

MEDIA RELEASE

CONSUMING PLEASURES

Australia and the International Drug Business

JOHN RAINFORD

Rainford has researched the rise in both the legal and illegal drug trade across a broad spectrum and produced a fine and timely book that is as informative as it is a pleasure to read ... What shocks is the naked self-interest of great powers: the British in the Chinese Opium Wars of the mid-19th century; the CIA in South East Asia; the Russians in Afghanistan ... The book continually draws these global histories into an Australian context, and this is what makes it truly stand out. I can't recommend this book highly enough ...

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About the Book

Consuming Pleasures traces the international and Australian history of licit and illicit drug use. Using detailed research, John Rainford demonstrates that the very illicitness of drugs today increases their profitability.

He analyses the racist origins of drug laws in the Western World and the flow-on effect this has on international politics. Rainford contends that wars against communism, for instance, fuel the expansion of illicit drug industries and coincide with rising levels of heroin and cocaine use.

Consuming Pleasures is a thought-provoking history of individual drugs from their initial introduction as legal treatments to their gradual criminalisation by 20th century policy makers.

About the Author

John Rainford is a researcher and writer who has worked as a researcher for many years with the Australian union movement.

Key Media Points

- The most complete history of international and Australian licit and illicit drug industries and the links between the two.
- Controversial views on how the development of global free trade has affected international politics.



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| Pub. date: | February 2009 |
| ISBN: | 978 1 921361 43 2 |
| RRP: | \$29.95 |
| Genre: | General Non-fiction / Health |
| Format/ | Paperback |
| Extent: | B Format 400pp |

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