



Timeline

- c. 50,000 B.C.E.:** Australia populated. Humans there may have begun chewing tobacco species: *Nicotiana. gossei*, *N. ingulba*, *N. simulans*, *N. benthamiana*, *N. cavicola*, *N. excelsior*, *N. velutina*, and *N. megalosiphon*.
- c. 15,000–10,000 B.C.E.:** Americas south of the Arctic populated. Humans there may have begun to pick and use wild tobacco species.
- c. 5000 B.C.E.:** Maize-based agriculture develops in central Mexico, probable beginnings of tobacco cultivation as well.
- c. 1400–1000 B.C.E.:** Remains of cultivated and wild tobacco dating from this period have been found in High Rolls Cave in New Mexico. Dates established by radiocarbon methods.
- 1492:** Columbus sees Taíno (Indians of Greater Antilles) with leaves that are probably tobacco. Two men among Columbus's crew explore the interior of Cuba and see people smoking.
- 1518:** Juan de Grijalva, leader of expedition to Yucatan and Gulf of Mexico, accepts offerings of cigars or pipes.
- 1535:** Publication of Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo's *Historia general de las Indias*, which has first published reference to tobacco. It condemns it as a "vile vice" but also notes that the habit spread to "Christians" and black slaves as well.
- 1535:** Jacques Cartier encounters natives using tobacco on the island of Montreal.
- 1555:** Franciscan Friar André Thevet of Angoulême (France) witnesses Brazil's Tupinamba Indians smoking tobacco; following year sows tobacco seeds in France.
- 1560:** Jean Nicot, France's ambassador to Portugal, writes of tobacco's medicinal properties, describing it as a panacea. Nicot sends *rustica* plants to French court.
- 1561:** Nicot sends snuff to Catherine de Medici, the Queen Mother of France, to treat her son Francis II's migraine headaches.
- 1565:** Sir John Hawkins's expedition observes Florida natives using tobacco.
- 1571:** Publication of Nicolas Monardes's *Segunda parte del libro, de las cosas que se traen de nuestras Indias Occidentales, que sirven al uso de medicina* [The second part of the book of the things brought from our Occidental Indies which are used as medicine], which has the most extensive and positive description of tobacco to that date.
- 1583:** Council of Lima declares that priests cannot consume tobacco in any form before saying mass, under threat of excommunication.
- 1585:** Francis Drake expedition trades for tobacco with Island Caribs of Dominica.
- 1587:** Gilles Everard's *De herba panacea* (Antwerp) is first publication devoted entirely to tobacco.
- 1588:** Thomas Hariot publishes *A Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*, in which he describes Virginia native people smoking tobacco.
- 1595:** Anthony Chute publishes *Tabacco*, the first book in the English language devoted to the subject of tobacco.
- 1600:** Franciscan missionary presents tobacco seeds and tobacco tincture to Tokugawa Ieyasu, who will become Shogun of Japan in 1603.
- 1603:** Spanish colonies of Cumaná and Caracas (Venezuela) produce 30,000 pounds of tobacco.
- 1604:** King James I publishes *A Counterblaste to Tobacco*, in which he condemns tobacco smoking as unhealthy, dirty, and immoral.
- 1606:** King of Spain prohibits the cultivation of tobacco in Caribbean and South America to thwart contraband trade between Spanish settlers and English and

TIMELINE

- Dutch traders. Edict rescinded in 1612.
- 1607:** Inhabitants of Sierra Leone seen sowing tobacco.
- 1607:** Jamestown, the first permanent English colony in the Americas, is founded.
- 1612:** John Rolfe raises Virginia's first commercial crop of "tall tobacco."
- 1617:** Mughal Shah Jahangir (reigned 1605–1627) bans smoking because tobacco consumption creates "disturbance in most temperaments."
- 1624:** Texts by Chinese physicians Zhang Jiebin (1563–1640) and Ni Zhumo (c. 1600) mention tobacco in section on pharmacopoeia.
- 1627:** Tobacco cultivation in Ottoman territory is banned.
- 1636:** First state tobacco monopoly established in Castille (Spain).
- 1642:** Papal Bull forbids clerics in Seville from using tobacco in church and other holy places.
- 1674:** Tobacco monopoly established in France.
- 1682:** Virginia colonists rebel when the government fails to decree a cessation in tobacco crops after bumper crops lead to low prices. Disgruntled planters destroy thousands of tobacco plants; six ringleaders are executed.
- 1698:** In Russia, Peter the Great agrees to a monopoly of the tobacco trade with the English, against church wishes.
- 1724:** Pope Benedict XIII learns to smoke and use snuff, and repeals papal bulls against clerical smoking.
- 1753:** Linnaeus names the plant genus *nicotiana*. and describes two species, *nicotiana rustica*. and *nicotiana tabacum*.
- 1760:** Pierre Lorillard establishes a "manufactory" in New York City for processing pipe tobacco, cigars, and snuff. P. Lorillard is the oldest tobacco company in the United States.
- 1794:** U.S. Congress passes the first federal excise tax on snuff, leaving chewing and smoking tobacco unaffected.
- 1827:** First friction match invented.
- 1828:** Isolation of nicotine from tobacco by Wilhelm Posselt and Karl Reimann.
- 1832:** Paper-rolled cigarette is invented in Turkey by an Egyptian artilleryman.
- 1839:** Discovery that flue-curing turns tobacco leaf a bright brilliant yellow and orange color. The bright-leaf industry is born.
- 1843:** French tobacco monopoly begins to manufacture cigarettes.
- 1847:** In London, Philip Morris opens a shop that sells hand-rolled Turkish cigarettes.
- 1849:** J. E. Liggett and Brother is established in St. Louis, Missouri, by John Edmund Liggett.
- 1854:** Philip Morris begins making his own cigarettes. Old Bond Street soon becomes the center of the retail tobacco trade.
- 1868:** British Parliament passes the Railway Bill of 1868, which mandates smoke-free cars to prevent injury to nonsmokers.
- 1880:** James Bonsack is granted a patent for his cigarette-making machine.
- 1881:** James Buchanan (Buck) Duke starts to manufacture cigarettes in Durham, North Carolina.
- 1889:** Five leading cigarette firms, including W. Duke Sons & Company, unite. "Buck" Duke becomes president of the new American Tobacco Company.
- 1890:** *My Lady Nicotine*, by Sir James Barrie, is published in London.
- 1890–1892:** Popular revolts against imposition of British-controlled monopoly on sale of tobacco take place in Iran.
- 1899:** Lucy Payne Gaston founds the Chicago Anti-Cigarette League, which grows by 1911 to the Anti-Cigarette League of America, and by 1919 to the Anti-Cigarette League of the World.
- 1902:** Imperial Tobacco (U.K.) and American Tobacco Co. (U.S.) agree to market cigarettes in their respective countries exclusively, and to form a joint venture, the British American Tobacco Company (BAT), to sell both companies' brands abroad.
- 1907:** The U.S. Justice Department files anti-trust charges against American Tobacco.
- 1908:** The U.K. Children Act prohibits the sale of tobacco to children under 16, based on the belief that smoking stunts children's growth.
- 1910:** Gitanes and Gauloises cigarette brands are introduced in France.
- 1911:** U.S. Supreme Court dissolves Duke's trust as a monopoly, in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1890). The major companies to emerge are American Tobacco Co., R.J. Reynolds, Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company (Durham, N.C.), Lorillard, and British American Tobacco (BAT).
- 1913:** R.J. Reynolds introduces the Camel brand of cigarettes.
- 1913:** China has its first harvest of Bright leaf tobacco, grown from imported American seeds and using American growing methods.
- 1916:** Henry Ford publishes an anti-cigarette pamphlet titled *The Case against the Little White Slaver*.
- 1924:** Philip Morris introduces Marlboro, a women's cigarette that is "Mild as May."

- 1927:** Long Island Railroad grants full rights to women in smoking cars.
- 1933:** United States Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 compels tobacco farmers to cut back on output by reducing acreage devoted to tobacco production, in return for price supports. They are saved from economic ruin.
- 1938:** Dr. Raymond Pearl of Johns Hopkins University reports to the New York Academy of Medicine that smokers do not live as long as nonsmokers.
- 1950:** Five important epidemiological studies show that lung cancer patients are more likely to be smokers than are other hospital patients.
- 1954:** Results from two prospective epidemiological studies show that smokers have higher lung cancer mortality rates than nonsmokers. The studies were conducted by E. Cuyler Hammond and Daniel Horn in the U.S. and Richard Doll and Austin Bradford Hill in the U.K.
- 1957:** First Japanese-made filter cigarette, Hope, is put on the market.
- 1964:** *Smoking and Health: Report of the Advisory Committee to the Surgeon General*, the first comprehensive governmental report on smoking and health, is released at a highly anticipated press conference. It concludes that smoking is a cause of lung cancer, laryngeal cancer, and chronic bronchitis and “is a health hazard of sufficient importance in the United States to warrant appropriate remedial action.”
- 1965:** U.S. Congress passes the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act, requiring health warnings on all cigarette packages stating “Caution—cigarette smoking may be hazardous to your health.”
- 1970:** U.S. Congress enacts the Public Health Cigarette Smoking Act of 1969. Cigarette advertising is banned on television and radio.
- 1970:** World Health Organization (WHO) takes a public position against cigarette smoking.
- 1972:** First report of the surgeon general to identify involuntary (secondhand) smoking as a health risk.
- 1977:** American Cancer Society (ACS) sponsors the first national “Great American Smokeout,” a grassroots campaign to help smokers to quit.
- 1986:** Congress enacts the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act, requiring health warnings on smokeless (spit) tobacco packages and advertisements and banning smokeless tobacco advertising on radio and television.
- 1988:** Liggett Group (L&M, Chesterfield) ordered to pay Antonio Cipollone \$400,000 in compensatory damages for its contribution to his wife Rose Cipollone’s death (she died in 1984). First-ever financial award in a liability suit against a tobacco company. However, the verdict was later overturned on appeal, and the lawsuit was dropped when the family could no longer afford to continue.
- 1988:** Publication of *The Health Consequences of Smoking: Nicotine Addiction*, the first surgeon general’s report to deal exclusively with nicotine and its effects.
- 1990:** Airline smoking ban goes into effect, banning smoking on all scheduled domestic flights of six hours or less.
- 1991:** U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves a nicotine patch as a prescription drug.
- 1992:** World Bank establishes a formal policy on tobacco, including discontinuing loans or investments for tobacco agriculture in developing countries.
- 1994:** Six major domestic cigarette manufacturers testify before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment that nicotine is not addicting and that they do not manipulate nicotine in cigarettes.
- 1995:** *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* publishes a series of articles describing the contents of secret documents from the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation indicating that the industry knew early on about the harmful effects of tobacco use and the addictive nature of nicotine.
- 1996:** President Bill Clinton announces the nation’s first comprehensive program to prevent children and adolescents from smoking cigarettes or using smokeless tobacco. Under the plan, the Food and Drug Administration would regulate cigarettes as drug-delivery devices for nicotine.
- 1998:** California becomes the first state in the nation to ban smoking in bars.
- 1999:** U.S. Department of Justice sues the tobacco industry to recover billions of dollars spent on smoking-related health care, accusing cigarette makers of a “coordinated campaign of fraud and deceit.”
- 1999:** Attorneys general of 46 states and 5 territories sign a \$206 billion Master Settlement Agreement with major tobacco companies to settle Medicaid lawsuits.
- 2000:** In Canada, Health Minister Allan Rock unveils new health labels that include color pictures.
- 2000:** U.S. Supreme Court issues a 5–4 ruling that existing law does not provide the Food and Drug Administration with authority over tobacco or tobacco marketing, thus invalidating the 1996 Clinton Administration’s regulations.
- 2001:** BAT breaks into Vietnam market, announces that it has been granted a license for a \$40 million joint venture with

TIMELINE

Vintaba to build a processing plant in Vietnam.

2003: First stage of the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act 2002 bans new tobacco sponsorship agreements, advertising on

billboards and in the press, and free distributions. The ban also covers direct mail, Internet advertising, and new promotions.

2003: New York City's smoking ban goes into effect, forbidding

smoking in all restaurants and bars, except for a few cigar lounges.

2004: Complete public smoking ban goes into effect in Ireland.