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Drugs in Afghanistan

Opium, Outlaws and Scorpion Tales
David Macdonald

Pluto Press, January 2007
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Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of opium and heroin. This book explores the devastating impact that the drugs trade has had on the Afghan people. Author David Macdonald has worked as a drugs advisor to the UN. Based on his extensive experience, this book breaks down the myths surrounding the cultivation and consumption of drugs, providing a detailed analysis of the history of drug use within the country. He examines the impact of over 25 years of continuous conflict, and shows how poverty and instability has led to an increase in drugs consumption. He also considers the recent rise in the use of pharmaceutical drugs, resulting in dangerous chemical cocktails and analyses the effect of Afghanistan's drug trade on neighbouring countries.

Praise

'Afghanistan is seen as a major drug producer, but its own people are becoming the victims. ... David Macdonald not only explores [the reasons for this] but also tells an addictive tale that is difficult to resist.' –Shirazuddin Siddiqi, BBC

'This stunning book provides a first hand account of the Afghan drug problem. David Macdonald has written the definitive text on drugs in Afghanistan.' –Professor Gerry Stimson, Executive Director, International Harm Reduction Association

'David Macdonald tells a story about the diversity of drug use in Afghanistan that no one has ever told before.' –Ethan Nadelmann, Executive Director, Drug Policy Alliance, New York

Biography

David Macdonald

David Macdonald is a sociologist who has specialised in drug control for over 20 years. Since 1999 he worked as the demand reduction advisor for the UN drugs control programme in Afghanistan with UNODC and also with the Ministry of Counter Narcotics in Kabul.

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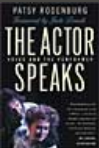
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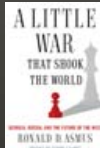
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