



Paradoxes of the Drug War & Paradoxes of the Holocaust

Christopher Stevens

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Paradoxes of the Drug War & Paradoxes of the Holocaust is in my humble estimation, the most innovative and original book ever written on the subject matter of the “war on drugs.” The subject matter of the “war on drugs” has attracted a considerable literature, including contemporary political writing, the social sciences, globalization studies, the publications of governments, international NGOs, and Irish rock stars. However, in my view, this voluminous literature largely re-hashes the same arguments year after year. My work does not. The following two papers, “Paradoxes of the Drug War,” and “Paradoxes of the Holocaust” are linked thematically though not substantively by the concept of paradox. I also have linked the two papers, one paper seemingly morally objectionable in its subject matter, and the other, morally upright, in part because of the contemporary moral indecisiveness – some might call it weakness – to confront with explicit frankness the failures of the “drug war.” (This includes one of the disturbing paradoxes dealt with in this book, namely, the increase in the size of the international drug market – at the same time – as the rise, spread, and diffusion of seemingly overwhelming and near ubiquitous surveillance, monitoring, and database technologies available to the world’s most powerful states). It is ultimately my view, however, that morally grappling with disturbing, questionable, and potentially transgressive subjects is more edifying – including in the classic sense of what used to be called “Bildung” – than the discussion and analysis of subjects widely recognized to be morally significant. It should be appreciated that when I use the concept of paradox in this book, I am simply using the familiar or everyday concept of paradox instead of more technical treatments of the concept given by academic philosophers. Contents Include: Early Modern Globalization: When Drug Wars Were Fought for Drugs How Drugs Differ from Other Vices & How this Contributes to the Failure of the Drug War The Drug War as a Means to Expand the International Criminal Economy The Paradox of the War On Drugs & The National Security State Note 1: A Brief Exegesis on the Sinful Passions of Humanity Note 2: Information Technology, Biotechnology, & the Nature of Drugs Note 3: Continuities and Discontinuities Between Social Technology, Physical Technology, & Biotechnology Note on “the Wave” Cover Art: Copyright © 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 by Christopher Porto. Artist James Koenig kindly responded to my request to make the basic image of the cover art. I thank James Koenig for his innovative work on the cover image. However, the concept of the design of the cover art is by Christopher Stevens (inspired by a famous Japanese print). The color highlighting is also by Christopher Stevens. Copyright © Christopher Porto.

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