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A 10,000 year History of Cannabis & Hemp use and influence

Hemp (*Cannabis Sativa L.*) is a very old plant that has been in continual use by human civilization since at least the invention of pottery around 10,000 years ago. One of the oldest known artifacts of early human prehistory is a small piece of hemp fabric that amazingly survived over 8,000 years of weathering, a true testament to just how important this plant has been, not to mention its durability. This time-line has been compiled from various books, news articles and websites, most which are noted in the reference section at the end of this document. This time-line is not meant to be nor promised to be a complete and/or 100% accurate account of the history of hemp. It is a compilation of what we found regarding hemp history, we put it together in this document for reference and to inspire others to search for and discover the truth.

8,000 BCE- 0 CE

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8,000+ BCE Use of hemp cord in pottery identified at ancient village site dating back over 10,000 years, located in the area of modern day Taiwan. Finding hemp use and cultivation in this date range puts it as one of the first and oldest known human agriculture crops. As explained by Richard Hamilton in the 2009 Scientific American article on sustainable agriculture "Modern humans emerged some 250,000 years ago, yet agriculture is a fairly recent invention, only about 10,000 years old ... Agriculture is not natural; it is a human invention. It is also the basis of modern civilization." This point was also touched on by Carl Sagan in 1977 when he proposed the possibility that marijuana may have actually been world's first agricultural crop, leading to the development of civilization itself (see 1977, below).

6,000 BCE Cannabis seeds and oil used for food in China.

4,000 BCE Textiles made of hemp are used in China and Turkestan.

2,737 BCE First recorded use of cannabis as medicine by Emperor Shen Neng of China.

2,000-800 BCE Bhang (dried cannabis leaves, seeds and stems) is mentioned in the Hindu sacred text Atharvaveda (Science of Charms) as "Sacred Grass", one of the five sacred plants of India. It is used by medicinally and ritually as an offering to Shiva.

1,500 BCE Cannabis cultivated in China for food and fiber. Scythians cultivate cannabis and use it to weave fine hemp cloth.

700-600 BCE The Zoroastrian Zendavesta, an ancient Persian religious text of several hundred volumes refers to bhang as the "good narcotic."

600 BCE Hemp rope appears in southern Russia.

700-300 BCE Scythian tribes leave Cannabis seeds as offerings in royal tombs.

500 BCE Scythian couple die and are buried with two small tents covering containers for burning incense. Attached to one tent stick was a decorated leather pouch containing wild Cannabis seeds. This closely matches the stories told by Herodotus. The gravesite, discovered in the late 1940s, was in Pazryk, northwest of the Tien Shan Mountains in modern-day Khazakstan. Hemp is introduced into Northern Europe by the Scythians. An urn containing leaves and seeds of the Cannabis plant, unearthed near Berlin, is found and dated to about this time. Use of hemp products spread throughout northern Europe.

430 BCE Herodotus reports on both ritual and recreation use of Cannabis by the Scythians (Herodotus The Histories 430 B.C. trans. G. Rawlinson).

200 BCE Hemp rope appears in Greece. Chinese Book of Rites mentions hemp fabric.

100 BCE First evidence of hemp paper, invented in China.

70 BCE Greek physician Penadius Dioscorides wrote about the medical properties of cannabis in his book De Materia Medica.

100-0 BCE The psychotropic properties of Cannabis are mentioned in the newly compiled herbal Pen Ts'ao Ching.

0 CE-1000 CE

100 Hua Tuo, a Chinese physician noted the medical analgesic properties of cannabis.

0-100 Construction of Samaritan gold and glass paste stash box for storing hashish, coriander, or salt, buried in Siberian tomb.

23-79 Pliny the Elder's The Natural History mentions hemp rope and marijuana's analgesic effects.

47-127 Plutarch mentions Thracians using cannabis as an intoxicant.

70 Dioscorides, a physician in Nero's army, lists medical marijuana in his Pharmacopoeia.

100 Imported hemp rope appears in England.

105 Legend suggests that Ts'ai Lun invents hemp paper in China, 200 years after its actual appearance (see 100 BCE above).

130-200 Greek physician Galen prescribes medical marijuana.

200- First pharmacopoeia of the East lists medical marijuana. Chinese surgeon Hua T'o uses marijuana as an anesthetic.

300 A young woman in Jerusalem receives medical marijuana during childbirth.

570 The French queen Arnegunde is buried with hemp cloth.

500-600 The Jewish Talmud mentions the euphoriant properties of Cannabis.

850 Vikings take hemp rope and seeds to Iceland.

900 Arabs learn techniques for making hemp paper.

900-1000 Scholars debate the pros and cons of eating hashish. Use spreads throughout Arabia.

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1000 CE – 2000 CE

1000 Hemp ropes appear on Italian ships. Arabic physician Ibn Wahshiyah's On Poisons warns of marijuana's potential dangers.

1000 English word hempe is first listed in the dictionary.

1090-1124 In Khorasan, Persia, Hasan ibn al-Sabbah, recruits followers to commit assassinations...legends develop around their supposed use of hashish. These legends are some of the earliest written tales of the discovery of the inebriating powers of Cannabis and the use of Hashish by a paramilitary organization as a hypnotic (see U.S. military use, 1942 below). Early 12th Century Hashish smoking becomes very popular throughout the Middle East.

1150 Muslim's use hemp to start Europe's first paper mill. Most paper is made from hemp for the next 700 years.

1155-1221 Persian legend of the Sufi master Sheik Haydar's personal discovery of Cannabis and

his own alleged invention of hashish with its subsequent spread to Iraq, Bahrain, Egypt and Syria. Another of the earliest written narratives of the use of Cannabis as an inebriant.

1171-1341 During the Ayyubid dynasty of Egypt, Cannabis is introduced by mystic devotees from Syria.

1200 1,001 Nights, an Arabian collection of tales, describes hashish's intoxicating and aphrodisiac properties. 13th Century The oldest monograph on hashish, Zahr al-'arish fi tahrir al-hashish, was written. It has since been lost. Ibn al-Baytar of Spain provides a description of the psychoactive nature of Cannabis. Arab traders bring Cannabis to the Mozambique coast of Africa.

1271-1295 Journeys of Marco Polo in which he gives second-hand reports of the story of Hasan ibn al-Sabbah and his "assassins" using hashish. First time reports of Cannabis have been brought to the attention of Europe.

1300 Ethiopian pipes containing marijuana suggest the herb has spread from Egypt to the rest of Africa.

1378 Ottoman Emir Soudoun Scheikhouni issues one of the first edicts against the eating of hashish.

1456 Gutenberg bible printed on hemp paper.

1484 Persecution of witches began in Europe, and cannabis was demonized once again as it was an essential part of their 'witchcraft'.

1526 Babur Nama, first emperor and founder of Mughal Empire learned of hashish in Afghanistan.

1532 French physician Rabelais's gargantua and Pantagruel mentions marijuana's medicinal effects.

1533 King Henry VIII fines farmers if they do not raise hemp for industrial use.

1545: Explorers find 'wilde hemp' in North America.

1549 Angolan slaves brought cannabis with them to the sugar plantations of northeastern Brazil. They were permitted to plant their cannabis between rows of cane, and to smoke it between harvests.

1550 The epic poem, Benk u Bode, by the poet Mohammed Ebn Soleiman Foruli of Baghdad,

deals allegorically with a dialectical battle between wine and hashish.

1563 Portuguese physician Garcia da Orta reports on marijuana's medicinal effects.

1578 China's Li Shih-Chen writes of the antibiotic and antiemetic effects of marijuana.

1600 England begins to import hemp from Russia.

1606-1632 French and British cultivate Cannabis for hemp at their colonies in Port Royal (1606), Virginia (1611), and Plymouth (1632).

1616 Jamestown settlers began growing the hemp plant for its unusually strong fiber and used it to make rope, sails, and clothing.

1616-1654 Nicholas Culpepper listed a variety of medical uses of the common european hemp (*Cannabis sativa*), including anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and antiparasitic activity

1621 Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy suggests marijuana may treat depression.

1631 Hemp used as legal tender throughout the American colonies

1600-1700 Use of hashish, alcohol, and opium spreads among the population of occupied Constantinople. Hashish becomes a major trade item between Central Asia and South Asia.

1700's American farmers are required by law to grow hemp in Virginia and other colonies.

1753 Linnaeus classifies *Cannabis sativa*.

1762 In the U.S. the state of Virginia rewarded farmers with bounties for hemp culture and manufacture, and imposed penalties upon those who did not produce it. George Washington grew hemp for fibre and recreational use, and Thomas Jefferson acquired the first American patent for his hemp break, a device used to separate the hemp stalk into usable hurds and fiber with greater speed than the retting of past. Without hemp America could not have successfully waged the revolution, and for the next one hundred and fifty years hemp enjoyed the position as America's top cash crop.

1764 Medical marijuana appears in The New England Dispensatory.

1776 Kentucky begins growing hemp.

1776 The Declaration of Independence was drafted on hemp paper.

1783 Cannabis was reclassified into two main species, sativa and indica, by French naturalist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck.

1794 Medical marijuana appears in The Edinburgh New Dispensary.

1797 - The U.S.S. Constitution is outfitted with 60 tons of hemp sails and rigging.

1798 Napoleon discovers that much of the Egyptian lower class habitually uses hashish. Soldiers returning to France bring the tradition with them, and he declares a total prohibition.

1800- Marijuana plantations flourished in Mississippi, Georgia, California, South Carolina, Nebraska, New York, and Kentucky. Also during this period, smoking hashish was popular throughout France and to a lesser degree in the US. Hashish production expands from Russian Turkestan into Yarkand in Chinese Turkestan.

1809 Antoine Sylvestre de Sacy, a leading Arabist, suggests a base etymology between the words "assassin" and "hashishin" -- subsequent linguist study disproves his theory.

1840 In America, medicinal preparations with a Cannabis base are available. Hashish is available in Persian pharmacies.

1840 Abraham Lincoln uses hemp seed oil to fuel his household lamps.

1842 Irish physician O'Shaughnessy publishes cannabis research in English medical journals.

1843 French author Gautier publishes The Hashish Club.

1846 French physician Moreau publishes Hashish and Mental Illness

1850 Cannabis is added to The U.S. Pharmacopoeia.

1850-1915 Marijuana was widely used throughout United States as a medicinal drug and could easily be purchased in pharmacies and general stores.

After 1850 Hemp lost ground to cheaper products made of cotton, jute, sisal and petroleum. Hemp was processed by hand, which was very labor intensive and costly, not lending itself towards modern commercial production.

1854 Whittier writes the first American work to mention cannabis as an intoxicant.

1856 British tax "ganja" and "charas" trade in India.

1857 American writer Ludlow publishes The Hasheesh Eater.

1858 French poet Baudelaire publishes On the Artificial Ideal.

1870-1880 First reports of hashish smoking on the Greek mainland.

1890 Greek Department of Interior prohibits importance, cultivation and use of hashish. Hashish is made illegal in Turkey. Sir J.R. Reynolds, chief physician to Queen Victoria, prescribes medical marijuana to her.

1890 CBN, a cannabinoid was identified.

1893-1894 The India Hemp Drugs Commission Report is issued. 70,000 to 80,000 kg per year of hashish is legally imported into India from Central Asia.

1894 The Indian Hemp Drugs Commission published an unpartisan and objective 3500 page report on the effects of cannabis in on the people on India, in response to a request to do so by William Caine. This still remains the most thorough and official study performed on cannabis to this day. The summary was the cannabis produced virtually no evils, and if the governor wanted to restrict its use, the best way to do so would be by taxation.

1895 American chemists isolated what they thought was the active component in cannabis. Two years later, C. R. Marshall proved that cannabis lost it's potency due to oxidation. Breakthroughs were made in cannabis research, but it was all too late. Around this time synthetics were quickly rising in popularity, and doctors became responsible for the distribution of drugs through controlled prescription systems.

1906 In the U.S. the Pure Food and Drug Act is passed, regulating the labeling of products containing Alcohol, Opiates, Cocaine, and Cannabis, among others.

Early 20th Century Hashish smoking remains very popular throughout the Middle East.

1910 The Mexican Revolution caused an influx of Mexican immigrants who introduced the habit of recreational use (instead of it's generally medicinal use) into American society.

1914 The Harrison Act in the U.S. defined use of Marijuana (among other drugs) as a crime.

1915: Utah passed the first state anti-marijuana law. Mormons who had gone to Mexico in 1910 returned smoking marijuana.

1915-1927 In the U.S. cannabis begins to be prohibited for nonmedical use. Prohibition first begins in California (1915), followed by Texas (1919), Louisiana (1924), and New York (1927).

1916 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) chief scientists Jason L. Merrill and Lyster H. Dewey created paper made from hemp pulp, which they concluded was "favorable in comparison with those used with pulp wood" in USDA Bulletin No. 404. From the book "The Emperor Wears No Clothes" by Jack Herer the USDA Bulletin N. 404 reported that one acre of hemp, in annual rotation over a 20-year period, would produce as much pulp for paper as 4.1

acres (17,000 m²) of trees being cut down over the same 20-year period. This process would use only 1/7 to 1/4 as much polluting sulfur-based acid chemicals to break down the glue-like lignin that binds the fibers of the pulp, or even none at all using soda ash. The problem of dioxin contamination of rivers is avoided in the hemp paper making process, which does not need to use chlorine bleach (as the wood pulp paper making process requires) but instead safely substitutes hydrogen peroxide in the bleaching process. ... If the new (1916) hemp pulp paper process were legal today, it would soon replace about 70% of all wood pulp paper, including computer printout paper, corrugated boxes and paper bags. However, mass production of cheap news print from hemp had not developed in any country, and hemp was a relatively easy target because factories already had made large investments in equipment to handle cotton, wool, and linen, but there were relatively small investments in hemp production.

1919 The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution banned the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcohol and positioned marijuana as an attractive alternative leading to an increase in use of the substance.

1920s Greek dictator Ioannis Metaxas cracks down on hashish smoking. Hashish smuggled into Egypt from Greece, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, and Central Asia.

1924 Russian botanists classify another major strain of the plant, *Cannabis ruderalis*.

1926 Lebanese hashish production is prohibited.

1928 Recreational use of *Cannabis* is banned in Britain.

1928 The Canadian House of Commons encourages farmers to grow hemp.

1930 The Yarkand region of Chinese Turkestan exports 91,471 kg of hashish legally into the Northwest Frontier and Punjab regions of India. Legal taxed imports of hashish continue into India from Central Asia.

1933 The U.S. congress repealed the 21st Amendment, ending alcohol prohibition; 4 years later the prohibition of marijuana will be in full effect.

1934-1935 Chinese government moves to end all *Cannabis* cultivation in Yarkand and charas traffic from Yarkand. Hashish production become illegal in Chinese Turkestan.

1936 The American propaganda film *Reefer Madness* was made to scare American youth away from using *Cannabis*.

1937 U.S. Congress passed the Marijuana Tax Act which criminalized the drug. In response Dr. William C. Woodward, testifying on behalf of the AMA, told Congress that, "The American

Medical Association knows of no evidence that marijuana is a dangerous drug" and warned that a prohibition "loses sight of the fact that future investigation may show that there are substantial medical uses for Cannabis." His comments were ignored by Congress. A part of the testimony for Congress to pass the 1937 act derived from articles in newspapers owned by William Randolph Hearst, who had significant financial interests in the timber industry, which manufactured his newsprint paper.

1938 Supply of hashish from Chinese Turkestan nearly ceases. The U.S. company DuPont patented the processes for creating plastics from coal and oil and a new process for creating paper from wood pulp.

1940s Greek hashish smoking tradition fades.

1941-1942 Henry Ford develops a car that runs on hemp ethanol fuel. Ford also builds an experimental car body made with hemp fiber, which is ten times stronger than steel and four times stronger than metal.

1941 Cannabis is removed from the U.S. Pharmacopoeia and its medicinal use is no longer recognized in America. The same year the Indian government considers cultivation in Kashmir to fill void of hashish from Chinese Turkestan. Hand-rubbed charas from Nepal is choicest hashish in India during World War II.

1942 U.S. scientists working at the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the CIA's wartime predecessor, began to develop a chemical substance that could break down the psychological defenses of enemy spies and POWs. After testing several compounds, the OSS scientists selected a potent extract of marijuana as the best available "truth serum." The cannabis concoction was given the code name TD, meaning Truth Drug. When injected into food or tobacco cigarettes, TD helped loosen the reserve of recalcitrant interrogation subjects.

1945 Legal hashish consumption continues in India. Hashish use in Greece flourishes again.

1951 The Boggs Act and the Narcotics Control Act in the U.S. increases all drug penalties and laid down mandatory sentences.

1957 Hemp is banned in the U.S. due to misconceptions around different types of cannabis plants.

1958 The last significant hemp crop in the U.S. had been harvested and processed

1960 Czech researchers confirm the antibiotic and analgesic effects of cannabis.

1961: UN allows the cultivation of industrial hemp.

1963 Turkish police seize 2.5 tons of hashish.

1965 First reports of the strain *Cannabis afghanica* and was used for hashish production in northern Afghanistan.

1967 "Smash", the first hashish oil appears. Red Lebanese reaches California.

1970-1972 Huge fields of *Cannabis* are cultivated for hashish production in Afghanistan. Afghani hashish varieties introduced to North America for sinsemilla production. Westerners bring metal sieve cloths to Afghanistan. Law enforcement efforts against hashish begin in Afghanistan.

1970: controlled substance act recognizes hemp as marijuana.

1970 NORML, The US National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws forms. NORML was founded by Keith Stroup and funded by \$5,000 from the Playboy Foundation. Since then, the organization has played a central role in the cannabis decriminalization movement. The organization has a large grassroots network with 135 chapters and over 550 lawyers.

1970 The Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act repealed mandatory penalties for drug offenses and marijuana was categorized separately from other narcotics.

1971 First evidence suggesting marijuana may help glaucoma patients.

1972 The Nixon-appointed Shafer Commission urged use of cannabis be re-legalized, but their recommendation was ignored. U.S. Medical research picks up pace. Proposition 19 in California to legalize marijuana use is rejected by a voter margin of 66-33%.

1973 Nepal bans the *Cannabis* shops and charas (hand-rolled hash) export. Afghan government makes hashish production and sales illegal. Afghani harvest is pitifully small.

1975 Nabilone, a cannabinoid-based medication appears.

1976 The U.S. federal government created the Investigational New Drug (IND) Compassionate Use research program to allow patients to receive up to nine pounds of cannabis from the government each year. Today, five surviving patients still receive medical cannabis from the federal government, paid for by federal tax dollars. At the same time the U.S. FDA continues to list marijuana as Schedule I meaning: "A high potential for abuse with no accepted medical value."

1977 Carl Sagan proposes that marijuana may have been the world's first agricultural crop, leading to the development of civilization itself: "It would be wryly interesting if in human history the cultivation of marijuana led generally to the invention of agriculture, and thereby to

civilization." Carl Sagan, The Dragons of Eden, Speculations on the Origin of Human Intelligence p 191 footnote.

1977-1981 U.S. President Carter, including his assistant for drug policy, Dr. Peter Bourne, pushed for decriminalization of marijuana, with the president himself asking Congress to abolish federal criminal penalties for those caught with less than one ounce of marijuana.

1980s Morocco becomes one of, if not the largest, hashish producing and exporting nations. "Border hashish" is produced in northwestern Pakistan along the Afghan border to avoid Soviet-Afghan war.

1985 Hashish is still produced by Muslims of Kashgar and Yarkland in Northwest China. In the U.S. the FDA approves dronabinol, a synthetic THC, for cancer patients.

1986 President Reagan signed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, reinstating mandatory minimums and raising federal penalties for possession and distribution and officially begins the U.S. international "war on drugs."

1987 Moroccan government cracks down upon Cannabis cultivation in lower elevations of the Rif Mountains.

1988 U.S. DEA administrative law Judge Francis Young finds, after thorough hearings, that marijuana has a clearly established medical use and should be reclassified as a prescriptive drug. His recommendation is ignored.

1991 Originally billed in 1991 as the "Washington Hemp Expo", the first Hempfest started in Volunteer Park in Seattle, Wa. Hempfest has morphed into an annual festival, every 3rd week of August for the last 23 years.

1992 In reaction to a surge of requests from AIDS patients for medical marijuana, the U.S. government closes the Compassionate Use program. That same year the pharmaceutical medication dronabinol is approved for AIDS-wasting syndrome.

1993 Cannabis eradication efforts resume in Morocco.

1994 Border hashish still produced in Pakistan. Heavy fighting between rival Muslim clans continues to upset hashish trade in Afghanistan.

1995 Introduction of hashish-making equipment and appearance of locally produced hashish in Amsterdam coffee shops.

1996 California (the first U.S. state to ban marijuana use, see 1915) became the first U.S. State to

then re-legalize medical marijuana use for people suffering from AIDS, cancer, and other serious illnesses. A similar bill was passed in Arizona the same year. This was followed by the passage of similar initiatives in Alaska, Colorado, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Washington D.C., Hawaii, Maryland, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

1997 The American Office of National Drug Control Policy commissioned the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to conduct a comprehensive study of the medical efficacy of cannabis therapeutics. The IOM concluded that cannabis is a safe and effective medicine, patients should have access, and the government should expand avenues for research and drug development. The federal government completely ignored its findings and refused to act on its recommendations.

1997-2001 In direct contradiction to the IOM recommendations, President Clinton, continuing the Regan and Bush "war on drugs" era, began a campaign to arrest and prosecute medical cannabis patients and their providers in California and elsewhere.

1998 Hemp allowed to be grown in Canada once again.

1998 SSDP was first founded in 1998 by a small group of U.S. students from Rochester Institute of Technology and George Washington University in response to that year's reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which contained a provision denying student loans and grants to students with drug convictions. Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) is an international non-profit advocacy and education organization based in Washington D.C. SSDP is focused on reforming drug policy in the United States and internationally.

1999 Hawaii and North Dakota unsuccessfully attempt to legalize hemp farming. The U.S. DEA reclassifies dronabinol as a schedule III drug, making the medication easier to prescribe while marijuana itself continues to be listed Schedule I as having "no accepted medical use."

2000 CE – 2014 CE

2000 Legalization initiative in Alaska fails.

2001 I attended my 1st Hempfest in Seattle, a gathering of approx 300,000 people over a weekend of speakers, music, and thought provoking conversations. They call it a "protestival"

2001 Britain's Home Secretary, David Blunkett, proposes relaxing the classification of cannabis from a class B to class C. Canada adopts federal laws in support of medical marijuana, and by

2003 Canada becomes the first country in the world to approve medical marijuana nation-wide.

2001 The United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) begins a campaign to make sales of all hemp foods illegal in the U.S. Companies that make hemp products along with the Hemp Industries Association (HIA) take legal action against the DEA.

2003 I assume the identity of MaryJanesGirl and become an industrial hemp advocate (www.maryjanesgirl.com)

2004 A three-year battle ensues until February 6. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issues a permanent ruling blocking the DEA regulations and thwarting their unfounded prohibition policy.

2001-2009 Under President G.W. Bush the U.S. federal government intensified its "war on drugs" targeting both patients and doctors across the state of California.

2005 Marc Emery, a Canadian citizen and the largest distributor of marijuana seeds into the United States from approximately 1995 through July 2005 was on the FBI #1 wanted drug list for years and was eventually indicted by the U.S. DEA.

2007 Cannabis activist coalitions/organizations are sprouting up all over the world and I decided to be an active activist and join the movement. RediscoverHemp.com was founded & became my personal project.

2009 President Obama made steps toward ending the very unsuccessful 20-year "war on drugs" initiated during the Regan administration by stating that individual drug use is really a public health issue, and should be treated as such. Under his guidance, the U.S. Justice Department announced that federal prosecutors will no longer pursue medical marijuana users and distributors who comply with state laws.

2010 Marc Emery of Vancouver, BC, Canada, was sentenced on September 10 in a U.S. District Court in Seattle to five years in prison and four years of supervised release for "conspiracy to manufacture marijuana" (eg. selling marijuana seeds).

2010 Hemp foods are an essential staple in millions of individual's diets. Tens of thousands of hemp acres are grown in Canada. Over 30 countries produce industrial hemp including Australia, China, Great Britain, France, Russia and Canada.

2010 The 1st Hemp History Week takes place nationally. (www.hemphistoryweek.org)

2010 Proposition 19 to legalize marijuana in California is placed back on the ballot (named The Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010).

2010 Just weeks before the November 2nd California election on Prop. 19 Attorney General Eric Holder said federal authorities would continue to enforce U.S. laws that declare the drug is illegal, even if voters approve the initiative, stating "we will vigorously enforce the (Controlled Substances Act) against those individuals and organizations that possess, manufacture or distribute marijuana for recreational use."

2010 California Proposition 19, also known as the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010, was narrowly defeated by 53.6% of the vote. This would have legalized various marijuana-related activities in California, allowing local governments to regulate these activities, permitting local governments to impose and collect marijuana-related fees and taxes, and authorizing various criminal and civil penalties.

2011 The U.S. is the only developed country that has not established hemp as an agricultural crop, according to the Congressional Research Service.

2012 Hemp foods gain mainstream acceptance. Hemp food products can be found in mass-market retailers and are frequently featured in the mainstream media.

2012 (November) The U.S. states of Washington and Colorado, by voter referendum, pass legislation calling for the recreational-use legalization of cannabis for adults. Hemp production will also be allowed in Colorado.

2012 (December) Recreational Cannabis is legalized in the states of Washington & Colorado

2013 On December 10th, 2013, Uruguay became the first country in the world to legalize the sale, cultivation, and distribution of cannabis, and the final stage in the legalization process was enacted by President José Mujica on December 23rd, 2013

2014 Recreational marijuana sales became legal in the state of Colorado starting on Jan. 1

2014 (February) President Obama legalizes limited hemp farming in the United States. The beginning of the end of Industrial Hemp prohibition in the states.

2014 (November) The States of Alaska and Oregon legalize cannabis for recreational use



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