

DOPE, INC.

Boston Bankers and Soviet Commissars

by the Editors of
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Acknowledgments

Dope, Inc.'s publication in 1978 served as a catalyst for the formation in North and South America, and Europe, of citizens' movements, the National Anti-Drug Coalitions (NADC), dedicated to the destruction of the narcotics cartel. The NADC in the United States, particularly during the pro-drug Carter administration, fought an often rear-guard battle against *Dope, Inc.*'s bankers, journalists, and politicians, challenging every attempt to facilitate the drug trade.

The editors gratefully acknowledge the role of the NADC in this re-issue of *Dope, Inc.* through its financing of this second edition's production, distribution, and extensive research.

In addition, the principal authors of *Dope Inc.*, Jeffrey Steinberg and David Goldman, extend their special thanks to the following individuals:

Why This Book Has Become Famous

When the first edition of *Dope, Inc.* made its appearance in December 1978, it sent shock waves through the international capitals of organized crime—from London to Moscow, from Geneva to Boston and Lower Manhattan, from Tel Aviv to Milan, Sofia, and Montreal. More than seven years later, the multinational narcotics cartel is still desperately scrambling to cover up the truth our book exposed. But fortunately, while several government agencies were confirming the reality of our charges for themselves, the enemy's furious response to the 100,000-copy circulation of the first edition of *Dope, Inc.*, produced much new evidence, implicating a broader net of powerful international figures. That new evidence has been incorporated in this new, expanded edition: *Dope, Inc.—Boston Bankers and Soviet Commissars*.

In the spring of 1978, Lyndon LaRouche had commissioned

the original investigation which led to publication of *Dope, Inc.*, on the basis of his conviction that unless the U.S. government and the American people moved quickly to crush the international drug mafia, the United States would, within a generation, cease to exist as a nation, and with its collapse, Western civilization would fall into a new dark age.

The book was conceived as a military intelligence report, a first step towards launching a full-scale war on drugs, employing all of the military, technological, and moral resources that the Allied nations employed in World War II to defeat Nazism. That is still our aim. By the mid-1980s, although the Reagan administration had adopted the phrase "war on drugs" as a slogan, the most energetic battles in the war LaRouche had proposed were being fought in Ibero-America, by such nations as President Alan García's Peru and President Belisario Betancur's Colombia—with scant aid from the U.S.A. On March 9, 1985, LaRouche presented to a Mexico City conference a battle plan for a hemispheric war on drugs that would bring the U.S. armed forces into the fight. The LaRouche plan is published as Appendix A at the end of this book. On March 3, 1986, the President's Commission on Organized Crime recommended to Ronald Reagan: "The Joint Chiefs should be instructed by the highest levels of government . . . that hostile or destructive action from within or without—overt or covert—shall include the . . . invasion of this country by drug smugglers." This conclusion is bitterly opposed by the FBI and the corruption-riddled U.S. Justice Department presided over by Attorney General Edwin Meese, and the go-ahead for the U.S. military's participation in the war on drugs has not been given.

The battle terrain of the drug wars has shifted significantly in the intervening years since the first publication of *Dope, Inc.*

In 1978, the Carter administration was championing the decriminalization and legalization of marijuana and cocaine. "Recreational" drug abuse was being touted as a "victimless crime." Today, with every population group victimized by the dope trade—congressmen, junior high school students, industrial workers, housewives, professional athletes, Wall Street

businessmen—such claims of “victimless crime” ring increasingly hollow.

When *Dope, Inc.* was first published, the Latin American “cocaine bonanza” that would open a new, ugly chapter in the annals of organized crime, and boost the annual revenues of Dope, Inc. towards the half-trillion-dollar level, was still a year or two in the future. Indeed, in 1978, Carlos Lehder Rivas, the kingpin of today’s Colombian narcoterrorist rebellion and an avowed collaborator of the murderous M-19 terrorist army, was just getting out of jail in Miami on car theft and marijuana charges, and was only first establishing contact with Dope, Inc. financier Robert Vesco.

The concept of narcoterrorism—first elaborated in the first edition of *Dope, Inc.*—was scoffed at in intelligence and law enforcement circles, where images of Sicilian mafia “moustache Petes” and leftist Robin Hoods still blocked officials from discerning a single worldwide underground economy servicing the illegal arms and drug trade. Revelations growing out of the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II in May 1981 began to open the eyes of a few, particularly with respect to the active role of the Soviet KGB.

With the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, the international heroin trade, centered in the Golden Triangle of Southeast Asia where it had operated so successfully during the Vietnam War, began to diversify and expand rapidly in Soviet-occupied Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan. The coming to power of “Islamic fundamentalism” in Ayatollah Khomeini’s Iran, under the auspices of Soviet specialist G. A. Aliyev, together with Soviet-British fostering of separatist insurgencies such as the Sikh “Khalistan,” turned southwest Asia into a “Golden Crescent” for Dope, Inc. rivalling the Far East.

In this new edition of *Dope, Inc.*, we have taken account of the changed landscape, by adding new sections on the dope cartel’s command structure, the drug traffic in Ibero-America and Southwest Asia, and the major role of the worldwide Soviet Empire.

In one respect, however, the story of *Dope, Inc.* is the same

today as it was seven years ago—the unparalleled corruption of so many of the world’s “respectable” financial institutions. Since original publication, this, the central charge leveled in *Dope, Inc.*, has been massively re-documented by official sources—and by the drug bankers of Dope, Inc. themselves, whose uncontrolled and savage attacks on us have demonstrated repeatedly that they regard our efforts as the most serious threat to their continued existence.

‘Apocalyptic Vision’ or Everyday Reality?

The idea that some of the world’s leading private financial institutions were deeply implicated in the witting laundering of hundreds of billions of dollars a year in illegal dope money was seen as the single most shocking fact brought to light with the first release of *Dope, Inc.* We demonstrated that dope was the largest commodity in international trade, with the exception of petroleum, and that the annual revenues of the narcotics traffic exceeded the national product of most of the world’s nations, and the revenues of the largest multinational companies.

The American weekly magazine *Saturday Review* described our view as “a truly apocalyptic vision.” The intervening years and their unbroken string of revelations have shown that the apocalypse is here. After the November 1984 publication of the report on money laundering of the President’s Commission on Organized Crime, the March 1983 report of the Permanent Investigations Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate, and countless congressional hearings on the subject of banks and money laundering, the core contents of *Dope, Inc.*’s first edition have been restated by official sources.

Among the earliest confirmation for *Dope, Inc.*’s charges came from New York State’s banking superintendent: on the basis of evidence presented by its authors, this regulatory body refused to permit the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to purchase control of New York’s Marine Midland Bank