

6000 BCE - 2009 CE

6000 BCE

Americas First cultivation of the tobacco plant.

circa 1 BCE

Americas Indigenous Americans began smoking and using tobacco enemas.

Americas Huron Indian myth: “In ancient times, when the land was barren and the people were starving, the Great Spirit sent forth a woman to save humanity. As she traveled over the world everywhere her right hand touched the soil, there grew potatoes. And everywhere her left hand touched the soil, there grew corn. And in the place where she had sat, there grew tobacco.”

1492

Christopher Columbus and his crew returned to Europe from the Americas with the first tobacco leaves and seeds ever seen on the continent. A crew member, Rodrigo de Jerez, was seen smoking and imprisoned by the Inquisition, which believed he was possessed by the devil.

Early 1500s

Middle East Tobacco introduced when the Turks took it to Egypt.

1530–1600

China Tobacco introduced via Japan or the Philippines.

1558

Europe Tobacco plant brought to Europe. Attempts at cultivation failed.



1560

Africa Portuguese and Spanish traders introduced tobacco to Africa.

1560

France Diplomat Jean Nicot, Lord of Villemain, introduced tobacco from Portugal. Queen Catherine de Medici used it to treat her migraines.

1577

Europe European doctors recommended tobacco as a cure for toothache, falling fingernails, worms, halitosis, lockjaw, and cancer.

1592–1598

Korea The Japanese Army introduced tobacco into Korea.

circa 1600

India Tobacco first introduced.

1603

Japan Use of tobacco well-established.

1604

England King James I wrote *A Counterblaste to Tobacco*. “Smoking is a custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black, stinking fume thereof nearest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless.”

1600s

China Philosopher Fang Yizhi pointed out that long years of smoking “scorches one’s lung.”

1608–1609

Japan Ban on smoking introduced to prevent fires.

1612

Americas Tobacco first grown commercially.

1614

England 7,000 tobacco shops opened with the first sale of Virginia tobacco.

1633

Turkey Death penalty imposed for smoking.

1634

China Qing Dynasty decreed a smoking ban during which a violator was executed. This was not to protect health, but to address the inequality of trade with Korea.

1650s

South Africa European settlers grew tobacco and used it as a form of currency.

1692 and 1717

Korea Bans on smoking in Choson introduced to reduce fire risk.

circa 1710

Russia Peter the Great encouraged his courtiers to smoke tobacco and drink coffee, which was seen as fashionable and pro-European.

1700s

Africa/Americas African slaves forced to work in tobacco fields.

1719

France Smoking was prohibited in many places.

1753

Sweden Botanist Carolus Linnaeus named the plant genus *nicotiana* and describes two species, *nicotiana rustica* and *nicotiana tabacum*.

1761

England First study of the effects of tobacco by Dr. John Hill; snuff

users were warned they risked nasal cancers.

1769

New Zealand Captain James Cook arrived smoking a pipe, and was promptly doused in case he was a demon.

1771

France French official was condemned to be hanged for admitting foreign tobacco into the country.

1788

Australia Tobacco arrived with the First Fleet, eleven ships which sailed from England carrying mostly convicts and crew.



1795

Sammuel Thomas von Soemmering reported cancers of the lip in pipe smokers.

18th century

Snuff was the most popular mode of tobacco use.

1800

Canada Tobacco first grown commercially.

1833

UK Phosphorus friction matches introduced on a commercial scale, making smoking more convenient.

1840

France Frederic Chopin’s mistress,

the Baroness de Dudevant, likely to have been the first woman to smoke in public (in Paris).

1847

England Philip Morris Esq, a tobacconist and importer of fine cigars, opened a shop in London selling hand-rolled Turkish cigarettes.

1854

England Philip Morris began making his own cigarettes. Old Bond Street soon became the center of the retail tobacco trade.

1858

China Treaty of Tianjin allowed cigarettes to be imported into China duty-free.

1862

USA First federal tobacco tax was introduced to help finance the Civil War.

1876

Korea Foreign cigarettes and matches were introduced.

1880s

England Richard Benson and William Hedges opened a tobacconist shop near Philip Morris in London.

1881

USA First practical cigarette-making machine patented by James Bonsack. It could produce 120,000 cigarettes a day, each machine doing the work of 48 people. Production costs plummeted, and—with the invention of the safety match a few decades later—cigarette-smoking began its explosive growth.

circa 1890s

Indonesia Clove cigarette, the kretek, invented.

before 1900

Lung cancer was extremely rare.

1901–02

England Imperial Tobacco Company Limited (ITL) and British American Tobacco (BAT) were founded.

1903

Brazil Tobacco company Souza Cruz founded.

1913

USA Birth of the “modern” cigarette: RJ Reynolds introduced the Camel brand.

1915

Japan Cancer was induced in laboratory animals for the first time by applying coal tar to rabbits’ skin at Tokyo University.

1921

Korea Korea Ginseng Corporation became Korea Tobacco and Ginseng (KTG) and a monopoly was formed.

1924

Philip Morris introduced Marlboro as a women’s cigarette as “mild as May.”

1924

Reader’s Digest published “Does Tobacco Injure the Human Body,” the beginning of a *Reader’s Digest* campaign to make people think before starting to smoke.

1929

USA Edward Bernays mounted a “freedom march” of smoking debutantes/fashion models who walk down Fifth Avenue in New York during the Easter parade dressed as Statues of Liberty and holding aloft their Lucky Strike cigarettes as “torches of freedom.”

1929

Germany Fritz Lickint of Dresden published the first formal statistical evidence of a lung cancer-tobacco link, based on a case series showing that lung cancer sufferers were likely to be smokers.



1936

Germany Fritz Lickint first used the term “Passivrauchen” (passive smoking) in *Tabakgenuss und Gesundheit*.

1939

USA Tobacco companies found price-fixing.

1939

USA Drs. Alton Ochsner and Michael DeBakey first reported the association of smoking and lung cancer.

1947

Canada Dr. Norman Delarue compared 50 patients with lung cancer with 50 patients hospitalized with other diseases. He discovered that over 90 percent of the first group—but only half of the second—were smokers, and confidently predicted that by 1950 no one would be smoking.

1950

USA The link between smoking and lung cancer was confirmed. A landmark article “Tobacco smoking as a possible etiologic factor

1950–1995

in bronchogenic carcinoma” by E. L. Wynder and Evarts Graham was published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. The same issue featured a full-page ad for Chesterfields with the actress Gene Tierney and golfer Ben Hogan; the journal accepted tobacco ads until 1953.



1951
UK Dr. Richard Doll and Prof. Austin Bradford Hill conducted the first large-scale case control study on the link between smoking and lung cancer.

1953
USA Tobacco executives met in New York City to find a way to deal with recent scientific data pointing to the health hazards of cigarettes.

1950s
China State monopoly takes control of the tobacco business, and foreign tobacco companies left China. BAT, almost half of whose revenues came from China, was especially hurt.

1954
USA St. Louis factory worker Ira C. Lowe filed the first product liability action against a tobacco company on behalf of her smoker husband, who died from cancer. The tobacco company won.

1954
USA The Marlboro cowboy was created for Philip Morris by Chicago ad agency Leo Burnett.

1954
USA Tobacco Industry Research Committee (TIRC) placed a nationwide two-page ad: “A frank statement to cigarette smokers.”

1957
Vatican Pope Pius XII suggested that the Jesuit order give up smoking.

1958
USA Tobacco Institute formed.

1960
USA Framingham Heart Study found cigarette smoking increased the risk of heart disease.

1962
UK First Report of the Royal College of Physicians of London on Smoking and Health.

1963
World Tobacco and Tobacco Journal International, tobacco industry trade journals, first published.

1964
USA First US Surgeon General’s report on smoking and health announced that smoking caused lung cancer in men.

1965
WHO established the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) based in Lyons, France.

1965
UK Cigarette advertising on TV was banned.

1967
USA First World Conference on Tobacco or Health held in New York.

1969
USA Surgeon General’s Report confirmed the link between maternal smoking and low birth weight.

1971
UK ASH UK established the first national tobacco control organization.

1971
USA Cigarette manufacturers first agreed to put health warnings on advertisements. This agreement was later made law.

1972
Marlboro became the bestselling cigarette in the world.



1972
International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer was inaugurated.

1974
France Joe Camel was born—used in French poster campaign for Camel cigarettes.

1976
USA *Shimp v. New Jersey Bell Telephone Co.* filed the world’s first lawsuit regarding second-hand smoke. The office worker was granted an injunction to ensure a smoke-free area in her workplace.

1977
Italy The Martignacco Project community prevention trial resulted in a reduction of coronary heart disease.

1977
USA First Great American Smokeout held nationally, during which smokers quit smoking on the third Thursday of November.

1978
Australia The three-year community study North Coast Healthy Lifestyle Programme showed a significant reduction in smoking.

1978
USA A Roper Report prepared for the Tobacco Institute concluded that the nonsmokers’ rights movement was “the most dangerous development to the viability of the tobacco industry that has yet occurred.”

1979
USA Tobacco Control Resource Center and its Tobacco Products Liability Project were formed.

1979
The Freedom Organization for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (FOREST) formed.

1979
Australia Activist group BUGAUP (Billboard Utilising Graffitiists Against Unhealthy

Promotions) was formed, re-facing tobacco and alcohol billboards.

1981
Japan Professor Takeshi Hirayama (1923–1995) published the first report linking passive smoking and lung cancer in the nonsmoking wives of men who smoked.

1983
Europe ERC Group plc, an independent market research group, published first European Tobacco Market Report.

1984
Nicotine gum was first introduced.

1985
USA Lung cancer surpassed breast cancer as number-one cancer killer of women.

by 1985
73 percent of the world’s tobacco was grown in developing countries.

1987
USA Smoke-free Educational Services founded, advocating the right of all employees to work in a safe, healthy, smoke-free environment.

1988
First WHO report on the effects of smokeless tobacco.

1988
USA Framingham Heart Study found cigarette smoking increased the risk of stroke.

1988
First WHO World No Tobacco Day, subsequently an annual event on May 31, with different annual themes and awards of commemorative medals.

1989
Asia The Asia Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco (APACT) was established by Dr. David Yen of the John Tung Foundation, Taiwan, China.

1990
GLOBALink inaugurated, the international interactive website and marketplace founded by the International Union Against Cancer for the international tobacco-control community.

1990
International Network of Women Against Tobacco (INWAT) formed.

1990
China Chinese Association on Smoking and Health inaugurated.

1991
UK International Agency on Tobacco and Health (IATH) formed to act as an information and advisory service for the least-developed countries.

1991
Realization that chemicals in cigarette smoke switch on a gene that makes lung cells vulnerable to the chemicals’ cancer-causing properties.

1991
South Africa Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act passed.

1991
International Network Towards Smoke-free Hospitals inaugurated, aiming to give healthy environment to hospital staff and patients.



1992
Tobacco Control journal founded by the British Medical Journals group. This was the first international peer-reviewed journal on tobacco control, and in 2004, the journal had the highest impact factor of all in the substance abuse field.

1992
Northern Ireland, UK First conference on women and tobacco initiated by the UICC (International Union Against Cancer), the Ulster Cancer Foundation, and the Health Promotion Agency of Northern Ireland.

1993
USA Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared cigarette smoke a Class-A carcinogen.

1993
South Africa Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act passed.

1993
Europe European Network on Young People and Tobacco (ENYPAT) founded.

1994
USA Cigarette executives testified before Congress that in their opinion nicotine was not addictive.

1994
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco founded.

1994
USA Confidential internal tobacco industry documents leaked to Professor Stan Glantz.

1994
Austria First TABEXPO held in Vienna. TABEXPO stages exhibitions and congresses for the international tobacco industry.

1994
International Non Governmental Coalition Against Tobacco (INGCAT) founded.

1994
First international “Quit & Win” campaign.

1994
Canada Research for International Tobacco Control (RITC) inaugurated, with a major focus on developing countries.

1994
USA State of Mississippi filed first lawsuit by a health authority for reimbursement of money expended to treat smokers with smoking-caused illnesses. It ended with an out-of-court settlement.

1995
USA Smokescreen.org (later Smoke-free.net) was inaugurated. Focusing on the right to breathe clean air, this was the first Web-based advocacy site that enabled

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visitors to send faxes directly to their elected officials. Mainly used by Americans, but also by 10,000 international participants.

1995

Italy The Bellagio statement on tobacco and sustainable development was issued by members of retreat at Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Study and Conference Centre.

1995

International Council of Nurses (ICN) published position statement on tobacco.

1995

USA Federal Drug Administration declared cigarettes to be “drug delivery devices.” Restrictions were proposed on marketing and sales to reduce smoking by young people.



1990s

Cigars became fashionable again.

1995

Forces International (Fight Ordinances and Restrictions to Control and Eliminate Smoking), an ostensibly grassroots pro-tobacco organization unaffiliated with the tobacco industry, established.

1995

USA “Marlboro Man” David McLean died of lung cancer.

1996

USA First smoking cessation guideline, issued by the Public Health Service, Federal Government.

1997

Europe European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP) created.

1997

Scotland, UK Doctors and Tobacco: Tobacco Control Resource Centre (TCRC) formed by the European Forum Medical Associations (EFMA). The TCRC is based at the British Medical Association in Edinburgh, and works in partnership with national medical associations across Europe.

1997

USA Congress passed a bill prohibiting the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce from promoting the sale or export of tobacco.

1998

Studies confirmed the harmfulness of smoking fewer than 10 cigarettes a day.

1998

WHO's Tobacco-free Initiative (TFI) was established.

1998

United Nations Foundation first funded a tobacco control project.

1998

Australia Tobacco Control Super-site website inaugurated, enabling exploration of internal, previously private tobacco industry documents, and providing access to a wide range of information relevant to smoking prevention and control in Australia.

1998

USA Master Settlement Agreement among Attorneys General of 46 states and five territories with tobacco companies to settle lawsuits.

1999

USA Network for Accountability of Tobacco Transnationals (NATT) founded by Infact, made up of environmental, consumers, human rights, and corporate accountability organizations working together to forge new ground in international law to prevent life-threatening abuses by transnational corporations.

1999

Global Youth Tobacco Surveys (GYTS) commenced.

1999

World Bank report: *Curbing the Epidemic: Governments and the Economics of Tobacco Control*.

1999

Sweden Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) first supported tobacco control projects.

1999

UK Britain's royal family ordered the removal of its seal of approval and royal crest from Gallaher's Benson and Hedges cigarettes by 2000.

1999

USA US Justice Department sued the tobacco industry to recover billions of government dollars spent on smoking-related health-care, accusing cigarette makers of “fraud and deceit.”

2000

Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) of NGOs formed to support the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and related protocols.

2000

USA First Luther L. Terry Awards for contributions to tobacco control.

2000

Global Partnerships for Tobacco Control founded by Essential Action to help support and strengthen international tobacco control activities at the grassroots level.

2000

International Tobacco Evidence Network (ITEN) established, with the goal of expanding global research.

2000

Rockefeller Foundation International Health Research Awards for “Trading Tobacco for Health” in selected ASEAN countries.

2000

South Africa Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act came into effect, strictly regulating smoking and advertising.

2001

Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) formed to

act as supportive base for government and nongovernment tobacco control workers and advocates.

2001

USA A new report, *Clearing the Smoke: Assessing the Science Base for Tobacco Harm Reduction*, from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) was released.

2001

WHO published *Tobacco & the Rights of the Child*.

2001

Czech Republic Philip Morris released a report to the government that concluded that smokers save the state money—by dying early.

2002

TobaccoPedia, the online tobacco encyclopedia, was inaugurated.

2002

USA Global Tobacco Research Network founded by the Institute for Global Tobacco Control at Johns Hopkins University.

2002

WHO published the first edition of *The Tobacco Atlas*.

2002

USA Fogarty International Centre, National Institutes of Health, allocated funding for tobacco research projects.

2003

World Medical Association launched “The Doctors’ Manifesto for Global Tobacco Control.”

2003

Treatobacco web-based database and educational resource for treatment of tobacco dependence established by the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco.

2003

The Global Network of Pharmacists Against Tobacco launched.

2004

Ireland Workplace smoking ban, including pubs and restaurants, implemented. Exactly one year after the ban, cigarette sales had declined by 18 percent.

2004

First general textbook for health professionals on tobacco published: *Tobacco: Science, Policy and Public Health*.

2004

Europe The EU Commission published the ASPECT report, Tobacco or Health in the European Union: Past, Present and Future, the first comprehensive overview of tobacco control in the 25 EU member countries plus Norway, Iceland, and Switzerland.

2004

Uganda Environment Minister Kahinda Otafiire announced a ban on smoking in restaurants, educational institutions, and bars.

2004

Canada Non-Smokers’ Rights Association, founded in 1974, the first such association, celebrated its 30th anniversary.

2004

Myriad Editions created interactive Internet mapping of *The Tobacco Atlas* launched by Global Tobacco Research Network, Johns Hopkins University.

2004

WHO's “Code of practice on tobacco control for health professional organizations” launched.

2004

IARC Monograph on Tobacco Smoke and Involuntary Smoking released, conclusively refuting extensive tobacco industry disinformation.

2004

India Complete ban on tobacco advertising and promotions came into effect.

2005

World Dental Federation (FDI) launches Tobacco or Oral Health publication.

2005

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) came into force, using international law to reduce tobacco use. This convention was initiated by Ruth Roemer in 1993.

2006

Second edition of *The Tobacco Atlas* published by American Cancer Society in print and online at www.tobaccoresearch.net/atlas.

2006

Bloomberg Global Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use in low- and middle-income countries launched

with \$125 million donation from Michael Bloomberg, mayor of New York City.

2008

The Global Smokefree Partnership formed to promote effective smoke-free air policies worldwide.

2008

The first WHO MPOWER report on the global status of the tobacco epidemic published.

2008

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation pledges \$125 million to global tobacco control. Michael Bloomberg pledges an additional \$250 million to the Bloomberg Global Initiative, bringing total outlay to \$500 million over seven years, 2006–2013.



2009

Third edition of *The Tobacco Atlas* published by the American Cancer Society and World Lung Foundation.

