected the family and/or relative.

The 1960s also ushered in a spin-off of the original hard drugs, the natural narcotics. The drug industry, both medical and illegal, started researching and manufacturing synthetic versions of the original narcotics and new narcotics.

While a lot of lip service has been given to new drug enforcement policies and a need for a compassionate approach to drug use" (Biden), little decisive action has been taken. In fact, Biden and his administration has almost totally ignored the drug crisis that his open border policies have created.

History has shown us that as with any prolonged war, people become disinterested in its events, "So what if another 100 soldiers were killed?"

History also tells us that if you tell the same lie repeatedly or consistently ignore a problem, people eventually will believe the lie or also ignore the problem.

Essentially we are a “detached/uninvolved/disinterested” people when it comes to individual personal events. However with large events, such as Hurricane Ian, we “rally around the flagpole.”

The adjectives used in the previous paragraph are synonyms for the word “apathetic.”

Apathy is about not doing what is needed to be done.

Apathy is about not doing what is needed to be done.

We tend to be apathetic to the plight of individuals unless it directly affects us. We see the overdosing of teens and young children as individuals rather than as a group event. Consequently, our general reaction is “I’m sorry for their loss, but ___?” Fill in the blank. If your answer does not include action, you are apathetic to the problem.

Fighting the Crisis

There are two fronts on which we can fight this crisis. However to be successful, both fronts have to be fought, and we **MUST** become hard-core about them. Going into the details of each front will make this commentary too long, thus only some highlights will be discussed.

The Legal/Law Enforcement Front

When it comes to illegal drugs, we need to recognize that there are three population groups involved – the user, the pusher, the supplier/manufacturer.

User

Compared to the past, in most states, the user may be charged with possession depending upon the amount of drug found on him/her (collectively him). However, most users are charged with breaking other laws associated with obtaining money for their drug habit. These laws are fairly well established, but many liberal prosecutors do not take the cases to court. In other words, the user is allowed back on the streets to continue their drug use and criminal activity.

Users should be taken to court for these other crimes they commit and serve an appropriate sentence. The sentence however needs to be constructive and not just

incarceration in a jail cell. For example, the convicted user can be sent to a “prison farm” where he toils the soil and receives appropriate counseling and other socially oriented education. If not a farm, the user can be sent to a prison which provides the needed counseling and at the same time working and living skills that can be applied when released from prison.

Pusher

The drug pusher, also called a dealer, should be held to a higher level of law breaking. They are driven by greed and by selling narcotics they fully understand that the narcotics can lead to overdose and death. Because the pusher does not care who he sells his drugs to there is no “malice aforethought,” therefore he should be charged with manslaughter or attempted manslaughter at the least when arrested.

Appropriate sentencing should be carried out. There needs to be specified sentencing guidelines. Also the law needs to require prosecutors to take these cases to court and vehemently prosecute the cases. If any prosecutor and/or judge take a liberal stance on pursuing the case or in sentencing, they should be charged with “aiding and abetting,” especially if the defendant is a repeat offender.

Supplier

The suppliers and manufacturers of these illegal narcotics also know the outcomes of those using their drugs. They supplying and/or manufacturing of the drugs is deliberate, premeditated and carried out with intent.

When a supplier/manufacturer is arrested the minimum charge should be “First-degree murder.” The sentence for the supplier/manufacturer should be death by injection.

States without the death penalty need to reintroduce it. Life imprisonment does nothing more than put additional costs on our society in which the prisoner has already cost families, communities, and government pain, suffering, and economic loss.

The actions of supplier/manufacturer act directly against the security of our nation and its people.

The outcome of the Nuremberg Trials sets the precedence for the above legal actions. From user to supplier, those involved have aggressively committed “Crimes Against Humanity.” Of the 11 specific crimes against humanity identified under international law, the following are applicable to pushers and suppliers:

- Murder.
- Extermination.

- Enslavement
- Sexual violence.
- Enforced disappearance of persons.
- Other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health

The Social Front

While there are many influential and positive social programs in prisons, we must also face social reforms that are beneficial to our society. These reforms do not include those that the socialists and leftists want to see happen.

Since the 1800s, there have been several reform movements in America. The three major movements of the 1800s were abolition, temperance and women's suffrage. Various aspects of these movements have transcended to the present day and are viewed as positive social and political influences on America.

There have also been movements that do not support American values. These movements, starting in the early 1900s, have been aimed at turning our nation into a "nanny state" where government controls the people instead of Americans having a government **"of the people, by the people, for the people,"** Abraham Lincoln.

In recent times we have seen the results of the leftist's movements for open borders, equality, defund the police, CRT, etc. All have a negative impact on America and its people.

To resolve the drug issues resulting from the leftist movements we need to also look at returning to the basic foundations of humanity through social reforms in:

- religion
- family
- education
- medicine

Religion

Our nation was founded on Judeo-Christian principles, values and ethics. We need to embrace our covenant with God, and follow his word, not those who distort the truth (false prophets) to serve their own purposes.

Our covenant is not relegated to "church" only but to every aspect of our lives. The false profits are attempting to destroy all areas of our lives. We have seen it in the

breakup of the family unit, the insidious education of our children, and the amoral direction that the medical field is taking. This was foretold to us in **2Peter 2:1**.

Family

A family is the basic unit of society. When families come together they form a community. Unfortunately not all families follow the Judeo-Christian teachings and the family unit falls apart. When this occurs, the family members form new communities, some of which have a positive effect on society, while others have a negative effect.

Family breakdown is usually thought of as the parents divorcing. However discord between parent(s) and children also cause breakdowns. When this happens the cause is usually some malignant community outside the family that is influencing the child.

That malignant community comes in various forms such as gangs, peer pressure, unscrupulous teachers, pedophiles and other criminals, and so forth.

Education

Education, primarily from K-12 but also including college, needs to return to the basics of reading, writing, arithmetic, and life skills. CRT and other social issues have no business in our K-12 curriculum or teaching. It also has no business in any college-level course unless those courses are specific to the social issue.

K-12 public schools need to incorporate the ethics and morals of Judeo-Christian teaching. If social issues are to be discussed, both sides of the issues need to be **equally** discussed without any teacher or administrator preferences/biases injected into the discussions or used for student evaluation.

Public schools need to **STOP** taking on the parenting role. While some students, especially from broken or disruptive homes, may need discipline or direction, the student may turn to the teacher for help. In such cases, the teacher should work in conjunction with councilors to help the student but not to try to influence the student by injecting negative social bias.

Medicine

The medical field is overwhelmingly controlled by too much government, insurance companies and pharmaceutical industry interference and influence. These entities control what hospitals and medical personnel can or cannot do.

For example, the government requires hospitals which receive Medicare or Medicaid payments to provide treatment to those who do not have health insurance. On the

surface this is not a bad idea. However, most hospitals are in the business of making money. Consequently costs are passed on to other patients, and medical staff are issues directives on what can/cannot be done for those without insurance.

Unfortunately medical personnel are also hampered by government regulations. Just like hospital corporations, doctors may have to perform operations such as abortions or transgender operations that are not in line with Judeo-Christian principles,

Insurance companies also place restrictions on hospitals and doctors. Many insurance companies require statements of justification as to why a particular medication is prescribed instead of some other newer or generic medication. The companies often require "preauthorization" for operations and at the same time issue limitations on how such operations are carried out.

Both government and the insurance companies require a lot of additional paperwork by the physician that was not required a decade ago. The consequences of these requirements is two-fold, both of which are detrimental to the patient.

- Doctors associated with a hospital now typically spend 15-20 with a patient. Also at the end of the day, they spend 2-3 hours completing the increased paperwork load.
- Many doctors are tired of all the paperwork and want to spend more time with their patients. As a result many of them are leaving the hospital environment and opting for concierge medical groups where they have more interaction with their patients.

The pharmaceutical industry is considerably more insidious than the government or insurance companies. There is little doubt about their greed for profit. As new drugs are produced, a large number of samples to given to physicians to give to their patients for free. The goal is for the doctor to prescribe these new drugs over older generic drugs or those of a competitor.

As the new drugs appear on the market, the drug companies often discard older drugs, especially those drugs whose patent have expired and are now considered generic. The problem with generic drugs is that the government does not require generic manufacturers to adhere to the strict manufacturing specifications of the original drug.

Needless to say that after reading the above there is a great need for a overhaul of the healthcare system at all levels.

The government's Food and Drug Administration needs to remove pharmaceutical and insurance industry representatives from the boards that review and approve medical procedures, devices, and drugs. The true interest of these representatives is profit and not the people. Additionally a more holistic approach needs to be taken toward treating people.

The cost of medications in the US generally far exceeds the costs of the same drug in other countries. From this perspective, the drug industry needs to be required to match the cost that they sell a drug for in other countries.

Since medications are a "staple" in the lives of many people, an interesting concept would be to treat pharmaceuticals as a commodity.

Regardless of whatever reforms are made in the medical field, all reforms should reflect the guiding principle of the Hippocratic Oath:

First do no harm.

NOTE: "In **1973**, the US Supreme Court rejected the oath as a guide to medical ethics and practice by stating that the oath is incapable of covering the latest developments and methods of medical practice and research." (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC648269>). Also note that **Roe v. Wade** was enacted January 22, 1973.

In Summary

To sum up this commentary, the drug crisis that plagues our nation can be resolved. But to do so requires Americans to stand against the cartels, the weak-kneed politicians, and the drug and pharmaceutical industries. We need to implement rational and ethical legislation without political party agendas, and secure our borders and economic freedom.

Foremost, our nation and its people need to restore the family unit, and oversee the education and socialization of our children. As a nation, we must return to the Judeo-Christian principles, teachings, and ethics that our nation was founded on.