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Summaries in English

Ted Goldberg: Some questions raised by Swedish narcotic policy.

(Några frågor föranledda av den svenska narkotikapolitiken).

The "Swedish narcotics policy model" has been widely acclaimed – at least in Sweden. This article examines the extent to which the evidence lends support to the enthusiasm.

Some of the major questions raised are:

1. Is it reasonable to have "a narcotics free Sweden" as the primary goal?
2. Is there indeed a "Swedish narcotics policy model" at all? That is, does Swedish narcotics policy differ sufficiently from other nations' narcotics policies to merit such a title, and has Swedish narcotics policy, as it has been put into practice over the years, been relatively consistent with its proclaimed principles?
3. Has Swedish narcotics policy lead to a decline in narcotics abuse in the country?
4. Do defenders of Swedish narcotics policy have a naive belief in the ability of narcotics policy to solve "the drug problem"?
5. Do we have good reason to believe that the different kinds of movements to legalize narcotics to be found throughout the industrialized world will be established in Sweden in the not too distant future?

It is argued that the first three questions should be answered no, and the last two yes. Furthermore the point of view is taken that neither current Swedish narcotics policy nor legalization are reasonable methods of dealing with the consumption of narcotic drugs in Sweden. A third (and maybe fourth and fifth) alternative must be developed; although none is suggested. However, some elements of a new theoretical understanding upon which alternative can be based are suggested.

Hans Boger: "Drug-Policy and Morals".

The essay (Narkotikapolitikk og moral) is based on biographical information about some famous writers who used drugs at a time when drugs were easily bought legally and to a low price. Psychological sufferings seem to have caused these writers' use of drugs. They had much better relations with "respectable" members of society than the typical contemporary drug-users have, and their use of drugs did not cause them to commit crimes. In addition they preserved enough of their creative power to write masterworks in spite of their use of drugs.

The contemporary "war against non-medical use and sale of drugs" has caused very high prices for illegally sold drugs. To be able to buy drugs some addicts have become prostitutes, while many others commit thefts and robberies for the same reason.

These facts taken into consideration, the contemporary anti-drugs-policy is compared with the implications of the basic principles in some philosophers' ethical theories and the basic principle in Christian ethics.

Peter Garde: "New French Penal Code" (Ny fransk straffelov).

Napoleon's Penal Code of 1810 has in 1994 been entirely replaced by a new code, which – apart from changes of form and language – introduces a number of new rules, e.g. corporate penal responsibility. In the part of the Code concerning crimes against the nation, the state and the general peace, the legislator has attempted to counter new dangers by means of new rules. "Terrorism" is now covered by a section of its own, and the concepts of "espionage" and "sabotage" have been enlarged. In other parts of the Code, especially concerning property crimes, the general impression is one of continuity. For example, the old rule is retained, according to which property crimes within the family cannot be punished.