

= Anti @-@ tobacco movement in Nazi Germany =

After German doctors became the first to identify the link between smoking and lung cancer , Germany initiated a strong anti @-@ tobacco movement and led the first public anti @-@ smoking campaign in modern history . Anti @-@ tobacco movements grew in many nations from the beginning of the 20th century , but these had little success , except in Germany , where the campaign was supported by the government after the Nazis came to power . It was the most powerful anti @-@ smoking movement in the world during the 1930s and early 1940s . The National Socialist leadership condemned smoking and several of them openly criticized tobacco consumption . Research on smoking and its effects on health thrived under Nazi rule and was the most important of its type at that time . Adolf Hitler 's personal distaste for tobacco and the Nazi reproductive policies were among the motivating factors behind their campaign against smoking , and this campaign was associated with both antisemitism and racism .

The Nazi anti @-@ tobacco campaign included banning smoking in trams , buses and city trains , promoting health education , limiting cigarette rations in the Wehrmacht , organizing medical lectures for soldiers , and raising the tobacco tax . The National Socialists also imposed restrictions on tobacco advertising and smoking in public spaces , and regulated restaurants and coffeehouses . The anti @-@ tobacco movement did not have much effect in the early years of the Nazi regime and tobacco use increased between 1933 and 1939 , but smoking by military personnel declined from 1939 to 1945 . Even by the end of the 20th century , the anti @-@ smoking movement in postwar Germany had not attained the influence of the Nazi anti @-@ smoking campaign .

= = Prelude = =

Anti @-@ tobacco sentiment existed in Germany in the early 20th century . Critics of smoking organized the first anti @-@ tobacco group in the country named the Deutscher Tabakgegnerverein zum Schutze der Nichtraucher (German Tobacco Opponents ' Association for the Protection of Non @-@ smokers) . Established in 1904 , this organization existed for a brief period only . The next anti @-@ tobacco organization , the Bund Deutscher Tabakgegner (Federation of German Tobacco Opponents) , was established in 1910 in Trautenau , Bohemia . Other anti @-@ smoking organizations were established in 1912 in the cities of Hanover and Dresden . In 1920 , a Bund Deutscher Tabakgegner in der Tschechoslowakei (Federation of German Tobacco Opponents in Czechoslovakia) was formed in Prague , after Czechoslovakia was separated from Austria at the end of World War I. A Bund Deutscher Tabakgegner in Deutschösterreich (Federation of German Tobacco Opponents in German Austria) was established in Graz in 1920 .

These groups published journals advocating nonsmoking . The first such German language journal was Der Tabakgegner (The Tobacco Opponent) , published by the Bohemian organization between 1912 and 1932 . Deutscher Tabakgegner (German Tobacco Opponent) was published in Dresden from 1919 to 1935 , and was the second journal on this subject . The anti @-@ tobacco organizations were also against consumption of alcoholic beverages .

= = Reasons = =

= = = Hitler 's attitude towards smoking = = =

Adolf Hitler was a heavy smoker in his early life ? he used to smoke 25 to 40 cigarettes daily ? but gave up the habit , concluding that it was " a waste of money " . In later years , Hitler viewed smoking as " decadent " and " the wrath of the Red Man against the White Man , vengeance for having been given hard liquor " , lamenting that " so many excellent men have been lost to tobacco poisoning " . He was unhappy because both Eva Braun and Martin Bormann were smokers and was concerned over Hermann Göring 's continued smoking in public places . He was angered when a statue portraying a cigar @-@ smoking Göring was commissioned . Hitler is often considered to be

the first national leader to advocate nonsmoking , however James VI and I , king of Scotland and England , was openly against smoking 330 years prior .

Hitler disapproved of the military personnel 's freedom to smoke , and during World War II he said on 2 March 1942 , " it was a mistake , traceable to the army leadership at the time , at the beginning of the war " . He also said that it was " not correct to say that a soldier cannot live without smoking " . He promised to end the use of tobacco in the military after the end of the war . Hitler personally encouraged close friends not to smoke . He even began to offer a gold watch to any of his inner circle who could quit . However , Hitler 's personal distaste for tobacco was only one of several catalysts behind the anti @-@ smoking campaign .

= = = Reproductive policies = = =

The Nazi reproductive policies were a significant factor behind their anti @-@ tobacco campaign . Women who smoked were considered to be vulnerable to premature aging and loss of physical attractiveness ; they were viewed as unsuitable to be wives and mothers in a German family . Werner Huttig of the Nazi Party 's Rassenpolitisches Amt (Office of Racial Politics) said that a smoking mother 's breast milk contained nicotine , a claim that modern research has proven correct . Martin Staemmler , a prominent physician during the Third Reich , opined that smoking by pregnant women resulted in a higher rate of stillbirths and miscarriages . This opinion was also supported by well @-@ known female racial hygienist Agnes Bluhm , whose book published in 1936 expressed the same view . The Nazi leadership was concerned over this because they wanted German women to be as reproductive as possible . An article published in a German gynecology journal in 1943 stated that women smoking three or more cigarettes per day were more likely to remain childless compared to nonsmoking women .

= = Research = =

Research and studies on tobacco 's effects on the population 's health were more advanced in Germany than in any other nation by the time the Nazis came to power . The link between lung cancer and tobacco was first proven in Nazi Germany , contrary to the popular belief that American and British scientists first discovered it in the 1950s . The term " passive smoking " (" Passivrauchen ") was coined in Nazi Germany . Research projects funded by the Nazis revealed many disastrous effects of smoking on health . Nazi Germany supported epidemiological research on the harmful effects of tobacco use . Hitler personally gave financial support to the Wissenschaftliches Institut zur Erforschung der Tabakgefahren (Institute for Tobacco Hazards Research) at the University of Jena , headed by Karl Astel . Established in 1941 , it was the most significant anti @-@ tobacco institute in Nazi Germany .

Franz H. Müller in 1939 and Eberhard Schairer in 1943 first used case @-@ control epidemiological methods to study lung cancer among smokers . In 1939 , Müller published a study report in a reputed cancer journal in Germany which claimed that prevalence of lung cancer was higher among smokers . Müller , described as the " forgotten father of experimental epidemiology " , was a member of the National Socialist Motor Corps (NSKK) and the Nazi Party (NSDAP) . Müller 's 1939 medical dissertation was the world 's first controlled epidemiological study of the relationship between tobacco and lung cancer . Apart from mentioning the increasing incidence of lung cancer and many of the causes behind it such as dust , exhaust gas from cars , tuberculosis , X @-@ ray and pollutants emitted from factories , Müller 's paper pointed out that " the significance of tobacco smoke has been pushed more and more into the foreground " .

Physicians in the Third Reich were aware that smoking was responsible for cardiac diseases , which were considered to be the most serious diseases resulting from smoking . Use of nicotine was sometimes considered to be responsible for increasing reports of myocardial infarction in the country . In the later years of World War II , researchers considered nicotine a factor behind the coronary heart failures suffered by a significant number of military personnel in the Eastern Front . A pathologist of the Heer examined thirty @-@ two young soldiers who had died from myocardial

infarction at the front , and documented in a 1944 report that all of them were " enthusiastic smokers " . He cited the opinion of pathologist Franz Buchner that cigarettes are " a coronary poison of the first order " .

= = Measures = =

The Nazis used several public relations tactics to convince the general population of Germany not to smoke . Well @-@ known health magazines like the *Gesundes Volk* (Healthy People) , *Volksgesundheit* (People 's Health) and *Gesundes Leben* (Healthy Life) published warnings about the health consequences of smoking and posters showing the harmful effects of tobacco were displayed . Anti @-@ smoking messages were sent to the people in their workplaces , often with the help of the Hitler @-@ Jugend (HJ) and the Bund Deutscher Mädel (BDM) . The anti @-@ smoking campaign undertaken by the Nazis also included health education . In June 1939 , a Bureau against the Hazards of Alcohol and Tobacco was formed and the Reichsstelle für Rauschgiftbekämpfung (Reich Office for Drug Control) also helped in the anti @-@ tobacco campaign . Articles advocating nonsmoking were published in the magazines *Die Genussgifte* (The Recreational Stimulants) , *Auf der Wacht* (On the Guard) and *Reine Luft* (Clean Air) . Out of these magazines , *Reine Luft* was the main journal of the anti @-@ tobacco movement . Karl Astel 's Institute for Tobacco Hazards Research at Jena University purchased and distributed hundreds of reprints from *Reine Luft* .

After recognizing the harmful effects of smoking on health , several items of anti @-@ smoking legislation were enacted . The later 1930s increasingly saw anti @-@ tobacco laws implemented by the Nazis . In 1938 , the Luftwaffe and the Reichspost imposed a ban on smoking . Smoking was also banned not only in health care institutions , but also in several public offices and in rest homes . Midwives were restricted from smoking while on duty . In 1939 , the Nazi Party outlawed smoking in all of its offices premises , and Heinrich Himmler , the then chief of the Schutzstaffel (SS) , restricted police personnel and SS officers from smoking while they were on duty . Smoking was also outlawed in schools .

In 1941 , tobacco smoking in trams was outlawed in sixty German cities . Smoking was also outlawed in bomb shelters ; however , some shelters had separate rooms for smoking . Special care was taken to prevent women from smoking . The President of the Medical Association in Germany announced , " German women don 't smoke " . Pregnant women and women below the age of 25 and over the age of 55 were not given tobacco ration cards during World War II . Restrictions on selling tobacco products to women were imposed on the hospitality and food retailing industry . Anti @-@ tobacco films aimed at women were publicly shown . Editorials discussing the issue of smoking and its effects were published in newspapers . Strict measures were taken in this regard and a district department of the National Socialist Factory Cell Organization (NSBO) announced that it would expel female members who smoked publicly . The next step in the anti @-@ tobacco campaign came in July 1943 , when public smoking for persons under the age of 18 was outlawed . In the next year , smoking in buses and city trains was made illegal , on the personal initiative of Hitler , who feared female ticket takers might be the victims of passive smoking .

Restrictions were imposed on the advertisement of tobacco products , enacted on 7 December 1941 and signed by Heinrich Hunke , the President of the Advertising Council . Advertisements trying to depict smoking as harmless or as an expression of masculinity were banned . Ridiculing anti @-@ tobacco activists was also outlawed , as was the use of advertising posters along rail tracks , in rural regions , stadiums and racing tracks . Advertising by loudspeakers and mail was also prohibited .

Restrictions on smoking were also introduced in the Wehrmacht . Cigarette rations in the military were limited to six per soldier per day . Extra cigarettes were often sold to the soldiers , especially when there was no military advance or retreat in the battleground , however these were restricted to 50 for each person per month . Teenaged soldiers serving in the 12th SS Panzer Division Hitlerjugend , composed of Hitler Youth members , were given confectionery instead of tobacco products . Access to cigarettes was not allowed for the Wehrmacht 's female auxiliary personnel .

Medical lectures were arranged to persuade military personnel to quit smoking . An ordinance enacted on 3 November 1941 raised tobacco taxes by approximately 80 ? 95 % of the retail price . It would be the highest rise in tobacco taxes in Germany until more than 25 years after the collapse of the Nazi regime .

= = Effectiveness = =

The early anti @-@ smoking campaign was considered a failure , and from 1933 to 1937 there was a rapid increase in tobacco consumption in Germany . The rate of smoking in the nation increased faster even than in neighboring France , where the anti @-@ tobacco movement was tiny and far less influential . Between 1932 and 1939 , per capita cigarette consumption in Germany increased from 570 to 900 per year , while the corresponding numbers for France were from 570 to 630 .

The cigarette manufacturing companies in Germany made several attempts to weaken the anti @-@ tobacco campaign . They published new journals and tried to depict the anti @-@ tobacco movement as " fanatic " and " unscientific " . The tobacco industry also tried to counter the government campaign to prevent women from smoking and used smoking models in their advertisements . Despite government regulations , many women in Germany regularly smoked , including the wives of many high @-@ ranking Nazi officials . For instance , Magda Goebbels smoked even while she was interviewed by a journalist . Fashion illustrations displaying women with cigarettes were often published in prominent publications such as the Beyers Mode für Alle (Beyers Fashion For All) . The cover of the popular song Lili Marleen featured singer Lale Andersen holding a cigarette .

The Nazis implemented more anti @-@ tobacco policies at the end of the 1930s and by the early years of World War II , the rate of tobacco usage declined . As a result of the anti @-@ tobacco measures implemented in the Wehrmacht , the total tobacco consumption by soldiers decreased between 1939 and 1945 . According to a survey conducted in 1944 , the number of smokers increased in the Wehrmacht , but average tobacco consumption per military personnel declined by 23 @.@ 4 % compared to the immediate pre @-@ World War II years . The number of people who smoked 30 or more cigarettes per day declined from 4 @.@ 4 % to 0 @.@ 3 % .

The Nazi anti @-@ tobacco policies were not free of contradictions . For example , the Volksgesundheit (People 's Health) and Gesundheitspflicht (Duty to be Healthy) policies were enforced in parallel with the active distribution of cigarettes to people who the Nazis saw as " deserving " groups (e.g. frontline soldiers , members of the Hitler Youth) . On the other hand , " undeserving " and stigmatized groups (Jews , war prisoners) were denied access to tobacco .

= = Association with antisemitism and racism = =

Apart from public health concerns , the Nazis were heavily influenced by ideology ; specifically , the movement was influenced by concepts of racial hygiene and bodily purity . Nazi leaders believed that it was wrong for the master race to smoke and that tobacco consumption was equal to " racial degeneracy " . The Nazis viewed tobacco as a " genetic poison " . Racial hygienists opposed tobacco use , fearing that it would " corrupt " the " German germ plasm " . Nazi anti @-@ tobacco activists often tried to depict tobacco as a vice of the degenerate Negroes .

The Nazis claimed that the Jews were responsible for introducing tobacco and its harmful effects . The Seventh @-@ day Adventist Church in Germany announced that smoking was an unhealthy vice spread by the Jews . Johann von Leers , editor of the Nordische Welt (Nordic World) , during the opening ceremony of the Wissenschaftliches Institut zur Erforschung der Tabakgefahren in 1941 , proclaimed that " Jewish capitalism " was responsible for the spread of tobacco use across Europe . He said that the first tobacco on German soil was brought by the Jews and that they controlled the tobacco industry in Amsterdam , the principal European entry point of Nicotiana .

= = After World War II = =

After the collapse of Nazi Germany at the end of World War II , American cigarette manufacturers quickly entered the German black market . Illegal smuggling of tobacco became prevalent , and the anti @-@ smoking campaign started by the Nazis ceased to exist after the fall of the Third Reich . In 1949 , approximately 400 million cigarettes manufactured in the United States entered Germany illegally every month . In 1954 , nearly two billion Swiss cigarettes were smuggled into Germany and Italy . As part of the Marshall Plan , the United States sent tobacco to Germany free of charge ; the amount of tobacco shipped into Germany in 1948 was 24 @,@ 000 tons and was as high as 69 @,@ 000 tons in 1949 . Per capita yearly cigarette consumption in post @-@ war Germany steadily rose from 460 in 1950 to 1 @,@ 523 in 1963 . At the end of the 20th century , the anti @-@ tobacco campaign in Germany was unable to approach the level of the Nazi @-@ era climax in the years 1939 ? 41 and German tobacco health research was described by Robert N. Proctor as " muted " .