

“Surgeon General’s Warning” “Smoking is detrimental to your health” “Second hand smoking is as bad as first hand” “Here are some pictures how your lung looks when you smoke....” etc., etc., etc..... What a stupid, covering our behind, “we show we did something”, worthless, laughable exercise these are! And what cost!

I have been subscribing to a view, that –with all do respect- the global “anti smoking campaigns” not worth a dollar. This statement includes all some self-promoting, grandstanding egomaniacs’ (such as Mayor Bloomberg in N.Y.) for forbidding smoke in places where smoking belongs to. But let me talk about that in a bit.

My wife and I were on a cruise to Alaska, having a cabin with a balcony. One morning, the balcony door was open, and we were adoring the magnificent view, in a pristinely clean air. I mean think about that: you are twenty miles from the nearest shoreline, in a very cold weather, which makes the air dry. The closest industrial place of any kind is not less than a thousand miles away. You cannot help, but enjoy the air thinking while taking deep breaths: “I wish I had this air all day, every day in my life”. Until until you start to smell cigarette smoke.... First, I thought I have a bad dream, but no, it was cigarette smoke. Still cannot believe someone can be this retard, I went to our balcony, looked ahead, toward the front of the ship, and voila, there he was; probably fifteen balconies down, a guy was standing on his balcony, --smoking. Between him and I there was (angry) heads sticking out from every balcony looking to the same direction.

And this is where the issue of “smoking” is. And this is what no one has ever talked about.

The simple, most powerful issue against smoking is “basic human right”. Yes, you read it right; basic human right. I assume, if “freedom”, “freedom to speak”, and “practice religion” are human rights, -let me go out on a limb here- **breathing** should be (unless the old saying of “the secret to long life is to bread for a long time” is incorrect). Just to shock some people even more: I would make smoking of any kind illegal, way before I made cocaine, marijuana etc. illegal (full disclosure: I have never smoked or have taken drug of any kind in my life. Not once, not ever). Here is the reason why. You can be as stoned as you want to be, or as drunk as a skunk; it will not bother me, or anyone else around you. But light up on one cigarette at a bus stop (or in Alaska), and you will destroy the air quality of scores of people around you. So, explain it to me like I was a four year old:

What gives you the right to dirty my air??

So long as you take drug or drink, that is your business (don’t come to me, with the “so you think we should legalize drug” question, because we are not talking about that ... and you know it). The second you dirty up my air, it becomes **my** business. I am convinced this very simple take on the entire smoking issue (as “simple” problem statements usually are) should not be only the center of the discussion, but this should be “the” only discussion. I have my human right to bread fresh air....

....which brings us to Nanny Bloomberg, whose idiocy has lately been reaching the stratosphere (with the soft drink issue, smoking, salt, fat, etc.). Those of you who have read this piece to this point might –correctly- suspect, I am very much against smoking, and people who smoke. But, “I am not anti-social, I’m anti-stupid”. What irritates me to no end, that Nanny Bloomberg (and some of his followers in other cities), made smoking illegal in restaurants, and bars (yes, in bars for Christ’s sake). The typical social-liberal progressive “one size fits all” idiocy in full bloom (again). Nanny Bloomberg had not have enough common sense in him (and apparently no one else had around him), to use the only solution (if they wanted to have one). Tell restaurants and bars, “*You are either let people smoke in there, or do not. You must display this at the front of the establishment, on your web site, and any other public platform*”. Then, let the market decide who goes where. But, this was just too high bar for Nanny and his crew to jump. Instead, they let people smoke at the **front** of the

On Smoking

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restaurant. Which is marvelous, because people who go to the restaurant get lung cancer by the time they have gotten through the thick smoke, plus when they open the door, half of the smoke goes into the restaurant. But Nanny sleeps better, feeling he “did something” (however stupid, and betraying common sense it is).

I would like to congratulate to all surgeon generals, Secretaries of Health, mayors, and other “involved” people for the fine jobs they have done.