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DOPE IS DEATH

By Amilcar Shabazz



"Dope is Death!" There's no simple or more explicit way to put it than that. Taken to the national and international levels We see that Dope is one of the most important geopolitical issues of our times. It is so precisely because under the tyranny of the Amerikkkan empire, the pivotal center of the capitalist system, Dope is a key weapon of genocide—the murder or destruction of a people in whole or in part.

Fact -1: "Crack," the street name of the latest popular form of death, contributes to the destruction "in whole or in part" of the New Afrikan (Black) nation. Walk the streets of Harlem, scope out the Bottom in Atlanta or Watts in L.A., Detroit, Houston, Philadelphia,—you name the spot where the color line is drawn and right there you will find highly concentrated, extensive drug activity. The reason is simple—sombdoy wants to kill off those people, as it's been said already, **Dope is Death!**

Death...young brothers and sisters in the prime of life dying of "heart attacks." Death in the form of a young teenage boy or girl killing his or her mother while cracked up out of control. Death in the form of control of the mind, the will and the very soul of the victim of dope.

There isn't a disease known to science as terrible as dope. What disease afflicts its victim in such away that all the person wants to do is to continue to get infected by the disease over and over again, getting sicker and sicker unto death? If such a disease exists Dope would still be worse, because under the laws of capitalism the working class victim of dope is treated like a criminal, and suffers all the cruel brutality of the Amerikkkan injustice system, rather than effective clinical treatment, as well as being guided towards individual healthiness and social transformation.

Fact -2: No drug rehabilitation program will ever guarantee complete success as long as a serious revolutionary change in the world does not take place.

IF YOU DON'T CARE—WHO WILL?



**BECOME INVOLVED IN THE
WELFARE OF THE BLACK
COMMUNITY.**

**GET INVOLVED!
GET INVOLVED!
GET INVOLVED!**

Not the kind of bullshit changes Reagan or New York Governor Mario Cuomo and other politricking con-artists pose by "toughening" the system's laws and increased prosecution of the petty street peddler, or the drug victim. Nor with their pre-dawn raids on crack houses or cocaine jungles in Colombia or elsewhere. That isn't change. That has nothing to do with positive revolutionary change. Even where these measures bring about a temporary drop in drug activity, they still play no positive part in the overall elimination of drug abuse and victimization. Such actions are done on occasion to satisfy public pressure or concern, making it look like the U.S. government is really fighting Dope. It is also done sometimes because a specific drug dealer—whether a kingpin in the wholesale market or a teenage distributor in the retail market—has gotten a little too greedy and they have to be shown who's really running the show. The U.S. government, its military and its local police forces *run* the Worldwide Dope Trade.

We've got to deal with the pusher. We've got to deal with the one who has pushed our people into the genocidal condition We live in. We should know this pusher well by now.

He's the same one who brought fire-water to the Native American Indian, at the same time as he was licking them with diseases and the Gatlin gun. Hundreds of years later, he's still there—on the reservations and in his liquor stores—dealing death to our red-skinned brothers and sisters. We know well that the level of alcoholism amongst Native American contributes to the U.S. government's age old policy of "artfully rationalized" genocide against Native American Nations.

We should know him well. He's the same one in the 1800s who sold opium to the Chinese people and got them strung out, and when China's rulers made it illegal and attempted to crack down on opium-smuggling the same man fought two wars (1840-1860) to keep Chinese ports open to their drug traders.

Yes, we should know this man well. He's the same one who first peddled cocaine to New Afrikan sharecroppers as medicine. Later when its maddening, murderous effect became public knowledge cocaine suddenly became an illegal narcotic used by "crazed Negroes" to give themselves super-human strength and sexual prowess. It was in the late 1800s that the "black market" or "underground economy" as it is now known, in illegal drug trafficking first sprung up.

In the early 1900s as the first wave of mass out-migration from New Afrika into the Northern ghettos (Amerikan bantustans) began to occur this "black market" in dope began to flourish. Thus when the prohibition era against alcohol

came in the 1920s, a well-established market system specifically targeting New Afrikans, but also victimizing other oppressed national communities and working class Euro-American ethnic groups, was already place.

Comrade Malik El Shabazz (Malcolm X) knew this enemy well. In his twenties he became a victim of drugs but later became a champion fighter in the struggle against drugs. Remarking on the double jeopardy the drug trade and the Amerikan empire place our people in, Malcolm stated: "First they push these drugs in our communities to keep us from fighting for self-determination and then they lock us up for using the drugs." As Malcolm organized people in his day, as the revolutionary sector of the Black Liberation Movement organized people in the late sixties and early seventies, We must continue that struggle today. We know that Uncle Sam is the Dope Man and We've got to do more than "Just Say No."

WINNING THE PEOPLE'S WAR AGAINST DRUGS

The fight against drugs begins at home. We must first eliminate substance abuse in our own personal lives before We can go out "dealing with the pushers" or helping drug victims or anyone else. Our political organizations themselves must take a strong and thoroughly revolutionary line against drugs including, of course alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, pill-popping, sugar, caffeine and many other chemical substances which are frequently misused but are accepted because they're legal. Clearly all drugs that have a dangerous and negative impact upon our people, especially our cadres and workers, must be fought.

Secondly, if We are truly serious about building community self-defense We must ultimately confront this Drug Menace. Let us be clear, however, the Underground Dope Network a'int no joke!

They are armed and serious about protecting what amounts to them as a business, cut and dry. Spiritually right is on our side, on the side of the people who want to stamp out the chemical genocide in our communities. Psychologically our heads and our hearts may be more fit for battle. But these qualities only represent advantages, not guarantees that We will emerge triumphant whenever and however We go out to fight. We must also equip ourselves with a correct political and military view of the enemy We face.

We must know them well; their strengths and weaknesses as well as our own.

**Self-Defense & Self-Determination/
Stamp Out Drugs In the Black Nation!**

We can win the war against drugs. We can also win our national liberation. Until We are free as a New Afrikan nation and able to determine our conditions of life as a free and independent nation We have little hope of being able to eradicate the chemical genocide of our people, especially our young New Afrikan men and women, through drugs. The two struggles can and must be won together. For the freedom of our people We must not take drugs. For the freedom of people stop the flow of drugs into our communities. This means We must win the hearts and minds of our people to the struggle for our freedom. And this means We must defend and capture control of our communities "By Any Means Necessary!"



"No, I'm not an American. I'm one of the 22 million Black people who are victims of Americanism. One of the 22 million Black people who are the victims of democracy, nothing but disguised hypocrisy. So I'm not standing here speaking to you as an American, or a flag-saluter or a flag-waver—no, not I."

Malcolm X

(Malik El Shabazz)

May 19, 1925 - Feb. 21, 1965

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Speaking Frankly...

Publication

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