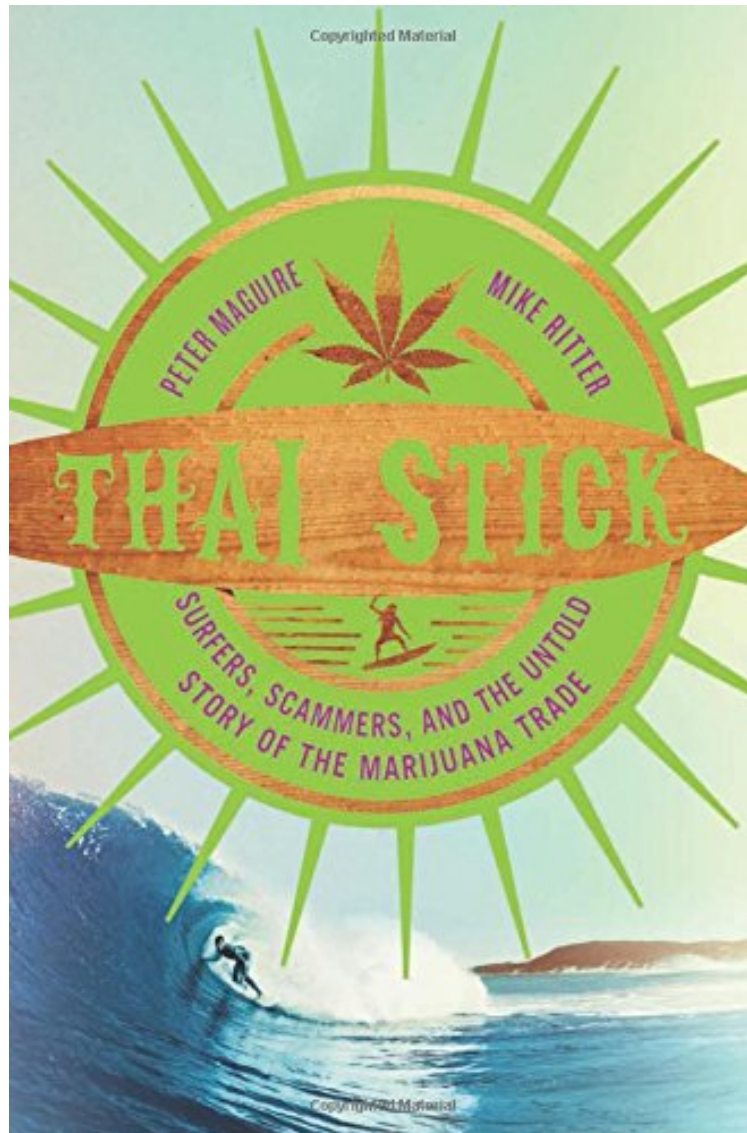


## Thai Stick: Surfers, Scammers, and the Untold Story of the Marijuana Trade

*Peter Maguire, Mike Ritter*

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#272403 in Books Peter Maguire Mike Ritter 2015-06-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.90 x .60 x 6.001, .80 #File Name: 0231161352272 pages Thai Stick Surfers Scammers and the Untold Story of the Marijuana Trade | File size: 58.Mb

**Peter Maguire, Mike Ritter : Thai Stick: Surfers, Scammers, and the Untold Story of the Marijuana Trade** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thai Stick: Surfers, Scammers, and the Untold Story of the Marijuana Trade:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Popular history done rightBy surfimpThis book is a great read and I wasn't able to put it down. I felt the author did an excellent job of combining voluminous research and interviews along with recollections of his own youthful dalliance with smuggling, thereby personalizing and investing the story with a sort of authenticity that many historians can't muster. The "scammers" featured here are cast in a sympathetic but still honest and critical light. Although the author doesn't explicitly make the point, you can see a tragic arc in each of the stories: they got interested in illicit trade to help finance their surfing / hippie lifestyle, but ultimately each one of them was consumed by the trade and most set surfing aside to focus on making their scores and living the high life (literally and figuratively). This led to predictable consequences, but even though you can pretty much guess what's coming, the stories and ingenuity of the protagonists is truly fine entertainment. This is a great story told well.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great story of the Marijuana Trade, who played, how they did it...and the unintended consequences of the war on drugsBy Don JamesIt was a quick read and answered many of the questions I had pondered during the later part of the Thai scam era. These scammers were getting leading edge MBAs in Intl business out of SE Asia, by virtue of pulling these complex deals off. Classic personalities, risky operations, rickety boats, bribes, losses, deaths and lavish spending for some. I loved the "code" and those who wouldn't break it. There were names familiar to me from those times, and I do vividly remember when it all unraveled and hit the media \$#!@ fan.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Yeah, It was like that.By Traveler #9This book is the real deal. A few names have been changed but I know a lot of these people. Very interesting and pretty damned accurate

Located on the left bank of the Chao Phya River, Thailand's capital, Krungthep, known as Bangkok to Westerners and "the City of Angels" to Thais, has been home to smugglers and adventurers since the late eighteenth century. During the 1970s, it became a modern Casablanca to a new generation of treasure seekers, from surfers looking to finance their endless summers to wide-eyed hippie true believers and lethal marauders left over from the Vietnam War. Moving a shipment of Thai sticks from northeast Thailand farms to American consumers meant navigating one of the most complex smuggling channels in the history of the drug trade. Many forget that until the mid-1970s, the vast majority of marijuana consumed in the United States was imported, and there was little to no domestic production. Peter Maguire and Mike Ritter are the first historians to document this underground industry, the only record of its existence rooted in the fading memories of its elusive participants. Drawing on hundreds of interviews with smugglers and law enforcement agents, the authors recount the buy, delivery, voyage home, and product offload. They capture the eccentric personalities of the men and women who transformed the Thai marijuana trade from a GI cottage industry into a professionalized business moving the world's most lucrative commodities, unraveling a rare history from the smugglers' perspective.

From Publishers WeeklyHistorian Maguire (Law and War) and former drug smuggler Ritter delve into the world of the international marijuana trade of the 1960s and 1970s, tracing its quasi-utopian roots to its suppression during the War on Drugs. Utilizing hundreds of interviews, the authors reveal how early entrepreneurs bringing high-quality marijuana into the United States sincerely believed that these drugs could provide epiphanies otherwise inaccessible; making fortunes by supplying illicit drugs was, for them, a case of doing well while doing good. Such sums of money attracted genuine predators, from ruthless drug lords to brutal pirates. In addition, the hapless transcendental entrepreneurs found themselves faced with an American government marching grimly towards an enforced prohibition on all illegal drugs, hard and soft. The authors are sympathetic to the loftier goals of the soft drug pioneers while acknowledging the realities of uninhibited capitalism; grand ambitions often led to a dank prison cell or an unmarked grave. (Nov.) A remarkable story, rich in untold details about a vastly lucrative yet little known trade. (Anne McClintock, University of WisconsinMadison)An extraordinary work, at once a participatory anthropology, detached sociology, cultural history, remarkable example of oral history, series of smuggling stories, and many other things to boot. (Anders Stephanson, Columbia University)At once cutting-edge research and candid autobiography, this globe-straddling tale rolls from Southern California surf shops to the beaches of Baja, from Maui to seedy bars in Thailand and the jungles of Laos, and from communist extermination camps in Cambodia to DEA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Along the way, the authors introduce a cast of real-life characters stranger than fiction, who earned their place in the annals of American crime by chasing their own dreams across the high seas and back again, creating a billion-dollar black market industry in the process, sometimes at the cost of their freedom and sometimes at the cost of their lives. (Craig Etcheson, war crimes investigator)From the dank highlands of Siam to the sage-blown point breaks of Alta California, Thai Stick explores the relationship between surf culture and the 'funny business.' Maguiregrounded in law, history, and the surfing lifeis exactly the right author for this street-level breakdown of smuggling in the 1970s. (Scott Hulet, The Surfer's Journal)Thai Stick is a brilliant story of the surfers and watermen who pioneered the trans-Pacific pot trade. Adventurous and often hilarious, the book's narrative blows open one of the last remaining secrets of the hippie era. It also exposes the dark side of the business and its occasionally tragic consequences. Thai Stick is at once an authoritative work of history and an intense, highly entertaining read. (Nicholas Schou, author of The Weed Runners: Travels with the Outlaw Capitalists of America's Medical Marijuana Trade)Thai Stick is a rare, heart-

stopping story about California surfers, hippies and straight out druggies who smuggled potent marijuana from Thailand to the United States and changed the shape of the American drug culture. Based on interviews with the modern day pirates, Thai Stick captures the wild aura of the 1970s and 1980s dope trade and the U.S. War on Drugs that tried to stop it. (Elizabeth Becker) A rattling good yarn. (Bradley Winterton Taipei Times) About the Author Peter Maguire is the author of Law and War and Facing Death in Cambodia. He is a historian and former war-crimes investigator whose writings have been published in the International Herald Tribune, New York Times, The Independent, Newsday, and Boston Globe. He has taught law and war theory at Columbia University and Bard College. Mike Ritter dropped out of the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 1967 and set off on the Hippie Trail to Afghanistan and India, where he began smuggling hash and marijuana in 1968 and continued for eighteen years. He recently graduated from the University of Hawaii with an undergraduate degree in astronomy and physics. David Farber is as a professor in the Department of History at Temple University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and is the author or coeditor of several books, including The Rise and Fall of Modern American Conservatism and Taken Hostage: The Iran Hostage Crisis and America's First Encounter with Radical Islam.