

# Opium How An Ancient Flower Shaped And Poisoned Our World By David Blistein

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"Recensione ""Wealthy patrons of the arts making fortunes off opioids? Blaming immigrants for a domestic drug crisis? Race-based enforcement?...It was as true in the 19th and 20th centuries as it is today. Opium insists that we take an unstinting look at the relationship between people and opioids and **dares us to make the hard decisions necessary to deal with the crisis. This book is what history is supposed to be.**""? **Ken Burns, filmmakerNPR, Best Books of the YearScientific American, Editors' PickNature, Picks of the WeekLit Hub, Books of the Week**""In this **landmark project**, John Halpern, MD, and David Blistein have for the first time combined a comprehensive history of opium with a **clear-eyed look at today's opioid crisis**. By unpacking the complex story of how this powerful drug has woven its way through human history and cultures, they give readers **profound insight** into what drives contemporary use of opium and its derivatives as well as realistic, effective, and compassionate recommendations for helping those who suffer from the disease of addiction."?" **Dr. Andrew Weil (MD)**""An **engrossing and highly readable** account of our tangled relationship with a flower."?" **Sam Quinones, author of Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic**""A **fascinating** account from a psychiatrist who is also an expert in addiction medicine."?" **Lit Hub**""Halpern and Blistein take us on **an astonishing journey through time and space**, revealing how racism and ethnic prejudice have distorted popular views of opium for centuries and how those who were at one time said to be paragons of American virtue-from Harry Anslinger to Joseph McCarthy to the Sackler family -- have played their part in creating the opiate epidemic. With Opium, we can more fully understand how and why the 'war on drugs' keeps failing. **A fascinating read with practical advice on how to get out of the mess we're**

in."?" **Julie Holland, MD, New York Times bestselling author of *Weekends at Bellevue and Moody Bitches***"Opium has been entwined with society for millennia. Here, psychiatrist John Halpern and writer David Blistein trace its path from Mesopotamia through ancient Egypt, Greece and Persia, finally reaching Britain and the United States... It is time [for us] to treat addiction as a curable illness -- and learn the lessons of history."?" **Nature, Science Picks of the Week**" **Opium is the most important, provocative, and challenging book I've read in a long time....**Makes timely and startling connections among painkillers, politics, finance, and society in clear, non-technical prose that kept me alternately riveted and amazed. We may not be able to get this drug out of our system, but Opium will help everyone gain a better understanding of and more control over its uses and abuses."?" **Laurence Bergreen, New York Times bestselling author of *Marco Polo: From Venice to Xanadu and Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe***" **Authoritative, engaging, and accessible**, this call for action offers solutions -- insurance and criminal justice reforms, alternative treatments, and eradication of punishment -- and avenues to greater overall understanding."?" **Booklist**"Detailed and highly readable...[Opium] demonstrates convincingly that the best way to address today's epidemic is to acknowledge addiction as the brain disease that it is...The recommendations in this book should be seriously considered by anyone concerned with today's opioid epidemic."?" **Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy, member of the President's Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis** Descrizione del libro Salt meets Dopesick in this fascinating history of the long path to today's opioid crisis by an esteemed Harvard-trained psychiatrist, an addiction expert working on the frontlines of the epidemic. L'autore **John H. Halpern, MD**, a psychiatrist in private practice, previously served as medical director of the Boston Center for Addiction Treatment, the largest substance-use disorder hospital in New England. He completed his residency and a fellowship in addiction research at Harvard Medical School programs. He spent over 20 years on the faculty of Harvard Medical School and during his professorship served as the director of his own research laboratory at McLean Hospital, supported by private grants and National Institute on Drug Abuse

funding. **David Blistein** is a former writer for the PBS documentary Cancer, which was adapted from Siddhartha Mukherjee's Pulitzer Prize-winning history of cancer, The Emperor of All Maladies. He co-wrote Grover Cleveland Again! with legendary documentarian Ken Burns."

### **opium poppy history**

May 27th, 2020 - these scales and the elephant shaped gold weights were used to accurately measure opium for sale  
medical use opium an ancient medicine opium was known to ancient greek and roman physicians as a powerful pain reliever  
it was also used to induce sleep and to give relief to the bowels opium was even thought to protect the user from being  
poisoned

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greek physicians fotten chemists discovered opium s effects and refined its power how colonial empires marketed it around  
the world and eventually how international drug panies developed a range of powerful synthetic opioids that led to an  
epidemic of addiction

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May 11th, 2020 - halpern the boston center for addiction treatment s former medical director and blistein david s inferno a pbs documentarian study opium s evolution into morphine heroin oxycodone a

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April 8th, 2020 - the story begins with the discovery of poppy artifacts in ancient mesopotamia and goes on to explore how greek physicians and obscure chemists discovered opium s effects and refined its power how colonial empires marketed it around the world and eventually how international drug panies developed a range of powerful synthetic opioids that led to an epidemic of addiction

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March 10th, 2020 - opium how an ancient flower shaped and poisoned our world john h halpern and david blistein lina non fiction culture history science amp mathematics

**ep 959b opium how an ancient flower shaped and poisoned**

May 20th, 2020 - john halpern md describes how we got here in his book opium how an ancient flower shaped and poisoned our world co authored with david blistein dr halpern joins dr roizen to share insights from the book and explain how severe the opioid crisis really is

### **opium how an ancient flower shaped and poisoned our world**

May 15th, 2020 - opium how an ancient flower shaped and poisoned our world tells the extraordinary and at times harrowing story of how we arrived at today s crisis a story that begins at the dawn of human civilization with enterprising poppy farmers in mesopotamia explores the breakthroughs of too often fotten experimental chemists in the arab world who first refined poppy juice into opium of colonial

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May 13th, 2020 - opium how an ancient flower shaped and poisoned our world september 12 2019 52 min in 2017 over 47 000 americans died as the result of opioid overdoses more than died annually in this country during the peak of the aids epidemic and more than die every year from breast cancer

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**opium how an ancient flower shaped and poisoned our world**

May 25th, 2020 - opium hardcover how an ancient flower shaped and poisoned our world by john h halpern md david blistein hachette books 9780316417662 352pp publication date august 13 2019 other editions of this title

**the opium cycle planet money npr**

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**opium drug physiological actions amp history britannica**

May 27th, 2020 - apparently opium was unknown in either india or china in ancient times and knowledge of the opium poppy first reached china about the 7th century at first opium was taken in the form of pills or was added to beverages the oral intake of raw opium as a medicine does not appear to have produced widespread addictions in ancient asian societies

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May 14th, 2020 - opium how an ancient flower shaped and poisoned our world is a must read for any lover of history science health amp wellness racial justice public health policy and or drug culture it is a fascinating read an epic world tour and a journey back in time from the dawn of opium use to the modern day opioid crisis

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May 23rd, 2020 - opium npr coverage of opium how an ancient flower shaped and poisoned our world by john h m d halpern and david blistein news author interviews critics picks and more

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today's opioid crisis a story that begins at the dawn of human civilization with enterprising

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May 19th, 2020 - in 2017 over 47 000 americans died as the result of opioid overdoses more than died annually in this country during the peak of the aids epidemic and more than die every year from breast cancer but despite the unprecedented efforts of regulators activists politicians and doctors to address the overdose epidemic it has only become more deadly the legion of quick fixes often falling

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**opium by john halpern and david blistein review**

May 15th, 2020 - so prevalent does opium appear to be in the story of humankind that it s no wonder there is no quick fix to reducing our dependence now several historical figures including alexander the great marcus aurelius and marco polo are revealed to have at best used opium and at worst harboured a dangerous addiction with countless empire forming decisions made under its influence

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