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SHOULD TOBACCO BE BANNED?

The rapid spread of tobacco products and users all over the world is ~~now~~ causing momentous concern ~~that has. It has~~ ~~_now~~ become an international challenge. The leaders and lawmakers of different countries are now expressing their concern about the ~~continuously growing~~ rapidly increasing number of smoking-related deaths ~~associated with smoking~~. Recent reports ~~show~~ reveal that ~~approximately~~ round 4.9 million deaths worldwide ~~every year~~ can be attributed to smoking every year. This number is expected to rise to a notable 10 million deaths by 2030, if ~~no~~ strong policies on tobacco control are not ~~will be~~ implemented worldwide. ~~Now,~~ tobacco ~~_smoking~~ is currently considered ~~_as~~ the second major cause of death. ~~It is not only~~ deaths caused by ~~through~~ smoking alone ~~itself are not the only ones that is~~ causing ~~the~~ concern. Based on statistics from the late 1990's, more than 3,000 of ~~out of~~ the 400,000 smoking-related ~~U.S.~~ deaths related to smoking in the US, ~~more than 3,000 is~~ are actually caused by secondhand smokeing. One can only imagine just how much larger those numbers ~~_must~~ have grown over the past few years.

As tobacco use continues to rise ~~_~~ ~~_with~~ the total number of users worldwide is rapidly ~~now reaching~~ approaching the billion mark ~~_~~ ~~_it is becoming obvious to~~ leaders and policy-makers are beginning to realize that the regulations on smoking are not working. With the problem growing worse by the minute, ~~more and more~~ a larger number of people are pursuing a more aggressive course of action such as a tobacco ban to counter the negative effects of smoking, ~~in the form of a tobacco ban~~ ~~_~~. Some brave nations are pursuing this path, partially, if not completely. For example, the small nation of Bhutan chose to take the road less traveled. ~~The small nation by~~ constituting ~~ted~~ a complete ~~total~~ tobacco ban that penalizes ~~sd~~ anyone who smokes ~~sd~~ or sells ~~old~~ tobacco within the country.

Some countries, however, are pursuing a milder course of action; they are choosing to ~~limiting~~ the ban to ~~just~~ public areas ~~places~~ and workplaces. In addition, ~~t~~ these bans are ~~also~~ only applicable to tobacco use; ~~_~~ ~~while~~ selling tobacco products is still completely

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legal. The most recent effort was ~~undertaken~~ shown by England, when the country declared all their virtually enclosed public ~~places~~ areas and workplaces smoke-free. As countries ~~begin to start~~ declaring a war against tobacco, anti-smoking advocates and health organizations ~~are~~ saluteing their efforts.

On the other hand, pro-tobacco advocates are criticizing their efforts.

In fact, ~~Pro~~ tobacco advocates even go so far as to ridicule these efforts. According to these ~~individuals~~ m, a tobacco ban will only cause an increase in the tobacco black market ~~to rise~~. They claim that ~~Keeping~~ preventing people from smoking is virtually impossible, ~~they say~~. Just as ~~the~~ governments ~~are~~ having experience difficulties prohibiting the use of drugs that have always been illegal, ~~they~~ it will definitely find banning tobacco an even more challenging task. ~~There will always be~~ Certain people ~~who~~ will always look for ways to smoke, and ~~there will always be~~ tobacco manufacturers will always exist, even with laws in place to prohibit smoking and tobacco.

As anti-smoking advocates ~~continue to be~~ remain hopeful that their cause will prevail, tobacco advocates take on a different note. They ~~are~~ also advocateing the freedom of choice ~~for~~ of people who ~~wish~~ ant to smoke. A ~~Smoking,~~ according to them, smoking is an ~~person~~ individual's own choice based on his or her preferred lifestyle. People freely choose to smoke even when ~~if~~ they ~~realize~~ know the associated health risks ~~associated with smoking~~. They ~~are~~ legal, responsible adults who make the decision to continue still ~~smoking~~ as legal and responsible adults ~~and who~~ have the capacity to think and decide on their own. Tobacco manufacturers are banking on the argument that people know and understand the health risks when they choose to take at ~~that~~ puff. They are not discounting the fact that tobacco indeed kills. ~~However,~~ but they claim that they are honest to their customers about ~~what~~ the consequences of smoking by displaying very ~~are through the large~~ enormous health warnings on every pack of cigarettes. Although ~~they are~~ Knowing full well aware that tobacco ~~indeed~~ is dangerous to public health, these ~~companies~~ y are simply fighting to retain ~~keep~~ the old regulations in ~~place~~ and to ~~avoid a complete~~ for tobacco ~~not to be entirely banned~~ ban.

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Comment [T1]: Please confirm if this is what you meant

Health organizations and anti-smoking campaigners may call the manufacturers selfish for only taking into consideration their own vested interests in the continuous cultivation and commercialization of tobacco. However, tobacco manufacturers and ~~the~~ leaders of the tobacco industry claim that ~~that~~ the tobacco trade ~~is~~ industry contributes millions per year to a country's revenue ~~because of tobacco trade~~. The stipulated amount of contribution can be translated to almost 16 billion sticks of tobacco per year. Such a huge amount of tobacco consumption ~~definitely~~ has definite economic advantages; ~~it~~ and also benefits the government ~~as well~~ through tax earnings gained from the tobacco trade. They also ~~say that~~ claim that they are not the only ones who benefit from the sale and consumption of tobacco ~~consumption and sale~~. ~~There are also the~~ tobacco farmers and ~~the~~ employees working at the tobacco companies also benefit. The tobacco industry ~~is indeed~~ does ~~providing a lot many of~~ jobs, especially to tobacco farmers who are completely dependent on the said industry for their ~~most~~ basic survival. These people ~~are~~ economically dependent on their jobs at the tobacco companies, and they will ~~definitely~~ suffer a huge blow ~~when if~~ tobacco is banned.

It seems, however, that the arguments used by the pro-tobacco advocates are becoming ~~more and more~~ increasingly faulty. Compared to the many disadvantages of tobacco and smoking, not only to the smokers, but also to the entire public ~~as well~~, the abovementioned reasons are ~~heavily~~ far outweighed. The medical and dental health risks related to ~~of~~ smoking are causing a worldwide stir in the medical world. Smoking is often ~~times~~ likened to "a slow march to death," and several campaigns have been released warning, saying that every stick of tobacco smoked ~~takes away a day from~~ reduces the life of a smoker by one day's life. Even if the effects ~~of smoking~~ on the smokers' health are not immediate, ~~this should not be a reason~~ it doesn't mean we should ~~to~~ stall or ~~to~~ do nothing in to ~~stop~~ preventing the eventual deaths and ~~the~~ growing health risks.

Smoking is a ~~common~~ popular cause of cancer, asthma, chronic lung diseases, and heart diseases. It is also a well-known cause of dental problems such as tooth decay,

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tooth loss, and periodontal disease. The effects of smoking also impede the ability of the gums and teeth's ability to respond to dental treatments against these said problems which, thus causing even bigger problems. ~~The~~ anti-smoking campaigners are using these facts to counter the arguments that tobacco companies ~~are~~ contributing to their countries in terms of revenues. According to studies conducted in different countries, any the revenues brought in by from the tobacco trade are quickly offset by the medical expenses incurred by that the smokers, their families, and ~~the governments'~~ public health departments are incurring due to diseases caused by smoking. The cost of a heart surgery alone is already humongousincredibly high; further coupledwhen you couple this cost with the risk toen the patient's life and the possibility of death, the price becomes far too high.

There is also the issue of secondhand smokeing, which ~~is also~~ causing concern, not only to anti-smoking advocates, but also to every ~~single~~ non-smoking person and ~~to~~ environmentalists ~~as well~~. They are now ~~also~~ pursuing their right to freedom and protection from exposure to dangerous carcinogens. Tobacco use should definitely be more strongly regulated, if only for the sake of these people who consciously choose to live a lifeyes free from ~~the any smoking-related~~ health risks ~~brought about by smoking~~, ~~tobacco use should definitely be more strongly regulated.~~ In a nutshell, ~~the~~ anti-smoking advocates state that the tobacco companies continue earning, but the revenues that the governments incur immediately dwindle as public health calls for necessary actions. ~~The worse part~~ Even worse is the fact yet is that the tobacco companies are immune to any consequences ~~that can be~~ caused by smoking. It is the smokers, their families, and the land that ultimately suffer.

~~Using~~ Containing ~~chemicals~~ entent that are proven carcinogens, tobacco can be considered a dangerous weapon, ~~and~~ anti-smoking supporters ~~are~~ stating that this substance should be banned just as dangerous weapons are banned. There is no way to hide the fact that tobacco is very dangerous to ~~a~~ smokers. The substance contains 69 known carcinogens, two of which are benzopyrene and polonium 210. ~~To falsify the arguments made by~~ Smokers maintain ~~on~~ their right to choose their lifestyle and

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decide whether they want to smoke or not. ~~However,~~ the opposing side ~~answers~~ ~~refutes their arguments~~ based on ~~some certain leaked~~ documents ~~leaked~~ from the tobacco industry. ~~These documents supposedly that are said to~~ prove ~~an even greater~~ ~~more~~ nicotine concentration and ~~the~~ inclusion of ~~additional~~ ~~other~~ materials in tobacco products to make them more addictive. Even if people ~~choosed~~ ~~decide~~ to smoke ~~on their own~~, they do so under ~~the~~ subtle influences ~~of the~~ ~~by~~ tobacco companies. The mere availability of tobacco, ~~prevalence of the~~ tobacco advertisements, and the addictive content of tobacco products all influence ~~the~~ smokers. Therefore, ~~anti-smoking advocates the~~ claim that ~~the argument that smoking~~ is a “free choice” is not valid. ~~says the anti-smoking advocates.~~

The debate continues to heat up, as both sides show no signs of relenting. However, the final answer lies ~~in~~ ~~on~~ the governments that rule ~~over~~ the different nations. Even if this ~~problem has is~~ already ~~become~~ a worldwide challenge, the decision ~~whether~~ to ban ~~or not to ban~~ tobacco depends on each individual country. Some countries are taking an active stand. Some are even declaring May 31st as ~~“a~~ World No-Tobacco Day.” ~~During the late 1990’s,~~ in an effort to launch a worldwide campaign ~~during the late 1990s,~~ the World Health Organization ~~also~~ released the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to restrict the spread of tobacco and tobacco products. However, it is still a ~~fact~~ well-known ~~to many~~ ~~fact~~ that a ~~complete~~ ~~total~~ legal ban is not entirely feasible. ~~This is~~ especially ~~true~~ in developing countries and countries with larger populations where the number of smokers is ~~also~~ higher. If the ~~current~~ restrictions are not working, medical and environmental campaigns are the next best thing. Forcing people to stop smoking may not solve the problem. ~~In fact,~~ ~~it and~~ may ~~merely~~ ~~only~~ ~~lead~~ ~~give way~~ to even more problems. ~~Consequently,~~ ~~h~~ Health organizations and anti-smoking advocates are ~~instead~~ focusing their efforts on encouraging people not to smoke. ~~If~~ it is a person’s conscious decision to smoke, it should also be ~~this individual’s~~ ~~his~~ conscious decision to quit.

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