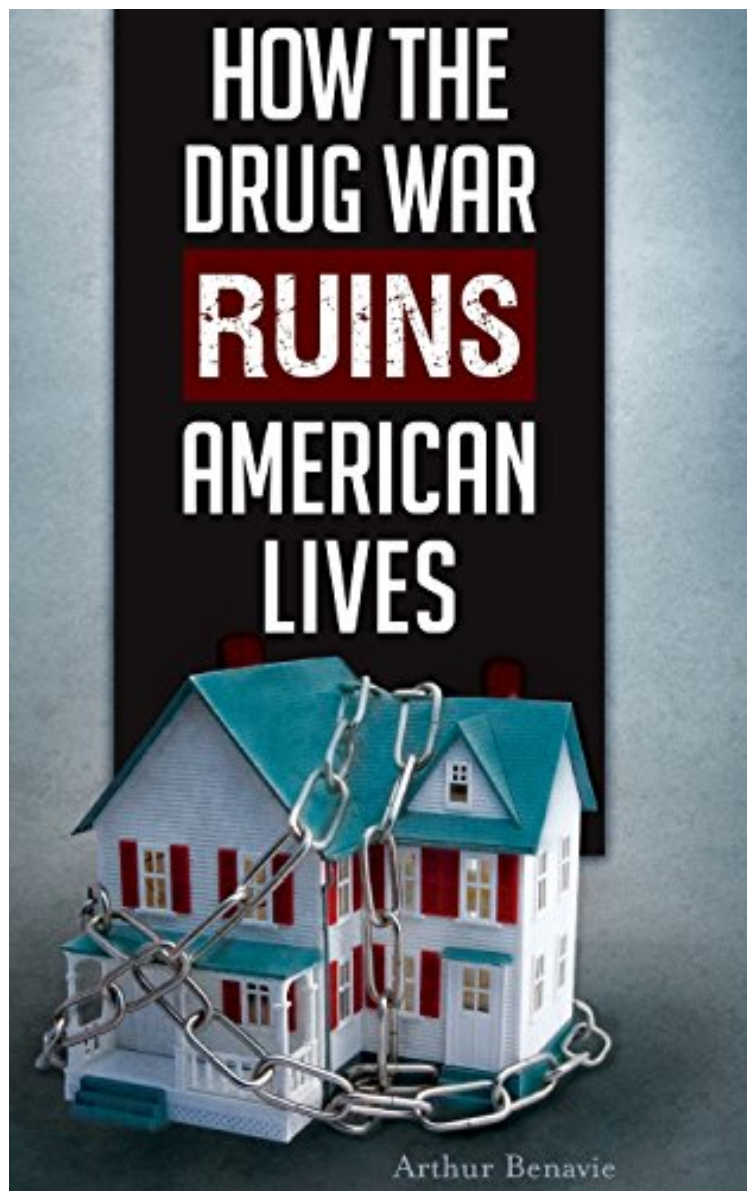


(Free read ebook) How the Drug War Ruins American Lives

## How the Drug War Ruins American Lives

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**Arthur Benavie Professor Emeritus : How the Drug War Ruins American Lives** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How the Drug War Ruins American Lives:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Review of How the Drug War Ruins American Lives, by Arthur Benavie By Stanley W. Black Many books have been written about the Drug War: how it has failed in its efforts to rid America of the ill effects of drug abuse; how drug users are entrapped in the criminal justice system; how violent drug

cartels and dealers profit from the illegality of drugs; racial disparities in punishment and effects on families; the distortions wrought in our criminal justice system. Arthur Benavie has provided an integrated picture of the interactions of all of these elements. Most importantly, he analyzes the profit incentives that pervert the behavior of the police, the courts, and the penal system into violations of the civil rights of innocent people as well as drug users, many of whom would be capable of rehabilitation with a treatment-based system. He does this with a thorough discussion of (1) civil forfeiture laws that take property for the benefit of the police without proof of a crime; (2) misuse of criminal informants who have an incentive to lie to reduce their sentences; (3) corruption of undercover police who mingle with drug dealers; (4) life-long penalties such as disenfranchisement and a criminal record that inhibits employment and housing prospects; (5) drug testing without probable cause; and a host of other distortions of the criminal justice system. The reader of this book will find a powerful indictment of the Drug War made real by individual case histories of mistaken identity leading to death, unduly harsh sentences, punishment of innocent relatives, and loss of property. Not least, he identifies the many groups and companies that profit from the continuation of the Drug War and are opposed to reform.

This book reveals the disturbing truth about how the escalation of the War on Drugs over the past 30 years has eroded the human and property rights of Americans while doing little to stop drug trafficking or use. Shows that the War on Drugs has failed to achieve the goals that were originally set. Argues that this war continues to erode human and property rights. Explores how the climate of the War on Drugs is changing. Discusses the powerful actors that support the continued drug war. Shares provocative accounts of the impact of the drug war on regular citizens. Includes links to further reading and video evidence.

"Summing Up: Recommended. All levels/libraries." - ChoiceTop Community College Resource, September 2016 - Choice "Professor Benavie has written a superb book that explains how a lethal mix of racism, misguided paternalism, and government rent-seeking empower the drug war and damage the liberty and property rights of all Americans." (Jeffrey Miron, Director of undergraduate studies in economics, Harvard University, and director of economic studies, Cato Institute) "Art Benavie's new book, *How the Drug War Ruins American Lives*, is comprehensive and persuasive. Benavie offers a scathing critique against the War on Drugs, putting a human face on the millions of Americans whose lives and civil rights have been forever diminished. This book is a must-read for anyone a student, policymaker, and citizen interested in rethinking current drug policies." (Joan Petersilia, Adelbert H. Sweet Professor of Law, Stanford Law School) "Thoroughly researched, lucidly written, and cogently argued, this excellent book is a must-read for anyone who still thinks the drug war may be justified. Professor Benavie demonstrates that the drug war is not only racist and corrupt, it needlessly destroys the lives of millions." (Steven B. Duke, Professor, Yale Law School and Coauthor, *America's Longest War: Rethinking Our Tragic Crusade Against Drugs*) "Professor Benavie skillfully demonstrates how America's War on Drugs has been a spectacular failure for some time, with mass incarceration, shattered communities, and cheap illicit drugs as its legacy. This 'War' has resulted in militarization of police departments that depend on traffic stops for much-needed revenue in an age of budget cuts. The impact of all this has fallen on disenfranchised minority communities and widens the racial and class divides among Americans. As we come to grips with the devastation the War on Drugs has left, Benavie provides a comprehensive and readable look at how we got here, what is happening now, and possible ways out. This is an important book for those who want to understand the reality behind today's law enforcement headlines." (Harold Carmel, MD, Consulting Professor of Psychiatry, Duke University) About the Author Arthur Benavie, PhD, is emeritus professor of economics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.