



Cocaine Politics: Drugs, Armies, and the CIA in Central America, Updated Edition

By Peter Dale Scott, Jonathan Marshall

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When the *San Jose Mercury News* ran a controversial series of stories in 1996 on the relationship between the CIA, the Contras, and crack, they reignited the issue of the intelligence agency's connections to drug trafficking, initially brought to light during the Vietnam War and then again by the Iran-Contra affair. Broad in scope and extensively documented, *Cocaine Politics* shows that under the cover of national security and covert operations, the U.S. government has repeatedly collaborated with and protected major international drug traffickers. A new preface discusses developments of the last six years, including the *Mercury News* stories and the public reaction they provoked.

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- Sales Rank: #915137 in Books
- Published on: 1998-04-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .88" w x 6.00" l, .90 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 279 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This important, explosive report charges that the U.S. "war on drugs" is largely a sham and calls for immediate political action to end Washington's complicity with drug networks.

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From Library Journal

Coauthor Marshall's recent Drug Wars (LJ 2/15/91) shows how Washington overlooks or supports drug trafficking as part of its efforts to thwart Third World communism around the world. This new book explores in detail the tangled connection between the Nicaraguan Contras, U.S. support for them, and drugs. Marshall and Scott argue that the United States might actually have furthered the flow of cocaine from Central America to the States by colluding with anti-Sandinista forces. Government intimidation of witnesses, a complacent Congress, and timid media have served to keep this a quiet story. Extensive interviews, government records, and secondary sources (enough, in fact, to produce over 60 pages of cited sources), are used to document in great detail how the war on communism took precedence over the war on drugs. An authoritiative account of a crucial but underpublicized issue.

- *Cathy Seitz Whit aker, Univ. of Pittsburgh Lib.*

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Review

"This important, explosive report forcefully argues that the 'war on drugs' is largely a sham, as the U.S. government is one of the world's largest drug pushers."--"Publishers Weekly

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Jaime Friend:

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