



# Velvet Glove, Iron Fist: A History of Anti-Smoking

*By Christopher Snowdon*

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## **Velvet Glove, Iron Fist: A History of Anti-Smoking** By Christopher Snowdon

Spain, 1493 - Europe's first smoker imprisoned by the Inquisition England, 1604 - Massive tax rise on tobacco in a bid to discourage smoking Canada, 1676 - Smoking is banned in the street United States, 1899 - Anti-smoking campaigners call for the eradication of tobacco Germany, 1944 - Smoking banned on public transport to protect workers from secondhand smoke In this revealing and meticulously researched account of an untold story, Christopher Snowdon traces the fortunes of those who have tried to stamp out tobacco through the ages. Velvet Glove, Iron Fist takes the reader on a journey from 15th century Cuba to 21st century California, via Revolutionary France, Victorian Britain, Prohibition Era America and Nazi Germany. Along the way, the author finds uncanny parallels between today's anti-smoking activists and those of the past. Today, as the same tactics begin to be used against those who enjoy alcohol, chocolate, fast food, gambling and perfume, Velvet Glove, Iron Fist provides a timely reminder that once politicians start regulating private behaviour, they find it very hard to quit.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

"DON'T forget the cigarettes for Tommy," ran one patriotic British ditty during the first world war. American generals told their government they needed "tobacco as much as bullets"; charities sent cigarettes to the front-line. After the war, non-smokers seemed odd. The crime writer, Agatha Christie, even apologised for not smoking. She had tried many times, she said, but just could not like it.

In this solidly researched, interesting and only occasionally strident book, Christopher Snowdon, an independent researcher, documents the cigarette's journey from patriotic necessity to pariah status. There had always been those who found smoking "loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs," as James I put it in 1604. Some despots, in Hindustan and Persia, went further, slitting smokers' lips or pouring molten lead down their throats. American prohibitionists claimed that smoking led to moral decay; Nazis that it was a decadent Jewish habit. But few non-bigots thought that their personal distaste warranted limiting the freedom of others. --The Economist, June 11 2009

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Brian Lopez:**

Now a day those who Living in the era where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not call for people to be aware of each data they get. How people have to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Studying a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information particularly this Velvet Glove, Iron Fist: A History of Anti-Smoking book because book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred % guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

##### **James Gabriel:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? May be reading a book may be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the publication untitled Velvet Glove, Iron Fist: A History of Anti-Smoking can be good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

##### **Ryan Calhoun:**

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#### **Arthur Haynes:**

Many people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a guide. They are directly felt that when they get a half areas of the book. You can choose often the book Velvet Glove, Iron Fist: A History of Anti-Smoking to make your reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading expertise is developing when you like reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to study it and mingle the idea about book and studying especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to available a book and study it. Beside that the reserve Velvet Glove, Iron Fist: A History of Anti-Smoking can to be your friend when you're really feel alone and confuse using what must you're doing of these time.

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