Acknowledgments

TEN YEARS AGO, while killing time between flights in a duty-free shop, I found myself wondering why I was surrounded by drugs. Marlboro cartons loomed to my left, Drambuie bottles to my right, Belgian chocolates behind me, Kenyan coffee straight ahead—everywhere I looked, I saw imported psychoactive products. How did these things get here? And why could "here" be anywhere—why did duty-free shops all seem to be stocked with the same merchandise? (Indeed, I can no longer recall which airport I was passing through.) Though I had long been interested in the history of narcotic drugs, this book grew out of a broader curiosity about psychoactive commerce, a ubiquitous—and, I now believe, defining—feature of the modern world.

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