

EIRFeature

The U.S. can't afford another Bush 'dope decade'

by Jeffrey Steinberg

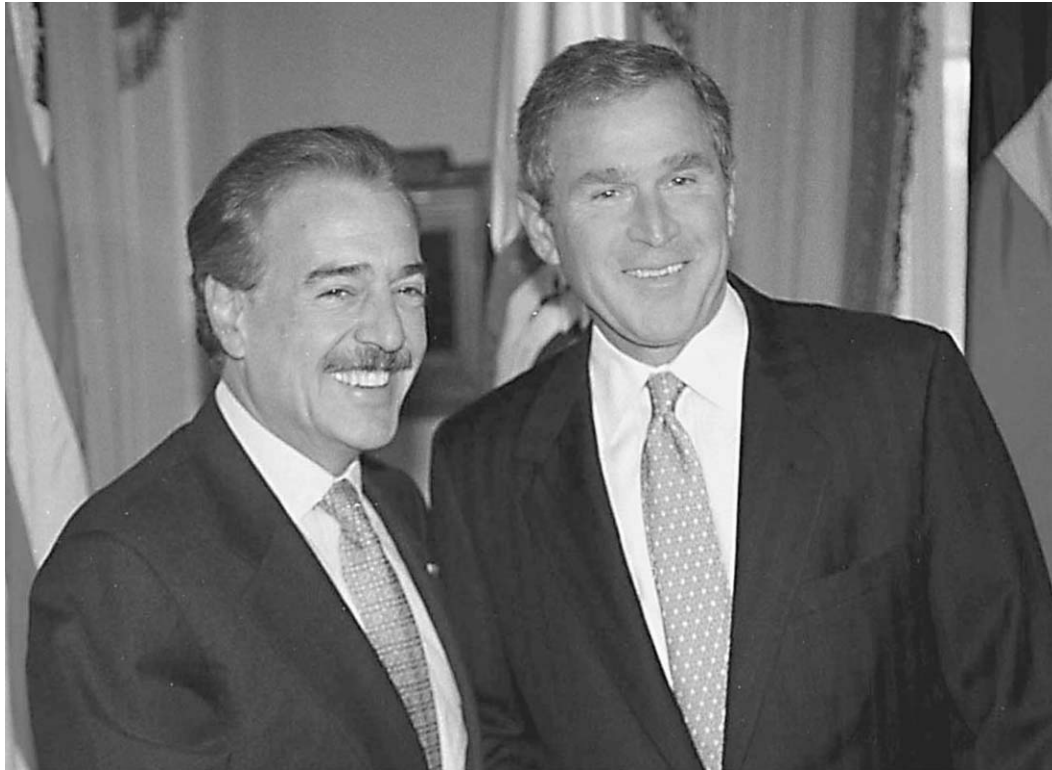
Before you pull any voting booth levers for George W. Bush, the Governor of Texas, and the current front-runner for the year 2000 Republican Party Presidential nomination, turn your mental clock back a decade or so, and recollect the legacy of the last Bush to occupy the Oval Office. While it was George Herbert Walker Bush's "new world order," and his failure to notice that "it's the economy, stupid," that led, most immediately, to his defeat for reelection in 1992, he also presided, personally, over the biggest explosion of illegal drug abuse in American history. When voters saw the opportunity in November 1992, to remove the stench of Iran-Contra from the Oval Office, they jumped at the chance.

For former Trilateral Commissioner Bush, the flooding of the United States with cocaine and heroin "on his watch," as Vice President and President, was perhaps rationalized in his own mind as an unfortunate instance of "collateral damage," or a "necessary evil," flowing from his more primary geopolitical mission: to usher in the post-nation-state "one world order," first spelled out in the mid-1970s Trilateral Commission studies of Samuel Huntington and Zbigniew Brzezinski, and first unleashed by the 1977-81 "all Trilat" Jimmy Carter administration.

Such apologies about "unintended consequences" aside, the facts speak for themselves: George H.W. Bush was the drug kingpin of the 1980s; he wittingly presided over the biggest explosion of cocaine and heroin abuse in recorded history.

- His agents and allies assassinated leading anti-drug figures, such as Colombia's Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, Colombian Presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galán, and even U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officer Enrique Camarena.

- He, and such White House underlings as Lt. Col. Oliver North, waged a campaign of harassment, intimidation, and cover-up against anyone who attempted to expose their powder-covered hands.



George W. Bush (right) welcomes Colombian President Andres Pastrana to Austin, Texas, Oct. 19, 1999. During the 1980s, deals between Bush's father and the Colombian drug cartels opened up the market for cocaine in the United States; today, Pastrana is surrendering enormous chunks of his nation to control by the narco-terrorists, with the approval of Madeleine Albright's State Department.

Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate and *EIR* contributing editor Lyndon LaRouche was the target of a deadly-force assault by Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, backed up by Pentagon sniper units, in October 1986, in part, as a Bush machine response to his and *EIR*'s persistent exposés of the Bush/North/Contra cocaine-for-guns operations. When the “judicial” assassination failed, LaRouche was hounded into jail, along with a dozen colleagues, in what former Attorney General Ramsey Clark described as the most egregious case of judicial frame-up he had ever encountered.

Similarly, Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega was the target of a full-scale military invasion of his country, when he balked at the Bush apparatus's demands that Panama be turned into a safe-haven for the cocaine Contras. In the aftermath of Noriega's “arrest,” Panama was turned over, lock, stock, and bank vault, to the Cali Cartel—under Bush administration supervision.

Furthermore, the invasion of Panama was heralded as the precedent-setting case for a new doctrine of extra-territorial enforcement of American law, the “Thornburgh Doctrine,” as senior officials in the Justice Department (DOJ) were nailed for cocaine trafficking, and one former Justice Department officer “crossed the street” to join the Cali and Medellín cartels. Bush labelled the Panama invasion as a “victory in the war on drugs,” as the drug legalization lobby cackled with glee, and launched their drive to decriminalize marijuana and

cocaine, on the grounds that anything was better than the phony drug war.

- While the Central America cocaine-Contra wars of the 1980s were the subject of numerous Congressional hearings, a Presidential blue-ribbon investigation, and massive media scrutiny, the other “covert war” of the 1980s, the Afghanistan War, saw the “Golden Crescent” region of South Asia (Afghanistan, Pakistan) transformed into the world's biggest opium plantation and heroin laboratory.

The “Afghansi” mujahideen fighters were more reliant on the proceeds of the illegal opium and heroin trade for their military supplies than were the Central American Contras. When the Soviet Red Army fled Afghanistan in 1989, the tens of thousands of Islamic “freedom fighters” who had been brought to Afghanistan from every corner of the world, were left “out in the cold,” to be later recruited into the core of a new international narco-terrorism, which persists to this day as a grave threat to the national security of a majority of nations on this planet.

No voter can consider himself qualified to judge the merits of President Bush's son and protégé, George “Dubya,” without first reviewing the elder Bush's “Dope Dossier.”

What you read in this report, will make the ongoing “did he or didn't he” media debate over whether Governor Bush was busted for cocaine possession in 1972, appear irrelevant. The “sins of the father” far outweigh Dubya's alleged personal drug abuse.

The chain of command

From virtually the moment that he was sworn in as President Ronald Reagan's Vice President in January 1981, George Bush was formally placed in charge of the covert operations of the administration. During the eight years of the Reagan-Bush administration, Bush amassed near-dictatorial control over anti-drug policy, anti-terrorism policy, and every facet of clandestine activities, by what became notorious as the "secret parallel government."

This authority was codified in a series of Executive Orders and National Security Decision Directives, all signed by President Ronald Reagan. Bush headed the little-known Special Situations Group (SSG), and its subsidiary Crisis Pre-Planning Group (CPPG), both White House working groups that maintained finger-tip control over such programs as the Contra "secret war" in Central America, the arms-for-hostages negotiations with the Ayatollahs in Tehran, and the other "Project Democracy" covert wars in Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Particularly after Congressional passage of the two Boland amendments, which barred the Central Intelligence Agency from direct involvement in the covert war to overthrow the Sandanista regime in Managua, Nicaragua, the White House "Enterprise" became the focal point for all administration operations in Central America—including the guns-for-drugs programs in El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Mexico.

Conveniently, in his capacity as Reagan administration "drug czar," Vice President Bush was also in charge of the El Paso Intelligence Center, the primary intelligence outpost for tracking drug-transporting planes, boats, and trucks attempting to enter the southern United States from Mexico, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean.

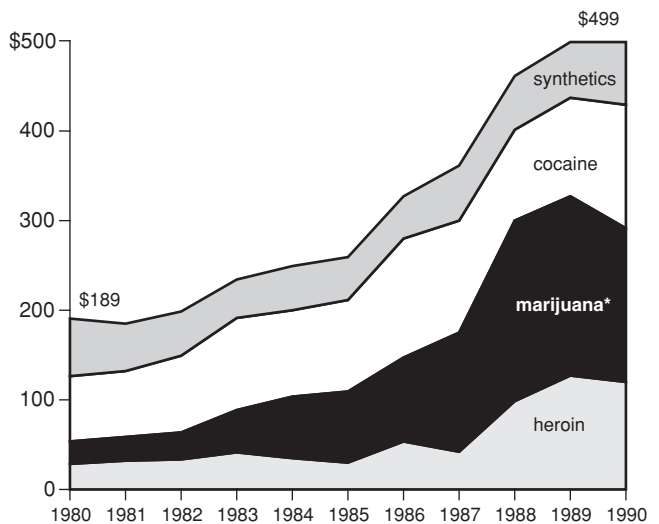
When the *San Jose Mercury* published a three-part series on Aug. 18-20, 1996, charging that the Nicaraguan Contras had been at the center of a drug-trafficking ring, flooding the streets of Southern California with crack cocaine to finance their war in Central America, the scandal erroneously focused on the CIA, leaving the Bush-North White House, the command of the operation, out of the picture. To correct that error, in September 1996, *EIR* published a 116-page documentary *Special Report*, "Would a President Bob Dole Prosecute Drug Super-Kingpin George Bush?" The report drew heavily upon official documents—Congressional investigations, court proceedings, sworn affidavits, and eyewitness accounts—which painted an unambiguous picture that it was indeed a White House command structure, led by George Bush, that had presided over the crack-cocaine epidemic, as well as other drug debacles.

Several years after the initial *San Jose Mercury* revelations, both the Department of Justice and the CIA issued inspectors general reports, corroborating key features of the *Mercury* and *EIR* dossiers, and providing even more damning evidence.

FIGURE 1

Total value of world drug sales

(billions \$)



*including hashish

Sources: NNICC; INCSR; DEA; UN; OFECOD, Peru; PGR, Mexico; ANF, Pakistan; NALA; Abt Associates; NORML; *EIR*.

The dope decade body count

The report that follows provides you with all of the raw material you need to reach your own conclusions about George H.W. Bush's complicity in the "dope decade." Two figures give a good indication of what that decade looked like.

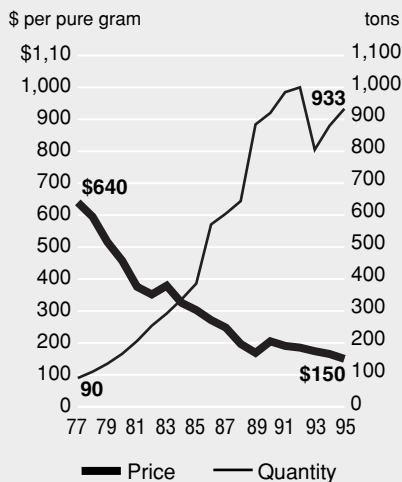
Figure 1 shows the growth of the worldwide illegal drug trade during the 1980s. In the four categories covered—heroin, marijuana, cocaine, and synthetic drugs—the decade saw a meteoric rise in drug production and consumption, as measured in dollars of sales. In 1980, worldwide illegal drug sales totalled \$189 billion. By 1990, the figure had soared to \$500 billion—a more than twofold jump during the Bush decade.

One further "multiplier effect" must be factored in, however, to fully appreciate the degree to which the streets of America were flooded with drugs during the 1980s. As the volume of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and "designer drugs" produced by the cartels was skyrocketing, Dope, Inc.'s marketers were systematically driving down the prices of their products—to achieve a saturation effect. Thus, the 200% rise in cash-flow to Dope, Inc. represented a *far more than 200% rise* in the volume of illegal drugs arriving on the streets of the United States.

To appreciate the scale of this "multiplier effect," **Figure 2** shows the decline in price per gram of pure cocaine, and the resulting increase in volume during the 1980s.

FIGURE 2

Cocaine: world price vs. quantity produced



Sources: NNICC; UN; OFECOD, Peru; Abt Associates; EIR.

Here is where the crack-cocaine antics of Bush's Contras come in. Beginning in approximately the autumn of 1985, crack flooded the streets of a dozen blighted inner cities, from New York to Chicago to Atlanta to Los Angeles. Prior to the crack explosion, cocaine had been prohibitively expensive for large-scale ghetto consumption. But, through the deals between Bush and

the Colombian cartels, a new market for cheap, plentiful cocaine was opened up in urban America.

With crack-cocaine, came the new urban terrorism—gangs like the Los Angeles “Crips” and “Bloods,” which were hard-wired into the gun-and-drug networks of Bush's Contras. The body count from Central America to South Central Los Angeles from the crack epidemic, is yet to be tallied.

Bush's banker friends

By 1990, the total value of world illegal drug sales had reached \$500 billion a year. An estimated equal amount of illegal weapons sales—often part of the same guns-for-drugs pipeline—was also being conducted by the end of the decade of Bush's “Project Democracy” secret wars. All told, a trillion dollars a year in criminal proceeds resulted from the sales of guns and drugs.

To facilitate the smooth operation of Dope, Inc. it was essential that the major international commercial banks open their doors to the drug traffickers; and here, once again, we find the trail leading directly to Bush's door.

On Feb. 7, 1985, the U.S. Attorney in Boston, Massachusetts, William Weld, a Bush family friend and Bush appointee, announced that he had closed down the investigation and blocked prosecution of bank officers caught in a case of criminal money laundering between Boston and Switzerland, totaling \$1.2 billion in illegal cash transactions. Two of the primary banks involved in the pipeline were Bank of Boston and Crédit Suisse. A senior Treasury Department official said of the case: “There is every indication that the \$600 million of small bills that the [Bank of Boston] took in was the laundering of drug money.”

In all, 1,163 separate felony counts were committed by officials in the bank's international department. In announcing the shutdown of the case, Weld told the press that the bank had pleaded to a one-count conviction, and agreed to pay a \$500,000 fine. No bank officer was named in the indictment. It was a shameless cover-up of one of the most blatant cases of money laundering uncovered at that time, and it set a precedent for “see-no-evil” treatment of America's big banks by the Department of Justice. Weld was rewarded with a promotion, to head of the DOJ's Criminal Division in Washington.

It later emerged, through EIR's own investigation into the case, that the head of the international department of the Bank of Boston at the time of the \$1.2 billion in money laundering was Ogden White, Jr., a cousin of Weld, whose family was also in partnership with the Weld clan in the New York-Boston “family banking concern” of White Weld. White Weld, in turn, had merged, in 1974, with G.H. Walker and Co., owned by Bush's uncle and financial patron George Herbert Walker. The White Weld Walker amalgam had, at the time of the Bank of Boston case, also merged its London and Swiss operations with Crédit Suisse, the premier drug-money-laundering institution of the day, and the domicile for the Bush-North “Enterprise” offshore bank accounts.

By the end of George H.W. Bush's dope decade, American Express Shearson Lehman Bank, Merrill Lynch, and the Bush family-allied E.F. Hutton, had all been caught laundering drug money for the various international narcotics cartels. And, as in the precedent-setting Bank of Boston case, in each instance, the bankers walked.

The Bush legacy today

During the Bush Presidency, the Berlin Wall came down, the Soviet Union collapsed, and the nations of the former Warsaw Pact were formally integrated into the global economy. The results, from the standpoint of the drug plague, have been staggering. By 1995, according to EIR's best estimates, the worldwide drug trade was generating \$521 billion a year in revenue (see “Britain's Dope, Inc. Grows To a \$521 Billion Business,” EIR, July 26, 1996). And the biggest “growth spots” on the world drug map were Russia and eastern Europe.

In Southwest Asia, after a decade-long war in Afghanistan, heroin addiction, once a minor problem, had become an epidemic. Opium production in the “Golden Crescent” and the “Golden Triangle” was earmarked for the burgeoning eastern and western European markets, and for the expanding drug-addict population in Pakistan, India, and other production and transshipment countries. To fill the production shortfalls, the Colombian cartels began producing opium inside Colombia, for processing into heroin for the growing U.S. market.

This is the legacy of the George H.W. Bush dope decade. Do you want another Bush in the White House?