Centuries ago, a cured leaf was burned and smoked by Native Americans. Today, tobacco is one of the most important commodities in the world — and one of the biggest sources of public health debate.

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Existing references on tobacco focus on certain regions or eras, or on modern controversies. They lack global historical context and cross-disciplinary approach. Alone among historical and cultural studies, *Tobacco in History and Culture: An Encyclopedia* is the single authoritative word on every aspect of tobacco, one of the world’s most pervasive substances. This innovative reference presents all aspects of tobacco from a global perspective. Nearly 140 entries cover the subject from tobacco’s prehistory in Mesoamerica to the most recent developments.

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