

La Diva Nicotina

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nicotina Iain Gately Ray Lester Iain Gately Christopher Snowdon Iain Gately Arthur James Wells
Mark Caldwell Juliette Yaakov Institute for Scientific Information (Philadelphia) Iain Gately
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Gately

on october 12 1492 after an arduous voyage his crew near mutinous his provisions exhausted christopher columbus landed on a small island he believed to be part of china he was met by representatives of the local tribe who offered him gifts of beads fruit and dried leaves he threw the latter in the sea but columbus and his crew did not remain ignorant of these leaves powers or purpose for long la diva nicotina traces the history of our relationship with a plant whose only function is to stimulate from its beginnings amongst the ancient civilisations of south america to the present day from mayan gods to marlboro man from casanova to president clinton la diva nicotina examines the roles tobacco has played in its long association with men and women including its functions as spiritual messenger as sexual ambassador as a cure for cancer global currency and ultimately as an assassin ever since the arrival of christopher columbus in the americas tobacco has been central to western civilisation and in some cases has been the cause of revolutions and the birth of nations tracing its development from ritual refreshment to universal habit la diva nicotina is a fascinating and witty dissection of this dangerously seductive plant

covers 15 broad subject groupings social sciences generic psychology sociology social work social welfare politics government law finance accountancy taxation industries utilities business management education learning sport media communications information library sciences and tools for information professionals

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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nel 1492 al suo sbarco sulle coste americane cristoforo colombo venne accolto con offerte di pane frutta e foglie secche colombo gettò le foglie in mare ridendo del bizzarro dono ma ben presto lui e i suoi uomini compresero il potere di quelle foglie rimanendone affascinati pianta medicinale capace di produrre allucinazioni inducendo stati di trance il tabacco era al centro dei riti sciamanici e magici dei popoli americani quando arrivò nel nostro continente riscosse un immediato successo i francesi sottolineavano le sue proprietà benefiche gli inglesi lo consideravano la panacea di tutti i mali i tedeschi lo studiavano dal punto di vista scientifico e gli svizzeri lo testavano sui cani prima di dichiarare che poteva essere assunto dagli uomini in italia il commercio del tabacco era inizialmente gestito dal clero ma insomma si chiede l'autore la diva nicotina chi è È una musa ispiratrice seducente e maliarda o una strega affascinante che rende schiavi i suoi amanti iain gately ci presenta attraverso i secoli i più famosi sostenitori e avversari del tabacco i fumatori racconta l'autore sono stati messi in prigione torturati e perfino giustiziati per aver acceso le loro sigarette la diva nicotina traccia lo sviluppo di questi due universi mostrando la capacità del tabacco di mettere insieme uomini e donne di ogni provenienza ed estrazione sociale uniti nella passione per il fumo o nella sua condanna passando dagli sciamani agli artisti da casanova a hitler e einstein il libro analizza i ruoli che il tabacco ha rivestito nella nostra cultura in relazione ai rapporti tra i popoli alla sessualità maschile e femminile ma anche all'impatto economico che la seduzione del tabacco ha avuto nella storia ripercorrere l'ascesa del tabacco vuol dire anche infatti ricostruire la storia sociale economica politica e culturale del nostro mondo

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