

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 Soemmerring 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**  
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



## 1995–2009

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](http://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.

