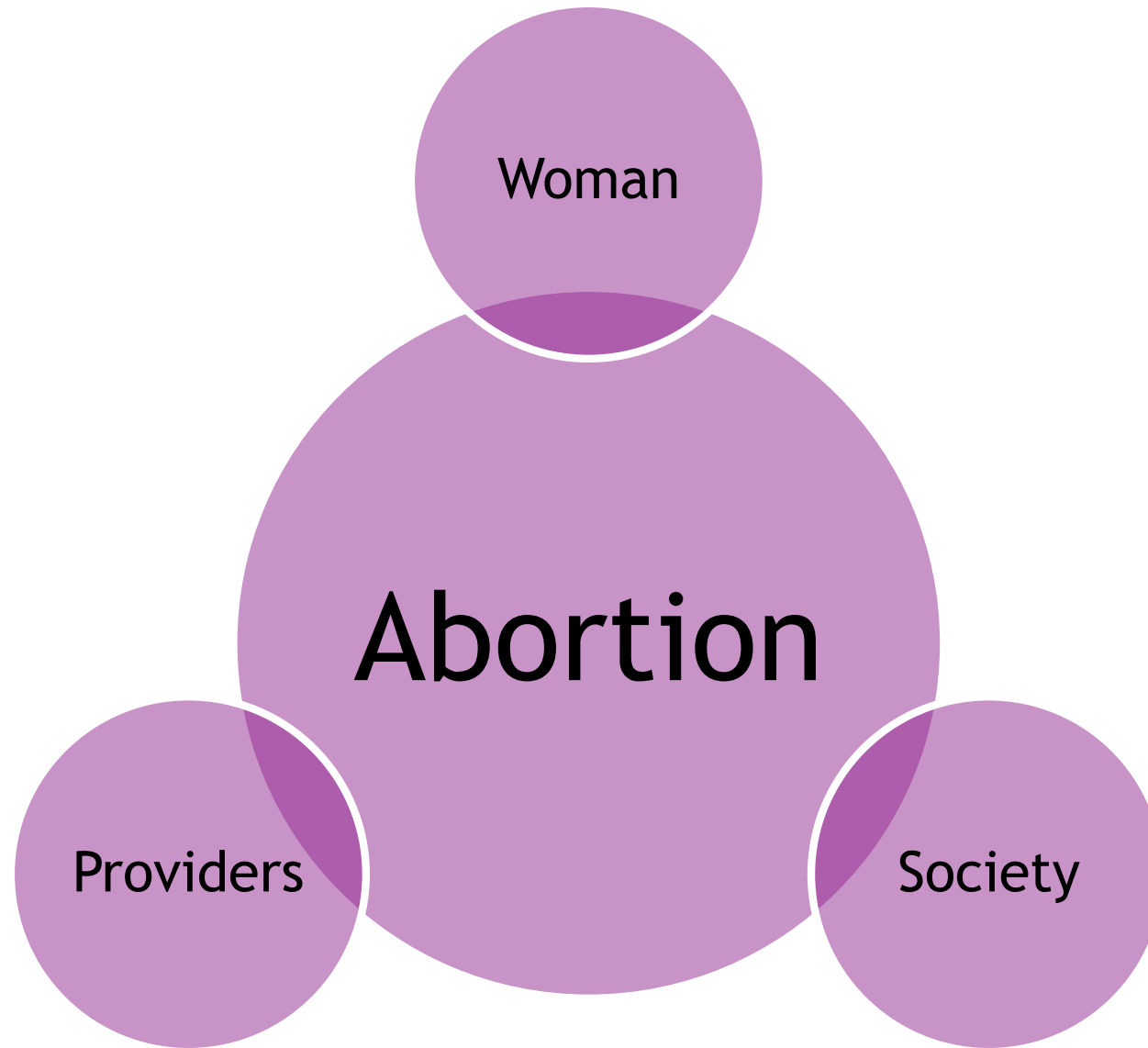


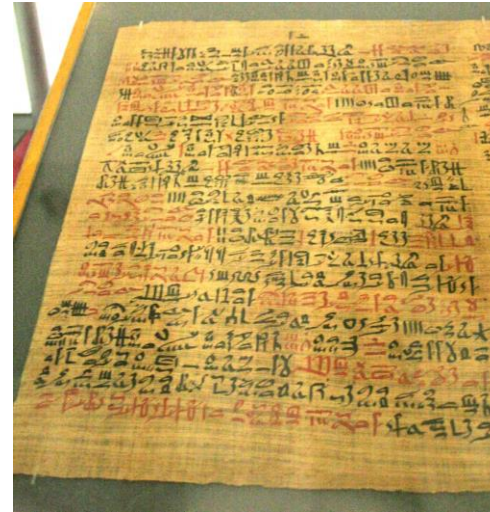
Historical perspective: Vacuum aspiration

Prof. Bojana Pinter, MD, PhD
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Division of Ob/Gyn, UMC Ljubljana
Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana
Slovenia



History of abortion

- ▶ Chinese Emperor Shen Nung (2800 BC)
 - ▶ Mercury as an abortifacient
- ▶ Ancient Egypt (3100 BC - 30 BC)
 - ▶ Eberus Papyrus (1600 BC) - medical text
 - ▶ Herbs (acacia leaves, colocynth), douches and suppositories
- ▶ Ancient Greece (800 BC - 146 BC)
 - ▶ Abortion practiced widely: herbs, dilator
 - ▶ Hippocrates: „Neither I will give a woman means to procure an abortion (one special pessary, he though was dangerous)“, he used dilators, herbs



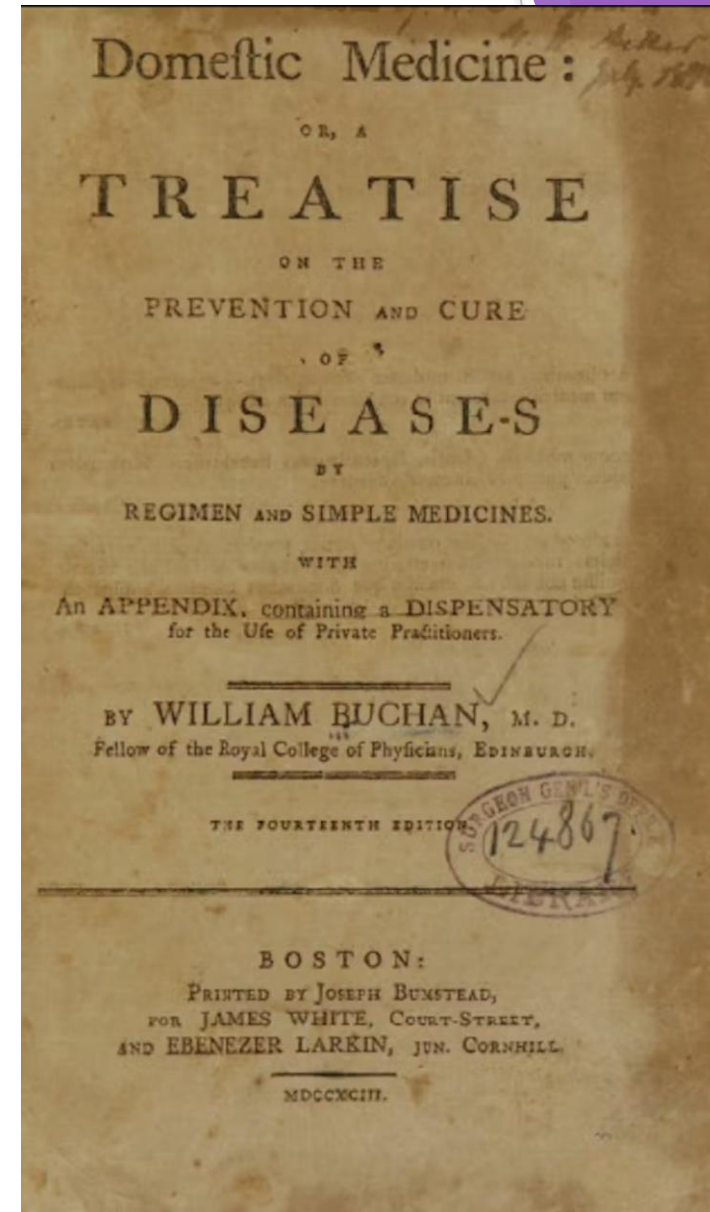
History of abortion

- ▶ Roman Empire (27 BC - 1453 AD)
 - ▶ Abortion visible in everyday life: herbs, vaginal specula, irrigation
- ▶ Christian era - from 0 AD - 18th cent
 - ▶ More public regulation of sex life, condemnation of abortion
 - ▶ Less open discussion about ab., provision by physicians
 - ▶ Midwives key providers - „witches“
 - ▶ Catholic Church: permitted early abortion
 - ▶ Islam: disagreement about when the soul enters fetus (40 do 120 days after conception)



History of abortion

- ▶ Europe, USA: 17th - 19th cent
 - ▶ Rediscovery of dilators, curettes
 - ▶ Conservatism of medical profession regarding reproductive issues
 - ▶ Ambivalence of medical profession
 - ▶ Ab. providers: midwives, homeopaths, healers, some physicians
 - ▶ Help for „female problems“, „bring of the menses“



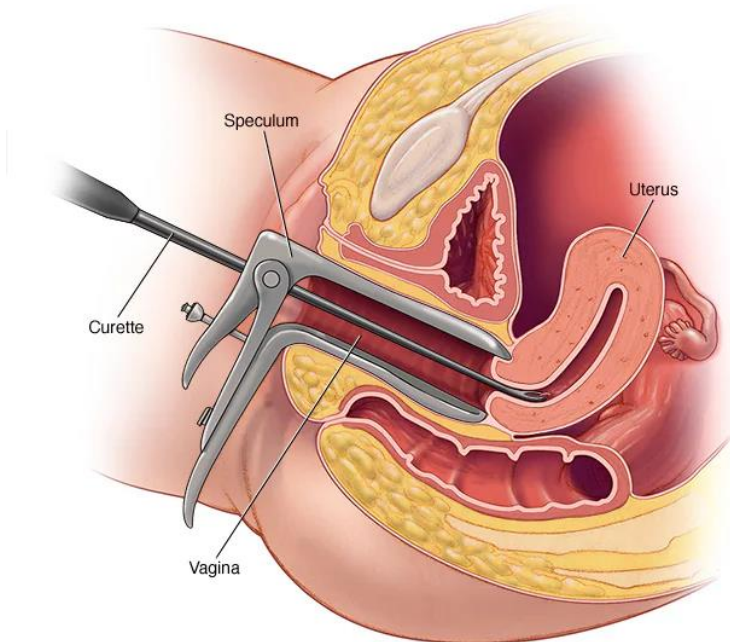
History of abortion

- ▶ Europe, USA: 17th - 19th cent
 - ▶ UK: Queen Victoria: 1861 - abortion is a criminal act, life prison sentence for a woman and a provider
 - ▶ USA: by 1870s all states criminalized abortion
 - ▶ Physicians the leading force for criminalization (AMA): abortion is immoral and dangerous → illegal abortions, deaths and severe injuries of women
 - ▶ Desperate situations: „Physicians of conscience“ convinced AMA by 1970 to call for legalisation



Abortion and medicine from 18th cent onwards

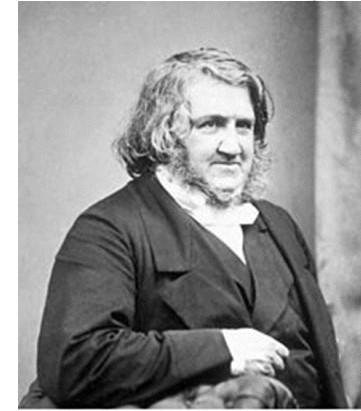
- ▶ Rediscovery of main elements of abortion practice
 - ▶ Dilators, curettes, rudimentary suction apparatus
 - ▶ „Modern“ abortion techniques: mid-19th cent
- ▶ **Dilation and curettage (D&C)**
 - ▶ Curette: 1723 in France for general surgical use
 - ▶ **1842: Joseph-Claude-Anthelme Recamier** - curette for uterine use, reintroduction of vaginal speculum
 - ▶ Dilators: 1870 in Germany - Alfred Hegar
 - ▶ **D&C: more effective and safe abortion method, if performed by skilled abortionist**



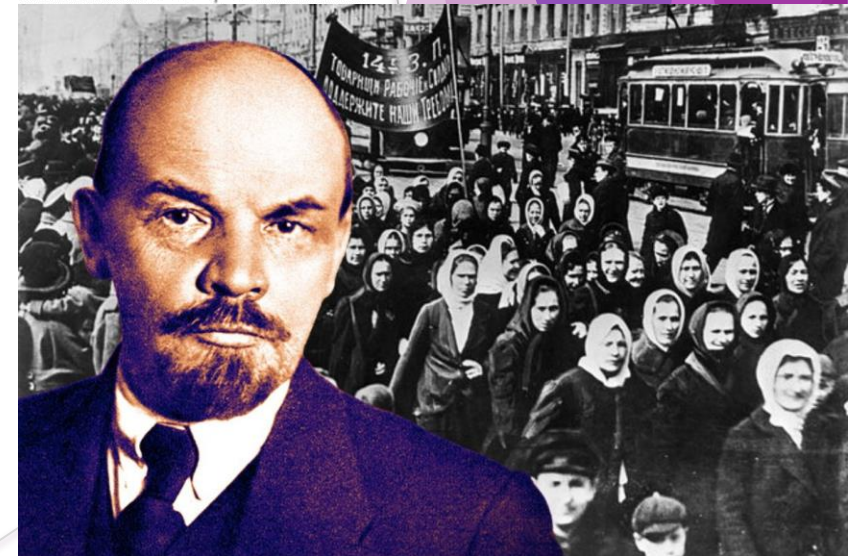
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The history of vacuum aspiration (VA) technique

- ▶ 1836: James Young Simpson (Scotland)
 - ▶ Vacuum machine first described
- ▶ 1920: Soviet Union - first country in the world to allow abortion in all circumstances (Lenin)
 - ▶ Initiative came from medical doctors
- ▶ 1927: Bykov SG (Soviet Union)
 - ▶ First use of manual vacuum suction to induce abortion
 - ▶ 1936-1955: abortion prohibited (Stalin), then allowed again

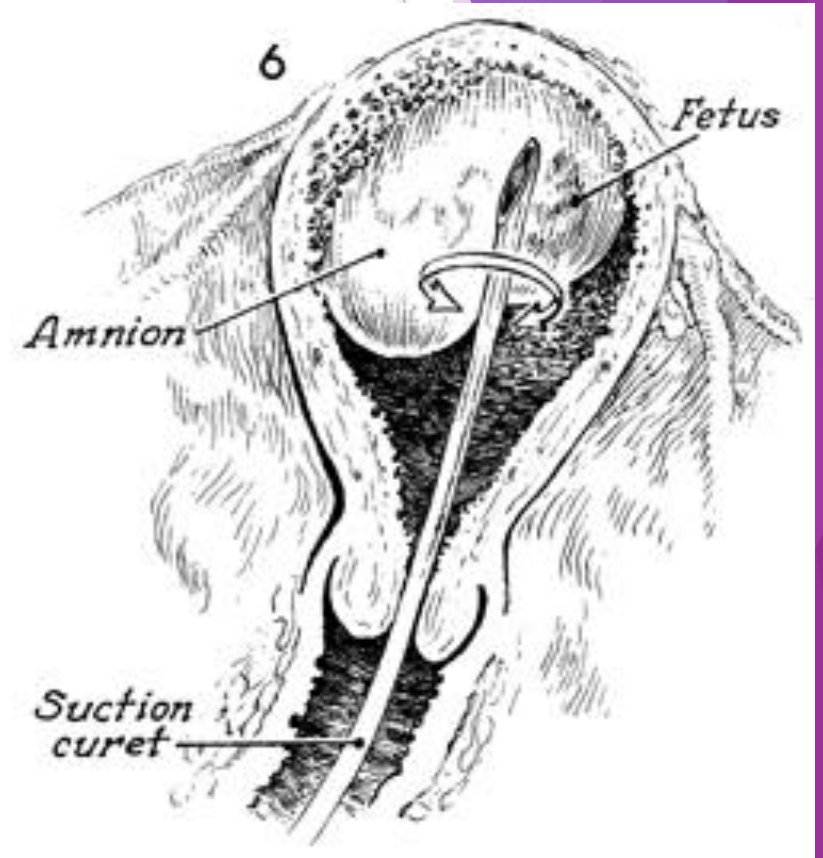


J.Y. Simpson



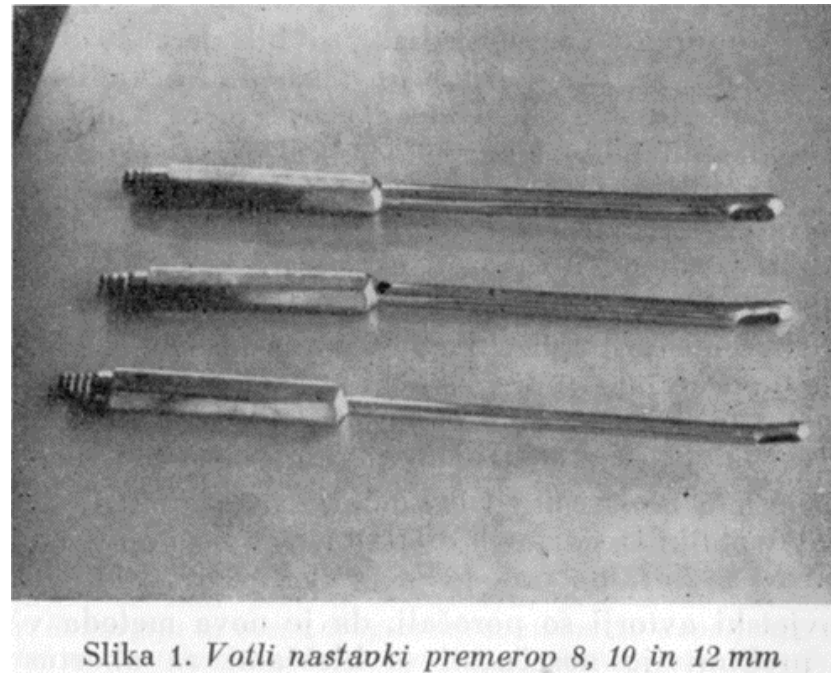
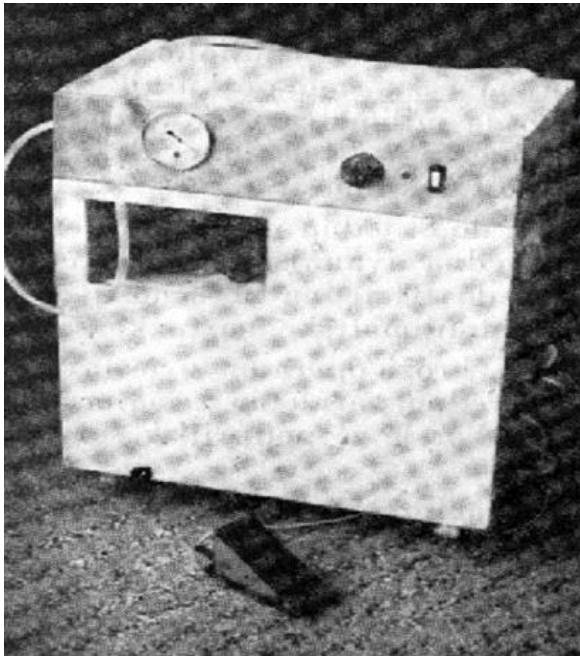
The history of VA technique

- ▶ 1958: Tsung TK, Tai WY, Chen WC (China)
 - ▶ Electrical suction, dilation in paracerv. block
- ▶ 1960: Melks EI, Roze LV (Soviet Union)
 - ▶ "vacuum excochleator,, - metal suction curettes and excochleator
- ▶ **1961: Zubejev AV (Soviet Union)**
 - ▶ Suction curettes as hollow Hegar dilator
- ▶ 1963: Eleventh All-Union Congress of Gynecology in Moscow
 - ▶ Franc Novak (Yugoslavia - Slovenia)

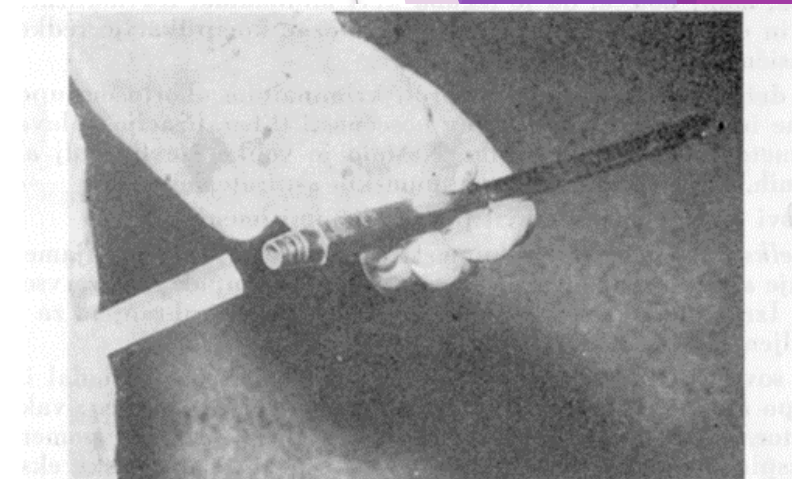


The history of VA technique

- ▶ 1964 – VE-2: Novak F, Vilfan D, Tomažević T, Čavić M, Lah I
 - ▶ Clinic for Gynaecology, University Medical Centre, Ljubljana, Slovenia



Slika 1. Votli nastavki premerov 8, 10 in 12 mm.

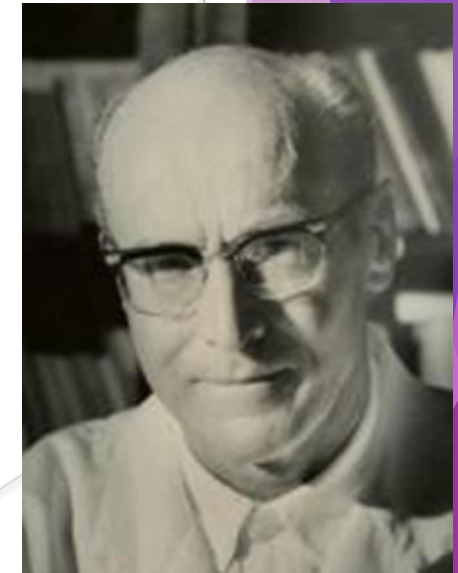
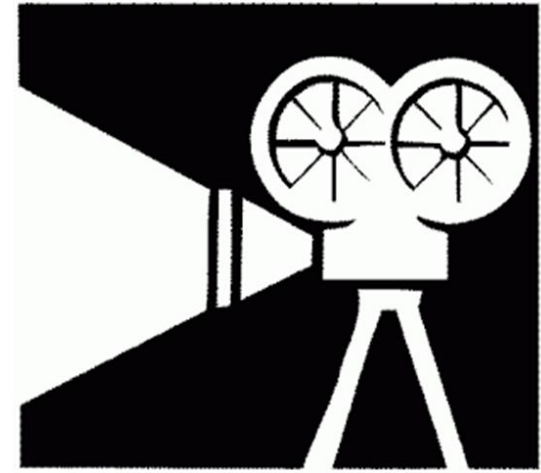


Slika 2. Pred operacijo nataknemo nastavek na prozorno cev.

The history of VA technique

- ▶ 1966: International Ob/Gyn Conference, Copenhagen
- ▶ **1967: IPPF Santiago de Chile**
- ▶ 1968: Association for the Study of Abortion (ASA), USA

- ▶ **1971 - 1973: Ljubljana Abortion Study**
 - ▶ Joint American-Yugoslav research project
 - ▶ Randomised trial - D&C: VA



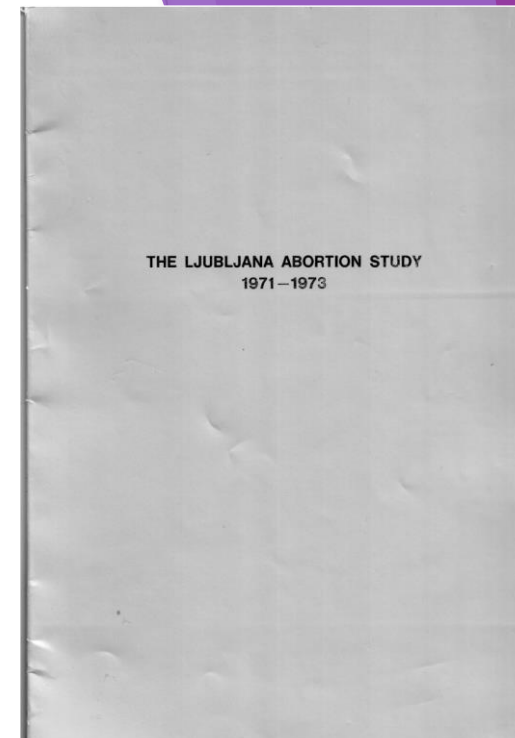
Franc Novak

Ljubljana Abortion Study 1971-1973

TABLE 10

Complications of First Trimester Abortions, Ljubljana, 1971-1972

<u>Type of Complication</u>	<u>Rates per 100 Women Obtaining Abortions</u>	
	<u>Suction</u>	<u>D&C</u>
Perforation of uterus	0.0	0.6
Laceration of cervix	0.7	0.7
Complications of anesthesia	2.9	3.7
Heavy bleeding requiring agents to tighten the uterine walls <u>a/</u>	3.9	6.0
Blood loss exceeding 300 ml <u>b/</u>		
-at abortion	1.9	3.3
- total first 48 hours	5.4	8.9
Post abortion bleeding		
- requiring treatment	9.6	10.0
- requiring hospitalization	1.5	1.9
Retention of tissue	0.9	1.3
Pelvic Infection or fever <u>c/</u>		
during hospitalization	2.0	1.6
-requiring readmission <u>a/</u>	0.7	1.3



Lidija Andolšek-Jeras

Andolsek L, Novak F. The Ljubljana Abortion Study, 1971-73. Comparison of the medical effects of induced abortion by two methods, curettage and vacuum aspiration. Bethesda: The National Institutes of Health, 1974.

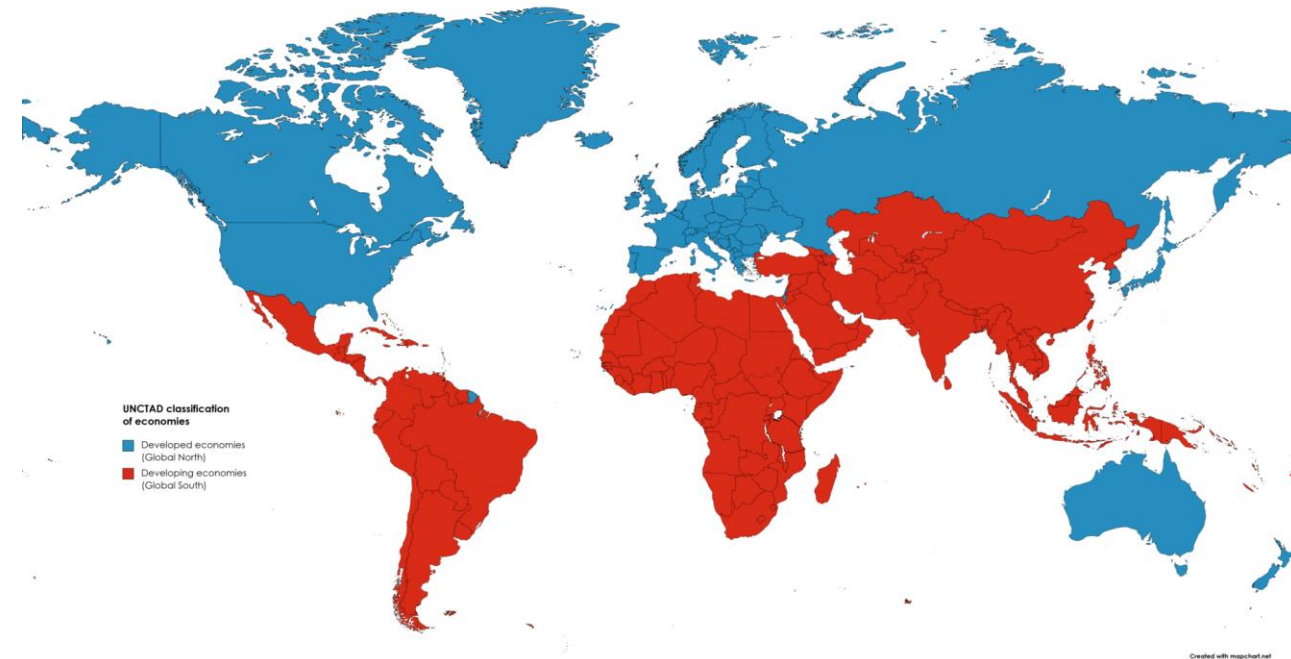
Other significant innovations of VA

- ▶ Local anaesthesia: paracervical block
 - ▶ 1966: M. and B. Berić, Subotica, YU (Serbia)
 - ▶ Safer, out-patient service
- ▶ Karman cannula
 - ▶ 1960s: Harvey Karman, USA
 - ▶ Plastic cannula, flexible, less perforations
- ▶ MVA: manual vacuum aspiration
 - ▶ Late 1960: manual aspiration with syringe, Karman cannula
 - ▶ „Menstrual extraction“, Menstrual regulation“
 - ▶ Still important: to bypass anti-abortion laws



Family planning: a basic human right

- ▶ Population Control
 - ▶ Global North: Global South
 - ▶ IPPF, Population Council
- ▶ 1. UN Conference on Population
 - ▶ 1954, Rome, Italy
- ▶ 2. UN Conference on Population
 - ▶ 1960, Belgrade, Yugoslavia



Bracke MA. Women's Rights, Family Planning, and Population Control: The Emergence of Reproductive Rights in the United Nations (1960s-70s), *The International History Review*. 2022;44:4:751-71.

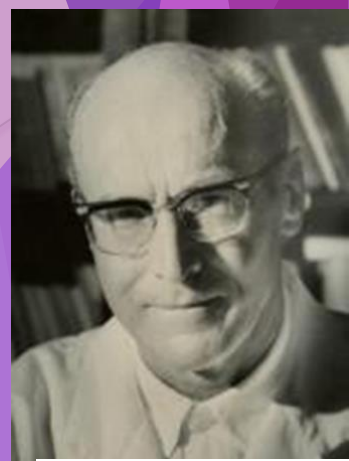
Bonfiglioli C. Women's Internationalism and Yugoslav-Indian Connections: From the Non-Aligned Movement to the UN Decade for Women. *Nationalities Papers*. 2021;49(3):446-461.

Family planning: a basic human right

- ▶ Non-Aligned Movement (NAM): 1956, Brioni (YU)
 - ▶ „Peace can not be achieved with separation, but with the aspiration towards collective security in global terms and expansion of freedom, as well as terminating the domination of one country over another“
 - ▶ Five principles of Peaceful Coexistence
 - ▶ Questioned the effectiveness of FP in lowering population growth
- ▶ WIDF: Women’s International Democratic Federation
 - ▶ The most globally connected women’s organisation, led by socialist women
- ▶ YU: Antifascist Women’s Front of Yugoslavia - Union of Women’s Societies
 - ▶ Diplomatic relations with women’s organizations in the socialist bloc, the Western bloc, the Global South and NAM
 - ▶ **V. Tomšič: promotion of NAM agenda and women’s rights at the UN**



Vida Tomšič



Franc Novak

Bracke MA. Women’s Rights, Family Planning, and Population Control: The Emergence of Reproductive Rights in the United Nations (1960s-70s), *The International History Review*. 2022;44:4:751-71.

Bonfiglioli C. Women’s Internationalism and Yugoslav-Indian Connections: From the Non-Aligned Movement to the UN Decade for Women. *Nationalities Papers*. 2021;49(3):446-461.

International Conference on Human Rights

22 April 1968

Tehran, Iran

On the 20-year anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an International Conference on Human Rights was convened to assess progress in its implementation. Representatives of 84 Member States, along with delegates or observers from a number of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, adopted the Proclamation of Teheran by consensus on 13 May 1968. The Proclamation affirmed, for the first time in a global agreement, the basic right of parents "to determine freely and responsibly the number and the spacing of their children" (para. 16). This was later to become a cornerstone of the ICPD Programme of Action.



UN Webcast: Proclamation of Teheran - International Conference on Human Rights, 29 April 1968

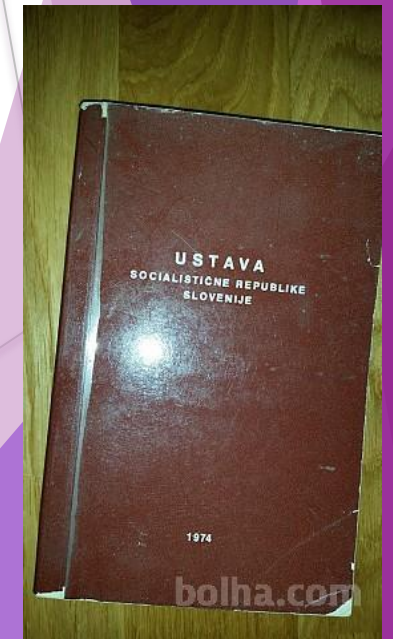
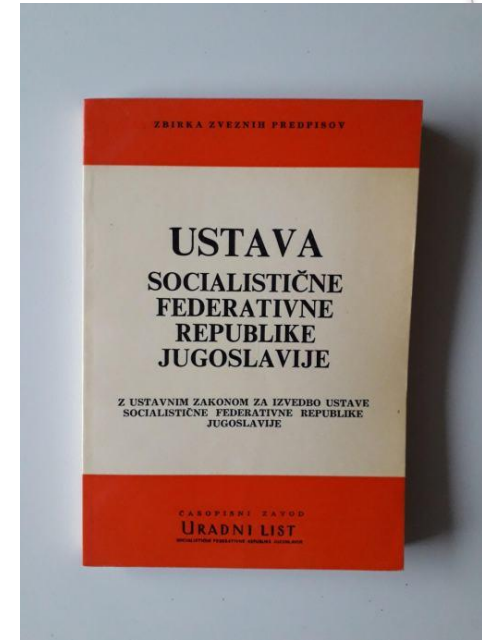
UN, Teheran, april 1968: Family planning is a basic human right

The Conference also adopted Resolution XVIII, on the Human Rights Aspects of Family Planning, which stated: "[...] couples have a basic human right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and a right to adequate education and information in this respect." (Resolution XVIII: Human Rights Aspects of Family Planning, Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights. U.N. Doc. A/CONF. 32/41, p.15) Full text of the conference's Final Act available [here](#).

In its 1969 resolution 2542, the UN General Assembly Declaration on Social Progress and Development affirmed the Teheran Proclamation and urged governments to provide couples not only the 'education' but also the 'means necessary to enable them to exercise their right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children.' (General Assembly Resolution 2542, U.N. Doc. A/7630)

Constitutional right to family planning

- ▶ **1974: Constitution of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - first country in the world (art. 191)**
 - ▶ It is a human right to freely decide on family planning
 - ▶ This right may only be restricted for reasons of health
- ▶ **1974: Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia (art. 233)**
 - ▶ + Society ensures the necessary education, appropriate social protection, and healthcare assistance in relation to the exercise of this right

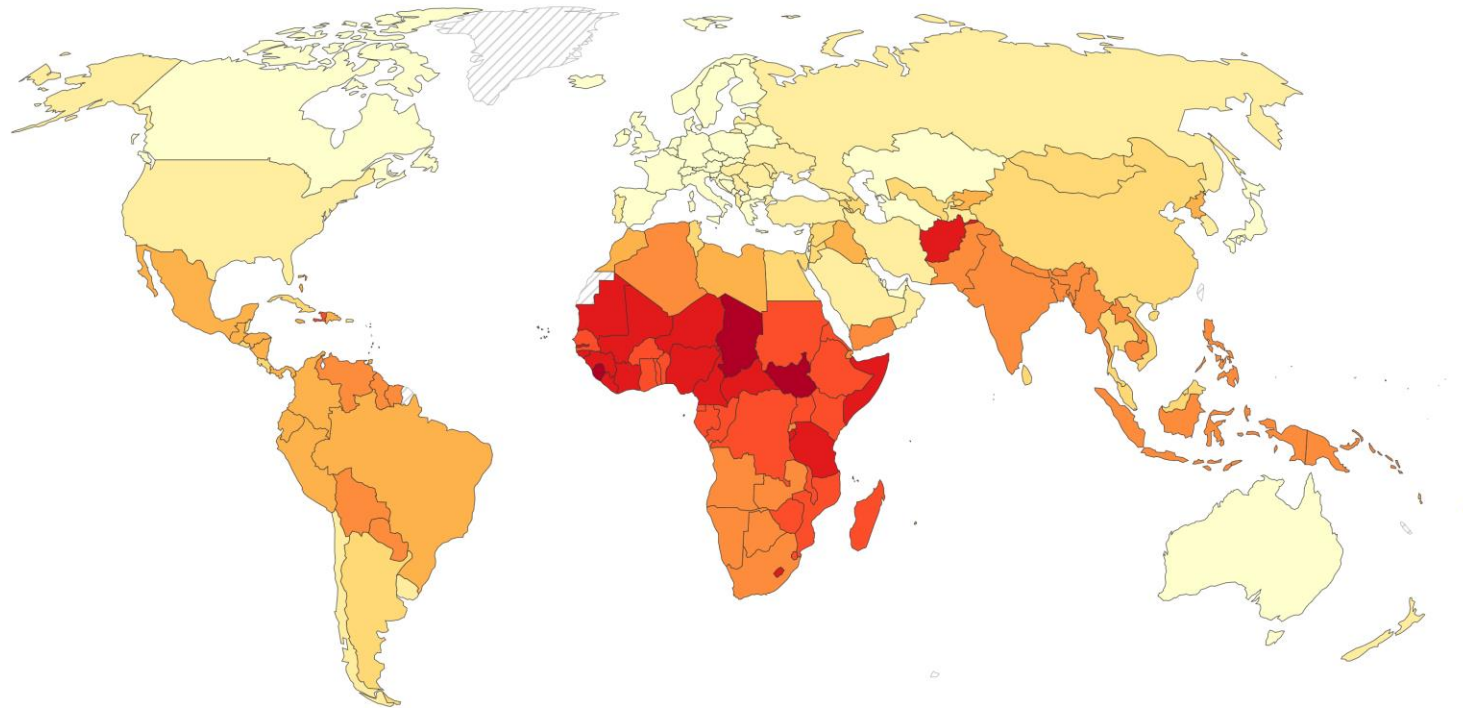


800 women die every day due to pregnancy and childbirth (100 due to unsafe abortion)

Maternal mortality ratio, 2020

The maternal mortality ratio is the number of women who die from pregnancy-related causes while pregnant or within 42 days of pregnancy termination per 100,000 live births.

Our World
in Data



Reasons

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Hypertension
- Abnormal labour
- Unsafe abortion

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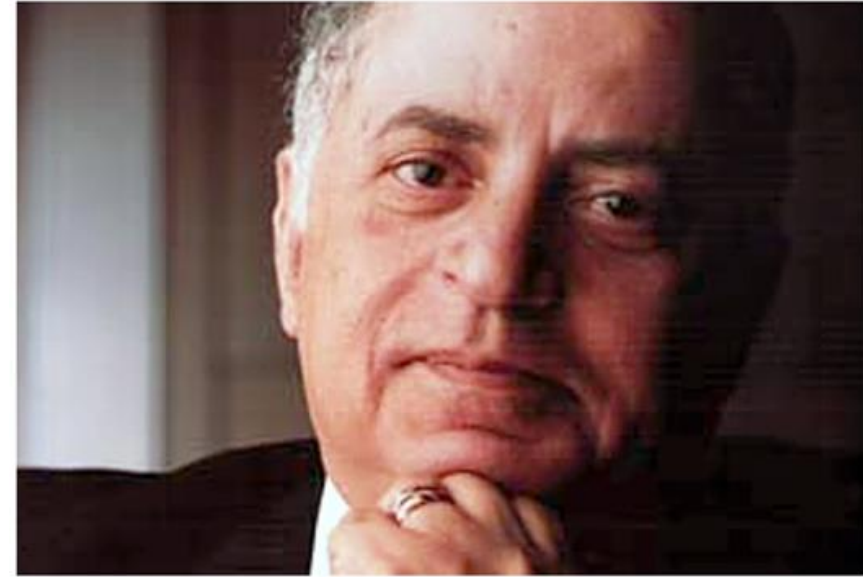
- Bleeding
- Infection
- Hypertension
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- Unsafe abortion



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Professor Mahmoud F. Fathalla



Women are not dying because of diseases we cannot treat. They are dying because societies have yet to decide their lives are worth saving.



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place worldwide each year. Six out of 10 (29%) of all
sive abortion care is included in

FIGO position on the issue

Safe abortion is a basic human right



Sep 26, 2022

Ask the expert: 10 questions on safe abortion care

Ask the expert: 10 questions on safe abortion care. In July 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) hosted a Twitter space with Dr Bela Ganatra, head of the Prevention of Unsafe Abortion unit in the WHO Department of Sexual and



Mar 9, 2022

WHO issues new guidelines on abortion to help countries deliver ...

Access to safe abortion critical for health of women and girls: WHO. The World Health Organization (WHO) is releasing new guidelines on abortion care today, in a bid to protect the health of women and girls and help prevent over 25 million unsafe



ACOG

The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Advocacy

Abortion Is Essential Health Care

Mar 24, 2022



First ever country level estimates of unintended pregnancy and abortion

The Guttmacher Institute, the World Health Organization and the UN's Human Reproduction Programme (HRP) today released the first-ever model-based estimates of unintended pregnancy and abortion rates for 150 countries, highlighting major



Preventing unsafe abortion: Evidence Brief - World Health Organization ...

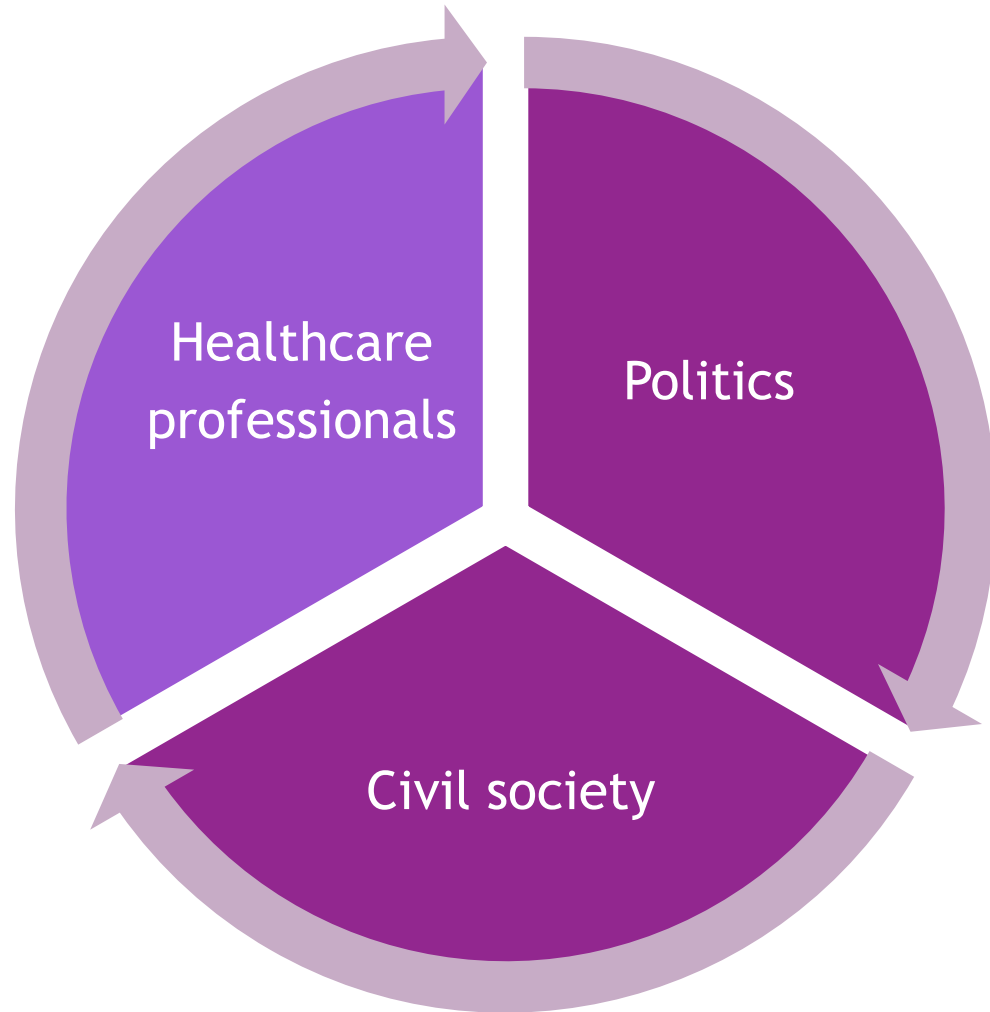
Download (470.6 kB) Overview. Abortions are safe if they are done with a method recommended by WHO that is appropriate to the pregnancy duration and if the person providing or supporting the abortion is trained. Such abortions can be done using tablets

Lessons from the history to be learned:

- ▶ **The ignorance and ambivalence about abortion among healthcare professionals is a huge treat to abortion availability and rights all over the world**
- ▶ **It can take more than 100 years to restore abortion availability and rights**
- ▶ **Our actions influence the whole world - Your action or non-action matters!**
- ▶ **The responsibility of healthcare professionals to preserve abortion rights is of utmost importance!**

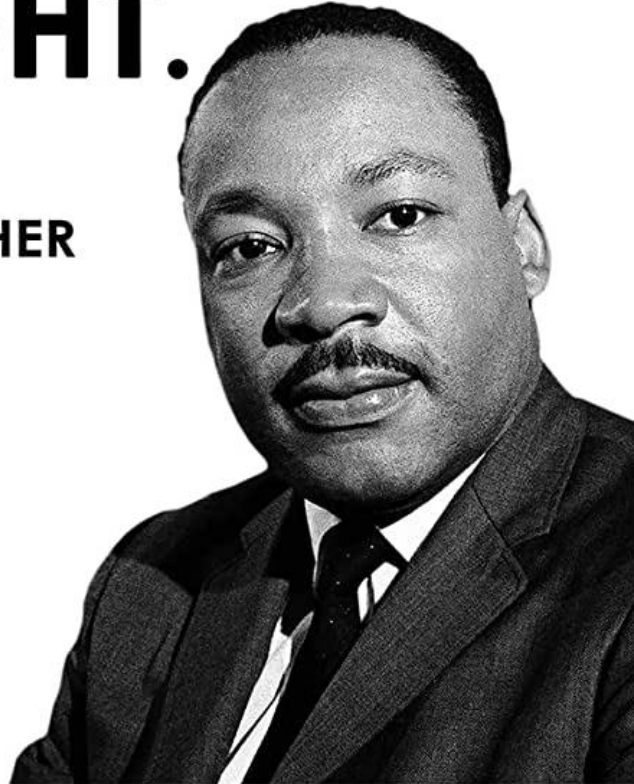
Abortion is essential health care

Advocacy of HCP!



**THE TIME IS
ALWAYS RIGHT
TO DO WHAT IS
RIGHT.**

**MARTIN LUTHER
KING JR**



Visitor Information

Three rooms provide a look at the history of contraception, from ancient Egypt to methods that will be used in the future, by both men and women; the fascinating development of pregnancy tests, from indirect indicators such as a rooster's crow to modern test strips; and also contemporary abortion in light of its development from the laws implemented by Maria Theresia to current statutes. You can read case histories, listen to literary quotes, track parliamentary votes, open kitchen drawers, and learn about both tinkerers and pioneers.

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