

COGS 174

Drugs: Brain, Mind, Culture



A Brief History of Drugs



An overview of drug policy and use
in the United States from the
mid-1800s to the present

Unregulated Drug Use

(Dope fiend's paradise)

- Colonial residents relied on derivatives of natural substances (tobacco, alcohol, coffee, tea, opium, cocaine) to
 - Cure ailments
 - Increase sexual potency
 - Relieve pain
 - Provide pleasure
 - Have religious experiences
- “Patent medicines” available from mail order catalogs, pharmacies and grocery stores.

Altered State of the Union

(mid to late 1800s)

- Challenges to status quo
 - Immigration
 - Urbanization
 - Geographic dispersal
- Drugs associated with social ills and with foreigners
 - Smoking of opium by Chinese
 - Most drugs taken orally and therefore less addictive

Mid to late 1800s (cont.)

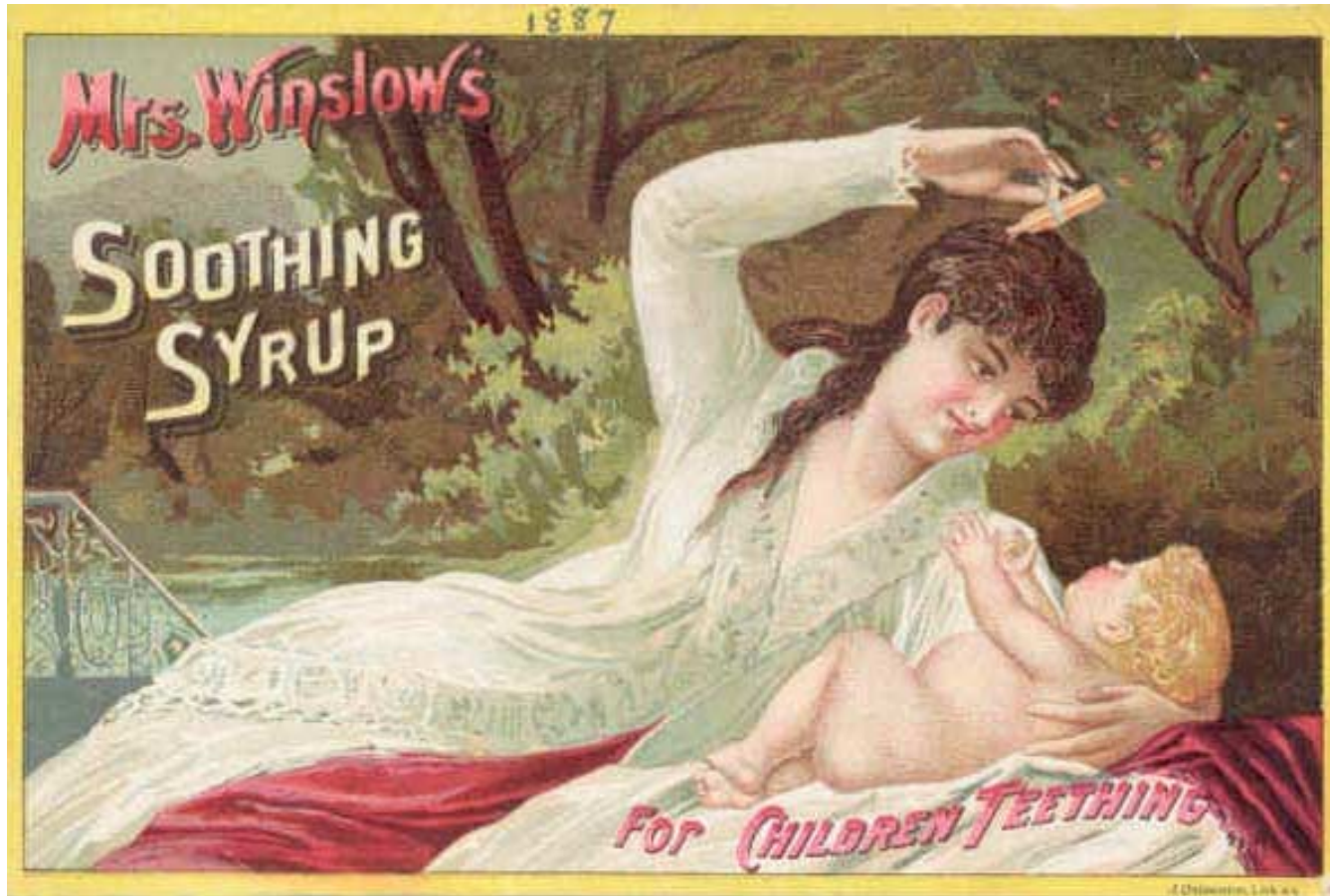
- Technological and chemical innovation change drug use dramatically
 - Hypodermic syringe invented (1853)
 - Alexander Wood and Charles Gabriel Pravaz
 - Cocaine isolated (1859) – used as stimulant and antidepressant,
 - Freud: early advocate (Uber Coca, 1884)
 - Opium > Morphine > Heroin (pain)
(1810) (1874)
 - Heroin used as a treatment for coughs and respiratory problems (pneumonia and tuberculosis)



Mid to late 1800s (cont.)

- Addiction poorly understood
 - morphine used for alcohol addiction
 - cocaine used for morphine addiction
 - Recommendation from Freud's "Uber Coca" 1884; a "magical drug" and effective for morphine addiction
- No regulation of over-the-counter drugs (OTCs)
 - Products used cocaine, opium, etc. without labeling, standards, purity/efficacy tests

Opium (65 mg per fluid oz)



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1863 Coca wine - cocaethylene

Coca-Cola

John Pemberton (1886)

Improved on Mariani formula by adding Kola nut (flavoring) and damiana (an aphrodisiac); later removed alcohol and added citric acid; cocaine replaced in 1903 with caffeine.



Mid to late 1800s (cont.)

- Temperance Movement (1820s – 1930s)
 - Equivalent to abortion rights movement today
 - Reform-mindedness, tinged with moralistic evangelism, and racism
 - Placed responsibility on individual action
 - Focused on the prohibition of alcohol consumption (alcohol not yet considered a drug)
- Repeated attempts at prohibition and control
 - Public sale of liquor prohibited in NY state (1845, repealed 1847)
 - First laws against opium-smoking (1870s)
 - no laws against opium drinking (therefore, more anti-Chinese)
 - Prohibition Party formed (1869)

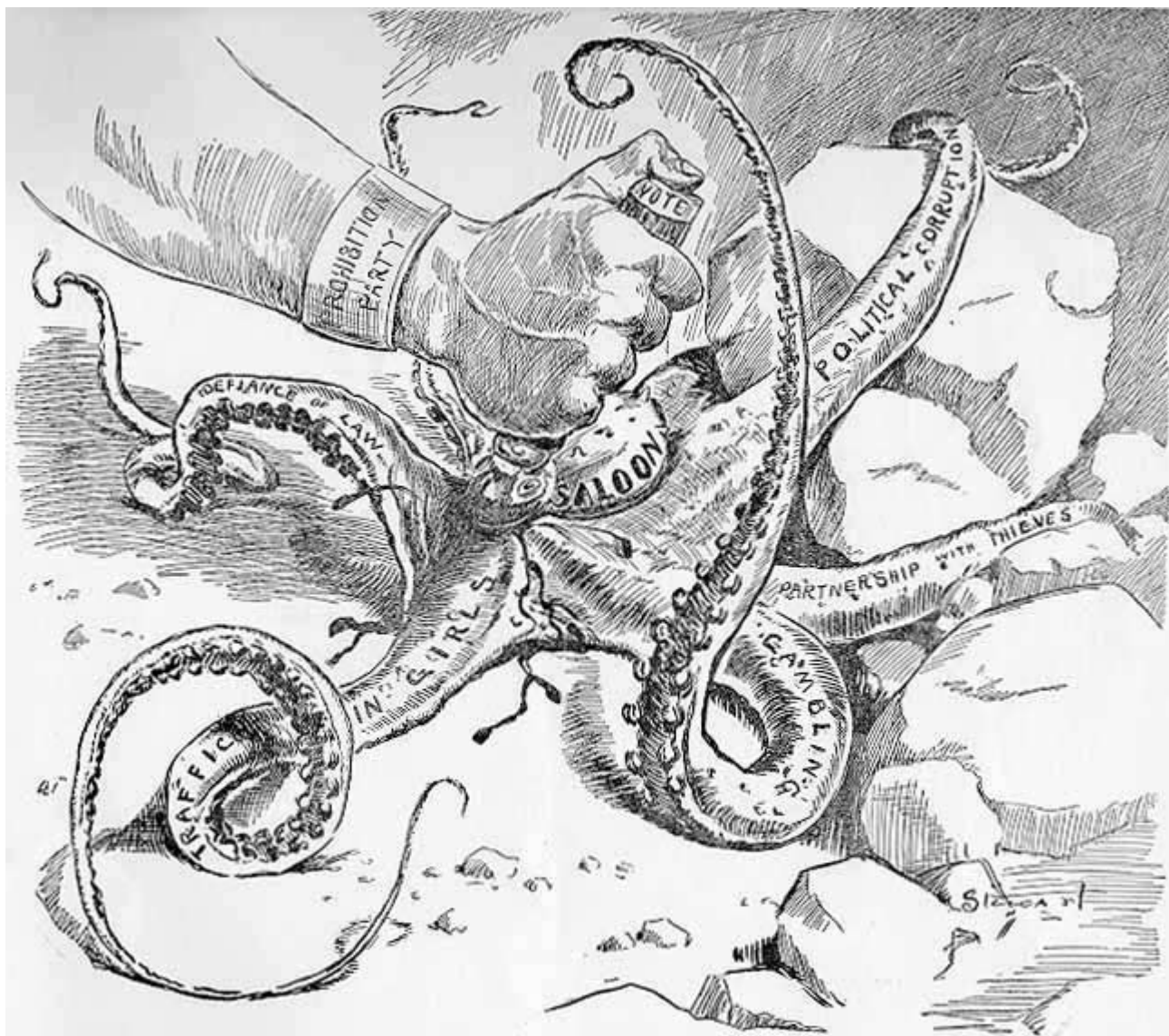
End of Temperance Movement

- The temperance movement crested when:
 - 18th Amendment to the Constitution (Prohibition, 1919-33) was passed and ratified.
 - The failure of Prohibition (repealed by the 21st Amendment to the Constitution in 1933) sealed the movement's fate as it lost steam.



PERFECTLY NEUTRAL

The Saloon Wolf: "No matter which wins, my dinner is safe."



The Modern Devil Fish

"The tentacles of the Devil Fish cannot be destroyed unless the HEAD, the source of their sustaining power, is destroyed."—Victor Hugo's "Toilers of the Sea."

Drug Reforms of the Early 1900s

- Local/state laws ineffective
- Punitive vs medical approaches
 - Attempts at medical treatment at local level
- Federal government had no applicable police or health powers
 - Fed starts using power of taxation, regulation of interstate commerce, and importation
- Slowly Fed govt. acquires more power over states

Early 1900s (cont.)

- Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)
- Smoking Opium Exclusion Act (1909)
 - Did not regulate opium-based "medications". First Federal law banning the non-medical use of a substance.
- Harrison Act (1914)
 - regulated and taxed the production, importation, and distribution of opiates
- Jim Fuy Moy decision (1916)
 - Congress enacted a federal drug law designed to make criminal the possession of drugs like opium
 - However, Supreme court ruled that that Congress did not have power to make penal mere possession of drugs within the states
- Maintenance Clinics (1912-1925)



Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)

- T. Roosevelt and Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle"
- Created the Food and Drug Administration
 - To test all foods and drugs for human consumption
- Prohibited certain drugs from being sold over the counter (required prescription)
- Required warnings on labels about "habit forming" effects

Early 1900s (cont.)



- Narcotics Division of Treasury Dept. (1919)
 - Moved to Justice Dept in 1960s
- Alcohol Prohibition (1920-1933)
 - created undesirable social changes
- Federal Narcotics Farms (1929)
 - NIMH and NIDA

Early 1900s (cont.)

- Federal Bureau of Narcotics (1930)
 - Harry Anslinger – first commissioner
 - Consolidated narcotics divisions within Treasury Dept
 - lobbied for harsh penalties for drug usage
 - FBN → BNDD → DEA
- Marijuana Scare (1930-1937)
 - Marijuana Tax Act (1937)
- Drug use lowers during WWII (1939-1945)

