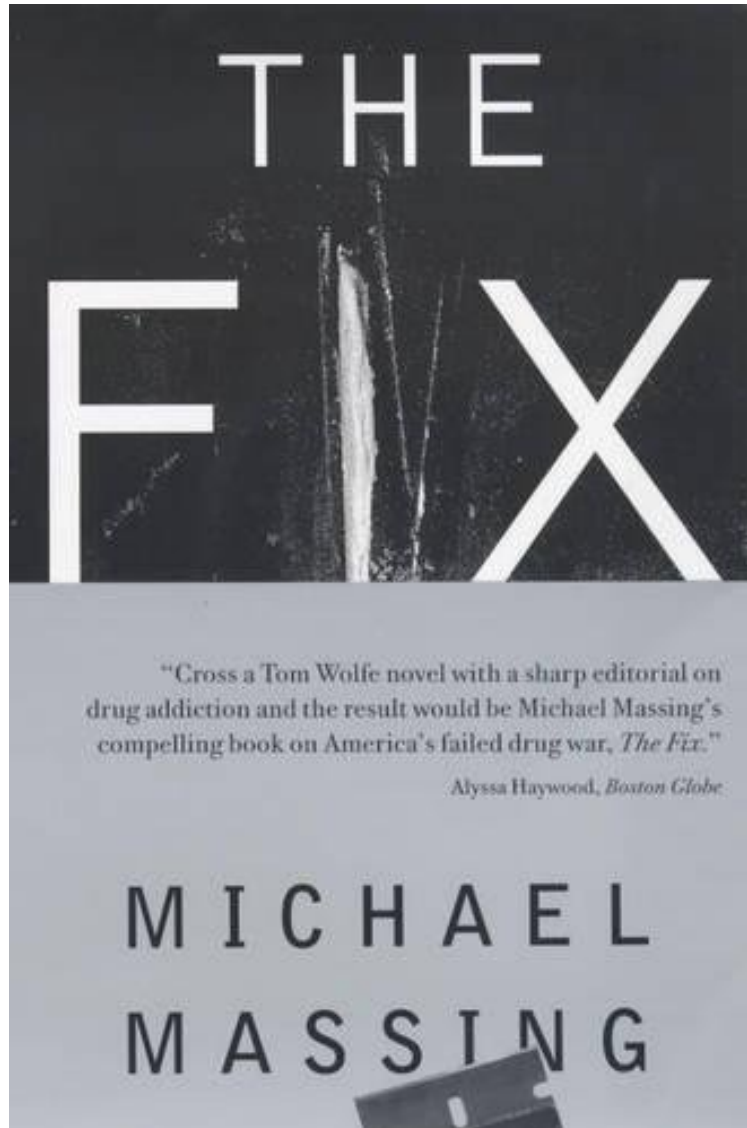


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## The Fix

*Michaelig;l Massing*  
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#1441108 in Books 2000-05-10 2000-05-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.70 x .87 x 6.401, 1.02 #File Name: 0520223357343 pages | File size: 39.Mb

**Michaelig;l Massing : The Fix** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fix:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. BrilliantBy Tom MunroThis book is about drug policy in America. It is a celebration of the Drug policy enacted by Nixon and a criticism of the drug war. The book is two layered, the author follows around a worker who deals with drug addicts and talks about his life running a poor under funded agency while at the same time talking about the broader issues.All drugs cause society some problems. Probably the

most costly drugs for society are alcohol and tobacco. Heroin and Crack however have a very visible cost in an increase in criminality. Drug dependant people often drift into various forms of crime to support their habits. Other drugs such as cannabis also have side effects and there is evidence that long term use can cause a range of problems. The book suggests that the policy developed by Nixon was in fact the correct policy. That is by making provision for rehabilitation centres for treatment of drug addicts. Rehab centres are cheap by comparison with jails and significantly cut drug use and criminality. The author of the book refers to studies carried out by the RAND Corporation into the cost benefits of such programs to support his case. During the Reagan years the direction of drug policy changed. A number of parents groups had sprung up suggesting that teenage use of cannabis was responsible for a range of adolescent social problems. Money was taken from rehab centres to fund Nancy Reagan's "say not to drugs campaign". In reality the "say no to drugs campaign has been successful." Cannabis and other drug use in American is far lower for adolescents than for other comparable countries. The basic problem was that as resources were taken from rehab centres hard drug use skyrocketed. This in turn led to the substitution of imprisonment as the main response to drug dependant criminality. The cost has been significant with a tremendous social cost of prison construction lessening funds for other government programs such as education. The arrest of drug dependant people also has led to massive increases in the imprisonment of Afro American people. This book is one of the more impressive written on one of the significant issues facing American society, 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Duffy 5319 great 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. entertaining tale of the U.S. history of drug addiction treatment By Jana Burson I really enjoyed this book and learned much about the history of the politics of addiction treatment. I think all policy makers of adiction treatment in the government should read this book and others like it. Maybe then we could have science based addiction treatment rather than treatment methods based on emotion and hysteria.

With a new preface Looking back on the 25-year war on drugs, Michael Massing offers a blistering critique of the politics and narrow-mindedness that have made our national drug policy a failure, and he proposes what must be done-- stressing treatment over imprisonment--to begin to rescue addicts from the street and diminish the hold drugs have in this country.

.com "When, back in 1988, the New York of Books sent me to Columbia to write about the Latin American cocaine trade," notes Michael Massing, a contributing editor of the Columbia Journalism and 1992 recipient of a MacArthur "genius" grant, "I had little notion that the issue of drugs would engross me for so many years." The "War on Drugs," arguably, has been the United States' most futile and expensive social campaign. In 1998, the federal drug budget was more than \$17 billion--over ten times its 1981 allocation--and yet the corresponding population of drug offenders in the nation's state and federal prisons has increased tenfold within that same period. What to do? The Fix makes a case for the return of the community-based drug treatment clinic model that was a cornerstone of U.S. drug policy under Richard Nixon. While Nixon's personal distaste for illegal drugs may have been most evident in his decision to ignore evidence indicating that marijuana use did not lead irreparably to harder drugs, his pragmatism helped him recognize that the problem of narcotics was far more cost-effectively approached as a health issue rather than one strictly of law enforcement. In a narrative that alternates between descriptions of a drug-ridden neighborhood in Harlem and policy makers in the nation's capital, Massing compellingly argues that the most effective battle against addiction is the creation and maintenance of a comprehensive national treatment system. --Patrizia DiLucchio From Publishers Weekly The tabloidy, haranguing tone of the curious subtitle doesn't do justice to this book's careful research and well-written narrative. Far from being a love letter to Richard Nixon's drug policy, it discusses America's war on drugs in the context of real people suffering with addiction. Massing, a New York City-based reporter, has written about the drug trade for 10 years, so he has the knowledge and eye for detail that give this work its best moments. Believing that "the policies being formulated in Washington today bear little relation to what is taking place on the street," Massing starts his story in Spanish Harlem, following the lives of Raphael Flores, who runs a struggling drop-in center for addicts, and Yvonne Hamilton, a crack addict trying to get her life together. The middle third of the book shifts dramatically in tone as Massing chronicles the evolution of the war on drugs in Washington. During Nixon's tenure, the government spent more money on treatment (the "demand" side) than on stopping drug trafficking (the "supply" side), which led to declines in both drug overdoses and crime rates. As successive presidents felt pressure to emphasize the "war" rather than treatment, the number of chronic addicts skyrocketed. In the last section Massing returns to Harlem, where Hamilton's struggle to remain drug-free makes for gripping reading. The Washington section works as political history, but the bios of various bureaucrats can't compete with the slices of Harlem street life. While Massing may think Nixon's strategy would work again today, Hamilton's story demonstrates that the drug problem is much more complicated than any government strategy. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Massing, a reporter and MacArthur fellow who has been following national drug policy since 1988, believes that we are badly losing the long war on drugs. Instead, he would like to see a return to the 1960s drug policy put in place first by Illinois and then copied by the United States during the Nixon administration. This policy brought the

drug epidemic under control by creating a national network of treatment facilities offering help to all who wanted it. In the years since, and especially during the Reagan administration, our policy swung away from helping addicts overcome their drug habits and toward criminalizing addiction. This remains the policy today. Massing contrasts the worlds of New York addicts and Washington policymakers to show how they must be brought closer together. He also explains how the Nixon-era policy fell victim to budget cuts and a changing view of addiction. Massing pulls together all the material very effectively, finally proposing a model based on the healing powers of medicine rather than the punitive powers of the law. Recommended for academic and public libraries with extensive criminal justice and social policy sections.-?Sandra K. Lindheimer, Middlesex Law Lib., Cambridge, MACopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.