

# The Rise and Fall of Smoking in the Workplace

Smoking has a long and complex history in the workplace. For centuries, it was considered a normal and even desirable activity. However, in recent decades, attitudes towards smoking have changed dramatically. Today, smoking is banned in most workplaces, and it is increasingly seen as a health hazard.



## Clearing the Air: The Rise and Fall of Smoking in the Workplace by Laurel Peeke

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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## The Early Years: Smoking as a Normal Activity

Smoking was first introduced to Europe in the 16th century by Spanish explorers. It quickly became popular among all social classes, and by the 19th century, it was common to see people smoking in all sorts of places, including workplaces.

In the early 20th century, smoking was seen as a sign of sophistication and success. Many famous people, including Winston Churchill and Albert

Einstein, were known for their love of cigars.

## **The Rise of Concerns About Secondhand Smoke**

In the 1950s and 1960s, concerns began to be raised about the health effects of secondhand smoke. Research showed that exposure to secondhand smoke could cause a number of health problems, including lung cancer, heart disease, and stroke.

As the evidence about the dangers of secondhand smoke mounted, public opinion began to turn against smoking. In 1973, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a report concluding that secondhand smoke was a serious health hazard.

## **The Decline of Smoking in the Workplace**

In the 1970s and 1980s, a number of laws were passed to restrict smoking in public places, including workplaces. In 1988, the United States Congress passed the Clean Indoor Air Act, which banned smoking in all federal buildings. This law set a precedent for other states and municipalities, and soon smoking was banned in most workplaces across the country.

The decline of smoking in the workplace has had a number of positive benefits. The number of people exposed to secondhand smoke has decreased, and the rates of lung cancer and other smoking-related diseases have declined.

## **The Future of Smoking in the Workplace**

Today, smoking is banned in most workplaces in the United States. However, there are still some places where smoking is allowed, such as bars and casinos. It is likely that smoking will continue to decline in the

workplace in the future, as more and more people become aware of the health dangers of secondhand smoke.

The history of smoking in the workplace is a reflection of the changing attitudes towards smoking in society as a whole. In the early years, smoking was seen as a normal and even desirable activity. However, as the evidence about the dangers of secondhand smoke mounted, public opinion began to turn against smoking. Today, smoking is banned in most workplaces, and it is increasingly seen as a health hazard.

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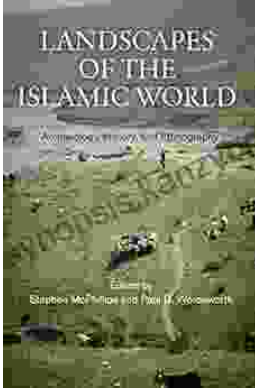
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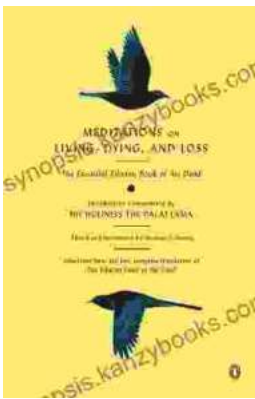
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