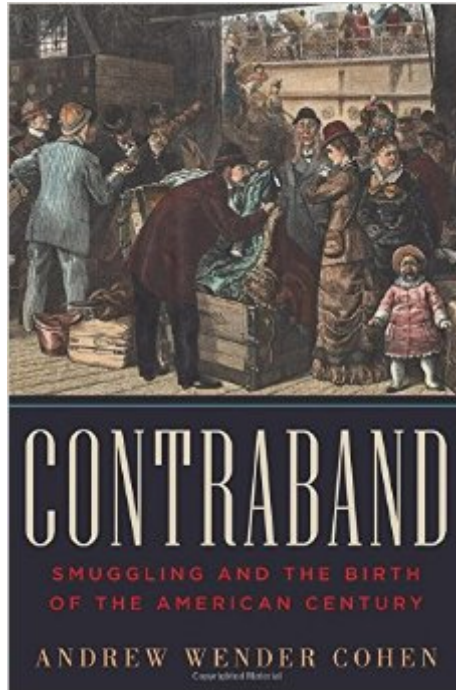


The book was found

# Contraband: Smuggling And The Birth Of The American Century



## Synopsis

How skirting the law once defined America's relation to the world. In the frigid winter of 1875, Charles L. Lawrence made international headlines when he was arrested for smuggling silk worth \$60 million into the United States. An intimate of Boss Tweed, gloriously dubbed "The Prince of Smugglers," and the head of a network spanning four continents and lasting half a decade, Lawrence scandalized a nation whose founders themselves had once dabbled in contraband. Since the Revolution itself, smuggling had tested the patriotism of the American people. Distrusting foreign goods, Congress instituted high tariffs on most imports. Protecting the nation was the custom house, which waged a "war on smuggling," inspecting every traveler for illicitly imported silk, opium, tobacco, sugar, diamonds, and art. The Civil War's blockade of the Confederacy heightened the obsession with contraband, but smuggling entered its prime during the Gilded Age, when characters like assassin Louis Biala, economist "The Parsee Merchant," Congressman Ben Butler, and actress Rose Eytinge tempted consumers with illicit foreign luxuries. Only as the United States became a global power with World War I did smuggling lose its scurvy romance. Meticulously researched, *Contraband* explores the history of smuggling to illuminate the broader history of the United States, its power, its politics, and its culture. 20 illustrations

## Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company (August 24, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393065332

ISBN-13: 978-0393065336

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.3 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #370,263 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in [Books > Business & Money > International > Exports & Imports](#) #4002 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime](#) #16427 in [Books > History > Americas > United States](#)

## Customer Reviews

Remarkable study of smuggling, which illustrates how Americans related to the world from the Founding to World War I. From the beginning, the United States sought to build nationalism by limiting their own ability to trade with foreigners. But at the same time, Americans like Charles L.

Lawrence defied customs authorities, insisting that trade be free. The government responded by building a potent army of customs inspectors and treasury agents, who profiled Jews, Asians, and women in the pursuit of tariff revenues. Beautifully written, the author uses the stories of smugglers like Jean Lafitte, Charles L. Lawrence, and Rose Eytinge to illustrate not only the history of Protectionism, but also the rise of American empire and the development of the modern social safety net. He shows that the tariff was far from an unpopular relic, but rather the foundation of the nineteenth century state.

Great story, which follows the career of smuggler Charlie Lawrence, and an important, sweeping interpretation of the U.S. and the world in the nineteenth century.

Good book but tough to get through. Hard to follow all the actors. Great topic and good background on the U.S. Post civil war

More about the evolution of customs (import) duties (taxes) than any individual. Not a great read, but ok. For those interested in the nitty gritty of our (American) history.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Contraband: Smuggling and the Birth of the American Century  
The Wright Brothers Photographs: Wilbur and Orville Wright's Original and Extraordinary Images Documenting the Birth of Flight  
A City Called Heaven: Chicago and the Birth of Gospel Music (Music in American Life)  
Taking Charge of Your Fertility, 20th Anniversary Edition: The Definitive Guide to Natural Birth Control, Pregnancy Achievement, and Reproductive Health  
Children with Hearing Loss: Developing Listening and Talking, Birth to Six, Third Edition  
In Montmartre: Picasso, Matisse and the Birth of Modernist Art  
The Wise King: A Christian Prince, Muslim Spain, and the Birth of the Renaissance  
EURYTHMY: ITS BIRTH AND DEVELOPMENT  
The Scholar Denied: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Birth of Modern Sociology  
America The Black Point of View - An Investigation and Study of the White People of America and Western Europe  
and The Autobiography of an American Ghetto Boy, The 1950s and 1960s  
Independence in Latin America: Contrasts and Comparisons: Joe R. And Teresa Lozano  
Long Series in Latin American and Latino Art and Culture  
The Mindful Mom-To-Be: A Modern Doula's Guide to Building a Healthy Foundation from Pregnancy Through Birth  
Magna Carta: The Birth of Liberty  
Training and Riding with Cones and Poles: Over 35 Engaging Exercises to Improve Your Horse's Focus and Response to the Aids, While Sharpening Your Timing and Accuracy  
Counseling and Psychotherapy with Children and Adolescents: Theory and Practice for School and

Clinical Settings Pride and Prejudice and Zombies (Movie Tie-in Edition) (Pride and Prej. and  
Zombies) Eye of Newt and Toe of Frog, Adder's Fork and Lizard's Leg: The Lore and Mythology of  
Amphibians and Reptiles Day Trading: Day Trading for Beginners - Options Trading and Stock  
Trading Explained: Day Trading Basics and Day Trading Strategies (Do's and Don'ts and the Small  
Letters) - 3rd Edition Day Trading: Day Trading for Beginners - Options Trading and Stock Trading  
Explained: Day Trading Basics and Day Trading Strategies (Do's and Don'ts and the Small Letters)  
Supply Chain and Logistics Management Made Easy: Methods and Applications for Planning,  
Operations, Integration, Control and Improvement, and Network Design

[Dmca](#)