

survey of US agricultural history from 1860–1960 that could serve researchers working in other fields.

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*Home Grown: Marijuana and the Origins of Mexico's War on Drugs.* By Isaac Campos. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2012. 331 pp., \$39.50, hardback, ISBN 978-0-8078-3538-8.

Isaac Campos has both recast the traditional narrative of the US drug war and introduced a fascinating new approach to drug history in his book *Home Grown*. With evidence from newspaper articles, serial novels, laws, pharmacopeia, and other archival sources, Campos argues that the roots of America's drug war stretch back to a marijuana folklore that first developed in Mexico. *Cannabis* had arrived in the New World in the early sixteenth century as a crop coveted for its fiber. By the late nineteenth century, Campos argues that the plant's use as a drug had become widespread among the lower classes in Mexico City and was particularly concentrated in prisons and soldiers' barracks. Campos contends that marijuana use by soldiers, criminals, and other undesirables led elite and middle-class Mexicans to see the drug as the cause of violent brawls and racial degeneration. It was this folklore that caused the Mexican government to outlaw the drug in 1920.

Drawing on botanical and pharmaceutical studies of *Cannabis*, Campos argues that many cases of supposed madness can be explained by the concept of "set" and "setting"; that is, the characteristics of the user and the cultural context of the use have just as much to do with a drug's effects as the properties of the drug itself (23–38). For example, a prisoner may have smoked marijuana in the stressful environment of a Mexican prison and then acted aggressively in response to paranoia, one of the drug's "well known" effects (180).

While the set/setting theory allows Campos to make such a compelling claim, it also allows for his claims to be disputed. While Campos seems to accept that marijuana played some role in inducing violent behavior, it is possible that a person naturally prone to violent behavior would react aggressively in a stressful environment, with or without the influence of a drug. Such a rational explanation would surely not interest the sensationalist media at the time, but if the accused was smoking marijuana, the story would hold greater

appeal. Campos is also hesitant to acknowledge that in many of these cases, violence is more likely attributed to overindulgence in alcohol, a much stronger drug. These are not the only misleading claims in the book; Campos also incorrectly identifies the marijuana-yielding *Cannabis* species as *Cannabis sativa*, when it is actually *Cannabis indica*.

These are minor quibbles with a book that deals excellently with a small and problematic source base. Campos's attempts to explain sensational reports of *Cannabis* use are unprecedented, and his book is an asset to a starving historiography on the plant. The accessible and compelling *Home Grown* provides crucial context to the early history of marijuana in the United States. Moreover, Campos's argument for the end of marijuana prohibition in Mexico shows how an even-handed exploration of a drug plant's past can provide critical insight into its place in present societies.

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*Henry Ford's War on Jews and the Legal Battle against Hate Speech.* By Victoria Saker Woeste. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2012. 424 pp., \$55.00, hardback, ISBN 978-0-80477-234-1.

If some political alliances make strange bedfellows then it should come as no surprise that public policies are often born bastards. For unlikely alliances are easily abandoned when they do not reflect the convictions of all of the parties involved. Attorney Louis Marshall might have fared better if he had understood his alliance with Henry Ford in this way. After all, Ford readily abandoned their relationship when it became convenient for him to do so, but not before Marshall had successfully extricated him from Aaron Sapiro's libel lawsuit, which stemmed from the publication of anti-Semitic articles identifying Sapiro as a "Jew conspirator" against American farmers. Since the articles were published in Ford's newspaper he was ultimately responsible for their content and therefore the subject of Sapiro's lawsuit.

Victoria Saker Woeste's *Henry Ford's War on Jews* offers an excellent account of the events that led to the Marshall-Ford alliance and how those events affected American libel law. As Woeste explains it, the Marshall-Ford alliance was precipitated by a series of events—Sapiro's success at developing farming cooperatives, Ford's purchase of the Dearborn *Independent*, Ford's desire to direct American farming away from cooperatives, Ford's publication of anti-