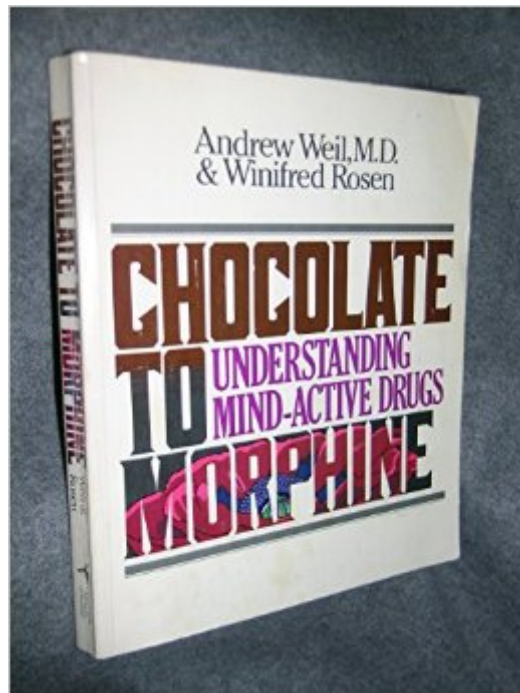


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# Chocolate To Morphine: Understanding Mind-Active Drugs



## Synopsis

This definitive source book on psychoactive drugs . . . provides straightforward discussions of each substance's nature, how it is likely to affect the body, and what precautions are necessary to limit any potential for harm. Extensively illustrated with photographs and line drawings.

## Book Information

Paperback: 228 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin (P); First Edition edition (March 1983)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395331900

ISBN-13: 978-0395331903

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 6.4 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,623,061 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 inÂ Books > Medical Books > Pharmacology > Neuropsychopharmacology #166109 inÂ Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting

## Customer Reviews

W-R's "Chocolate to Morphine" is a clinically "libertarian," non-prescriptive sourcebook on psychoactive drugs. Written in 1983, the book presents a non-historical, balanced, and normalizing discussion of civilization-old curiosity about one's own consciousness. Weil and Rosen are clear about their mandate: "our intention is not to encourage drug use by any one, nor is to discourage drug use" (p. 175). The authors don't tempt, nor do they forbid. They calmly educate. With the existential humanism of the 60s cohort, they place the responsibility squarely on the consumer and only caution: "there are no good or bad drugs, only good or bad uses of drugs... people must learn to look at and analyze their own and others' relationship with drugs" (p. 176). The book begins with an honest, non-patronizing, sobering review of the notion of "drugs." The opening line of "The drugs are here to stay" is not a pessimistic prognosis about the war on drugs, but a kind of conceptual de-toxification of the toxic connotations of the word "drugs." The book proceeds with a methodical, encyclopedic review of various classes of drugs, their psychoactive profiles, uses and misuses. Thematically, despite the official disavowal of a mandate, the book does articulate a value: it takes the reader from chocolate to morphine and back to chocolate - i.e. from normalizing the human desire to experiment with consciousness to a review of legal and illegal ways of doing so to an eventual soft pitch of "natural highs." Here the book makes an important contribution - in the very

last chapter entitled "Alternatives to Taking Drugs," we see a beaming photo of Weil (he's clearly happy and doesn't look stoned) and we read: "being high doesn't mean being drugged" and "drugs don't contain highs..."

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