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Nazi Germany and The Coalition Against Alcohol and Tobacco Use

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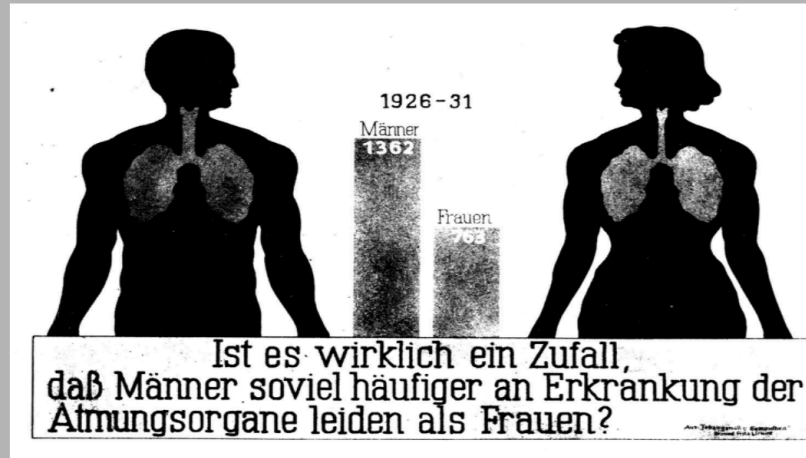
Nazi Germany and The Coalition Against Alcohol and Tobacco Use

Elli McElhannon (Christoph Schiessl Ph.D)



Introduction

- Several anti-smoking and anti-alcohol laws were introduced
- Wished to deter individuals away from unhealthy habits
- Also wanted to focus on breeding the pure "Aryan" race that was romanticized by the Nazis
- Policies were largely unenforced
- First large-scale tobacco and alcohol education system



"Is it really just by chance that men are so much more likely than women to suffer from lung diseases?"

Conclusion

- The failure to implement large-scale policies shows its low level of priority, most likely because the Nazis were more concerned with the public's approval
- The Nazis did set a precedent of the potential health effects from smoking and excessive drinking and also began the first student education program to inform the public



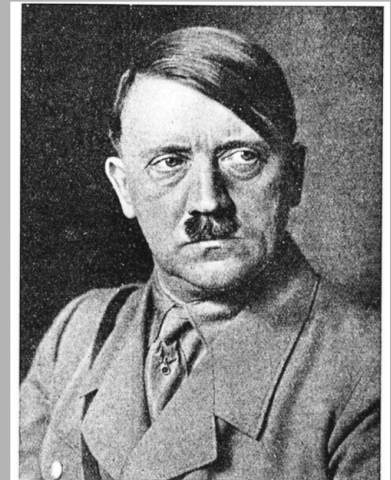
"Tobacco has its victim in the noose. May I offer you a Jew Süß [sweet Jew]?"

Research Findings

- Strongest anti-smoking movement in the 1930s and 1940s
- Played a role in the "racial hygiene movement"
- The Nazis were the first to link smoking to cancer and heart disease
- Propaganda was used to deter individuals
- Significance in the economy prevented any large and widely enforced legislation
- Severe alcoholism was punishable by sterilization and/or placement into work camps
- The campaign largely focused on the younger generation of upcoming Nazis

Specific Policies

- Bans in public places such as government offices, hospitals, and workplaces
- Starting in 1939, uniformed officers were not to smoke in public
- During the war years tobacco rationing coupons were denied to pregnant women (and to all women below the age of 25) while restaurants and cafes were barred from selling cigarettes to female customers
- From July 1943 it was illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to smoke in public
- The Third Reich also rose the cigarette sin tax
- Dedicated smoking spots in public areas



Unser Führer Adolf Hitler

trinkt keinen Alkohol und raucht auch nicht. Ohne andere im geringsten in dieser Richtung zu beschränken, hält er sich eifrig an das selbstauferlegte Lebensgesetz. Seine Arbeitsleistung ist ungeheuer. (Feldjugenführer Götter v. Saitzsch im Buch: „Hitler, wie ihn heimer hemmt.“)

"Our Fuhrer Adolf Hitler drinks no alcohol and does not smoke.... His performance at work is incredible."

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