



CRIME DRUGS NATION OBAMA

Ending the War On Drugs

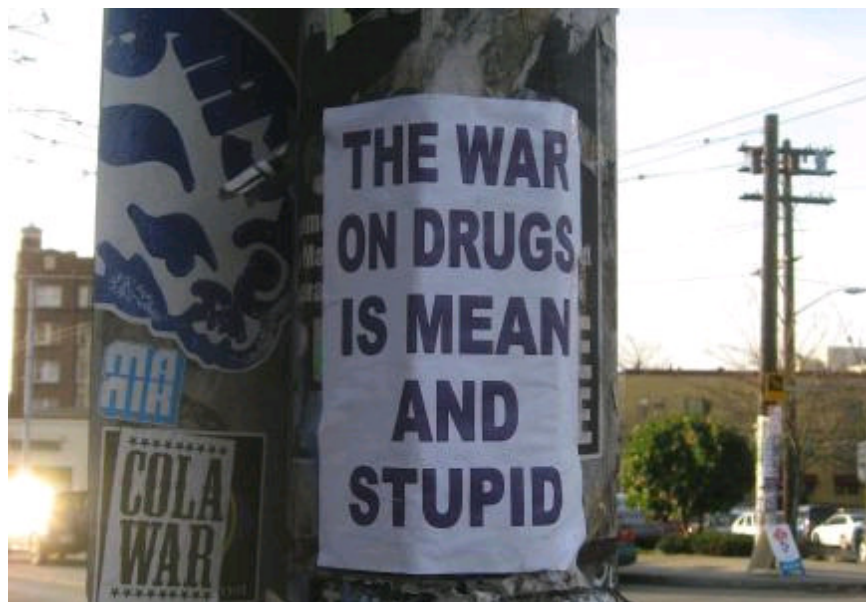
Other countries have experimented with decriminalizing some drugs. Would that work for the U.S.?

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FRIDAY, MAY 15 2009

President Nixon coined the term "war on drugs" in 1969, and began fighting the problem of drug use with arrests and prison time. Since then every administration has more or less done the same. In what may be a major shift, though, the Obama administration's new drug czar, Gil Kerlikowske, says he wants to get rid of the term "war on drugs" altogether, and focus more on treatment instead. To discuss the implications of this possible policy shift is Glenn Greenwald, a columnist for [Salon.com](#) and he just wrote a [Cato Institute](#)-funded study, [Drug Decriminalization in Portugal: Lessons for Creating Fair and Successful Drug Policies](#), published last month.



Many view the War on Drugs as a failure, but few mainstream politicians were willing to re-think the nation's drug policies, until now. (Flickr user freedryk (cc: by-nc-sa))

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