

# The History of Tobacco

"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 travelled 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." Huron Indian myth

"The Spaniards upon their journey met with great multitudes of people, men and women with firebrands in their hands and herbs to smoke after their custom." Christopher Columbus' journal, 6 November 1492

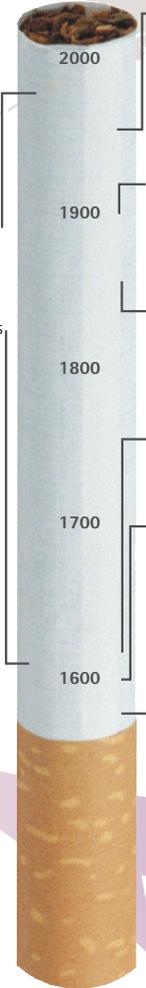
"Smoking is a custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black, stinking fume thereof nearest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless." James I of England  
*A Counterblaste to Tobacco* 1604

"I say, if you can't send money, send tobacco." first US President George Washington's request to help finance the American Civil War, 1776

Within 150 years of Columbus's finding "strange leaves" in the New World, tobacco was being used around the globe. Its rapid spread and widespread acceptance characterise the addiction to the plant *Nicotina tobacum*. Only the mode of delivery has changed. In the 18th century, snuff held sway; the 19th century was the age of the cigar; the 20th century saw the rise of the manufactured cigarette, and with it a greatly increased number of smokers. At the beginning of the 21st century about one third of adults in the world, including increasing numbers of women, used tobacco.

Despite thousands of studies showing that tobacco in all its forms kills its users, and smoking cigarettes kills non-users, people continue to smoke, and deaths from tobacco use continue to increase.

## Asia



- 2000
- 1900
- 1858
- 1603
- 1600
- 1530-1600
- 1600
- 1600

- China State monopoly takes control of the tobacco business and foreign companies had to leave
- China almost entirely penetrated by foreign tobacco companies
- China Treaty of Tianjin allows cigarettes to be imported into China duty-free
- Japan Use of tobacco well-established
- India Tobacco introduced
- China Tobacco introduced via Japan or the Philippines

Japan First major report on dangers of passive smoking (Hirayama) 1981

China Philosopher Fang Yizhi points out long years of smoking "scorches one's lung" 1600s

- USA Surgeons General's Report determines that smoking causes lung cancer in men 1964
- USA Reader's Digest publishes *Cancer by the Carton* article 1953
- USA Major report on smoking (Wynder and Graham) 1950
- USA First link between smoking and lung cancer (Ochsner) 1939
- USA First federal tobacco tax introduced to help finance Civil War 1862

## Americas



- 1994
- 1913
- 1881
- 1800
- 1612
- 1531
- 1492
- circa 1BC
- 6000 BC

- USA CEOs of cigarette companies testify before Congress that it is their opinion that nicotine is not addictive
- USA Birth of the "modern" cigarette: RJ Reynolds introduces the Camel brand
- USA Invention of cigarette machine
- Canada Tobacco first grown commercially
- Americas Tobacco first grown commercially
- Santo Domingo European settlers begin tobacco cultivation
- Cuba Columbus discovers tobacco smoking and takes it to Europe
- Indigenous Americans begin smoking and using tobacco enemas
- Americas First cultivation of the tobacco plant

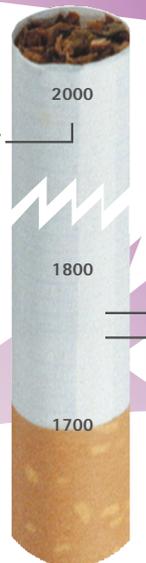
## Europe and Middle East



- 2000
- 1901
- 1840
- 1833
- 1800
- 1795
- 1761
- 1633
- 1604
- 1566
- 1558
- Early 1500s

- UK Imperial Tobacco Company and British American Tobacco founded
- France Frederic Chopin's mistress, the Baroness de Dudevant, became the first woman to smoke in public
- UK Phosphorus friction matches introduced on commercial scale, making smoking more convenient
- Russia Peter the Great encourages his courtiers to smoke tobacco and drink coffee, seen as fashionable and pro-European
- England 7000 tobacco shops open with first sale of Virginia tobacco
- France Jacques Nicot sends snuff to Queen Catherine de Medici to treat her migraine
- Europe Tobacco plant brought to Europe. Attempts at cultivation fail
- Middle East Tobacco first introduced when the Turks took it to Egypt
- UK First Report of the British Royal College of Physicians of London *Smoking and Health*
- UK First major reports on smoking (Doll and Hill)
- Germany Samuel Thomas von Soemmerring reports cancers of the lip in pipe smokers
- England First study of effects of tobacco (John Hill); snuff users warned they risk nasal cancers
- Turkey Death penalty for smoking
- England King James I writes *A Counterblaste to Tobacco*
- Africa-US African slaves initially used to work in tobacco fields, not on cotton plantations
- South Africa European settlers grow tobacco and use it as a form of currency
- Africa Portuguese and Spaniards ship tobacco to East Africa, where it spread to Central and West Africa

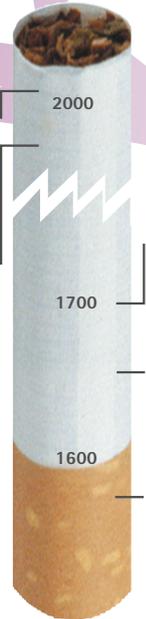
## Oceania



- 2000
- 1800
- 1788
- 1769
- 1700

- Australia Victoria first place to use tobacco tax to establish health foundation to counter tobacco 1987
- Australia Tobacco arrives with the First Fleet
- New Zealand Captain James Cook arrives smoking a pipe, and is promptly doused in case he is a demon

## Africa



- 2000
- 1700s
- 1650s
- 1560

- Africa provides global leadership in drafting a WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
- South Africa passes Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act
- Africa Portuguese and Spaniards ship tobacco to East Africa, where it spread to Central and West Africa