

#TAX IMPLICATION

Sugary Drink Purchases Fizzle Out

Sugar-sweetened beverages, such as sodas, fruit drinks, sports drinks, energy drinks, and sweetened coffee drinks, are the leading source of added sugars.



After excise taxes were placed on sugary drinks, purchases declined dramatically and steadily across five American cities.

Although other studies have evaluated the impact of sugary beverage excise taxes, taxes on a per ounce basis, in a single city, this is one of the first that estimates the impact of local excise taxes on purchases and prices of sugar-sweetened beverages across multiple large cities.

This new study builds on an earlier study that looked only at data from the city of Oakland.

The findings show that retail prices of sugary drinks increased by 33%, over the two years, following tax implementation in each city studied, and that there was a corresponding decrease in purchases of 33%, over the same timeframe.

The price increase and purchase decrease appeared immediately after the taxes were implemented and continued to be sustained for months. At the same time, there was no evidence that consumers were travelling to "borderline" areas without sweetened beverage taxes, to make purchases there.

This study's findings suggest that "these taxes are quite effective in terms of health outcomes and societal cost-savings," Kaplan says. He hopes that this may lead to similar policy action in other locations across the country, and at the state and national levels, as was done with tobacco taxes. A previous study, co-authored by Kristine A. Madsen of UC Berkeley School of Public Health showed that tax revenue from sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) excise in seven cities were used to support initiatives to improve community health, develop human and community capital, and advance equity.

"Estimating a more general, and inaccurate, image of local sugar-sweetened beverage taxes in the US provides greater insight into the overall effectiveness of these taxes," says lead author Scott Kaplan, who is an Economics professor at the United States

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Boston University School of Public Health, the University of Toronto, and the University of California, San Francisco.

AMERICAN NEGRO ART

Cedric Dover



Over 200 ILLUSTRATION

Kadambari Sinha

In 1948, a case came up for hearing in the California supreme court that challenged one of the very bases of racial segregation. The case was of Andrea Perez, a Mexican American woman, who was legally considered 'white' because of her Spanish heritage, had been denied the right to marry *Sylvester Davis*, an African American, because of California's *anti-intermarriage law*.

An indignant Perez petitioned the supreme court, demanding a marriage licence. The court agreed. It struck down the miscegenation law as 'unconstitutional' by a verdict of four to three. Justice Jesse Carter, one of the judges in the majority wrote a 3,565-word judgement, explaining the decision, in which he chose to cite a book written by *Cedric Dover*, an Anglo-Indian, born nearly 8,000 miles away in America.

Naval Academy Kaplan received his PhD from the Agricultural and Resource Economics department at the University of California, Berkeley in 2021. "This study may better inform the potential effectiveness of SSB taxes at the state or federal level."

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Cedric Dover specifically quoted a paragraph from *Dover's Half-Caste* that spoke elegantly of human evolution. In the book, Dover wrote that humankind's Neanderthal ancestors could have possibly arisen from a "mixture between ape-men of the Ice Age," or its Neolithic forebears could have emerged from relations between Neanderthals and Aurignacian invaders of Europe. This means that miscegenation had influenced human evolution from the earliest times. "There has not been a pure race of our species, for at least ten thousand years," Dover said.

CEDRIC DOVER

H A L F C A S T E

With a Preface on Prejudice by LANCELOT HOGGEN

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An Indian Half-Caste



Cedric Dover



W.E.B. Du Bois



#THE HATED



hymenoptera order of insects. Its long and distinguished title was *The Common Butterflies of India: An Introduction to the Study of Butterflies, and how to Collect and Preserve them*.

His entomological interests led to untiring research and many scientific papers, some written jointly with Mervia Heynes-Wood, his first wife.

As Patrick Wright details,

Dover discovered a primitive

collection of water insects, studied

spike disease in sandalwood trees,

and looked for ways to preserve

wood from termite attacks. He had a lifelong, undiminished love for trees.

He became an activist in the cause of people of colour (the "mixed races" in his parlance), who, to him, were the prime movers of culture and societal evolution, and yet were denied their rightful place in history.

His ancestry could be traced to the legendary soldier James Skinner (1781-1841), who established two regiments in British India that bears his name. His father, a civil servant, died when he was just 12.

A voracious reader, Dover

learnt early with his mother's

encouragement to question the

accepted thinking of his milieu.

In his teens, he found a mentor in Thomas Nelson Annandale, the Scottish head of Calcutta's Indian Museum, who founded the Zoological Survey of India.

Annandale helped him secure a scholarship to Edinburgh University, after Dover worked for a while at the Indian Museum. But the university stint did not last long. Dover was back in Calcutta by the early 1920s, where Annandale hired him at the Zoological Survey as an entomologist, while he also worked at the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

Dover had three children with Mervia Heynes-Wood. But in 1934, he effectively abandoned them in Calcutta and set off alone to London. It was here that his explorations of colour and identity really deepened. Joining V.K. Krishna Menon's India League, he lobbied for India's independence and extended the work of *New Outlook*, a magazine, he had founded with Mervia, in Calcutta. Their goal was to inspire US, profoundly influenced his beliefs in colour, race, culture and his politics.

In his later books, Dover

wrote on the subject of

"mixed races," *Cimmerii: Or*

Eurasians and Their Future,

was published in 1929, and detailed

the "in-between" position of the

Anglo-Indians in British India.

Not part of the elite, they were

scorned by everyone. Next, in

Kingdom of the Earth (1931), he

wrote a series of essays decrying

"blind adherence to religion and

cultural stultification."

At the age of 33, he published

Half-Caste, his most acclaimed

work. Prominent African-

American thinkers, including

educator Alain Locke, gave the

polemic rave reviews. Mulk

Raj Anand, a giant of Indian

English writing, praised Dover's

"scientific humanism" after read-

ing *Half-Caste*. All this success

encouraged Dover to speak more

volumbly for a "Congress of

Coloured and Colonial Peoples"

after the World Peace Congress in

Brussels in 1937. The lotion called *Dover's Cream*, which had citronella oil mixed with cedarwood oil, white petroleum jelly and spirit of camphor, came to the rescue of Allied soldiers, who were fighting in the humid climes of Southeast Asia. Ever, a man of many parts, he also worked with George Orwell, Venu Chitale and E.M. Forster at the BBC, as radio broadcasts from London became crucial for boosting the Allied war effort in India.

After the war, Dover spent

some years teaching at U.S. universities, including Princeton, Tennessee

and the New School for Social Research in New York. He tried to expand scholarly collaboration between Indian universities and America's historically black colleges, but his association with Paul Robeson and Langston Hughes, two cultural figures, persecuted by the US authorities for their leftward leanings, meant he could not stay for the insight that it provides.

In 1938, Dover visited the US,

where he met the man, who had

shaped his political thinking since

his young days in Calcutta, the

African-American thinker, W.E.B.

Du Bois. As Nica Slave writes, Du

Bois and other notable figures like

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