

# America's [My] Love Affair With The Hamburger

*Hmmmmmm....Hamburgers! I'm salivating already.* The hamburger most likely first appeared in the 19th or early 20th century. The modern hamburger was a product of the culinary needs of a society that was rapidly changing due to industrialization, and therefore, people had less time to prepare as well as to consume meals.

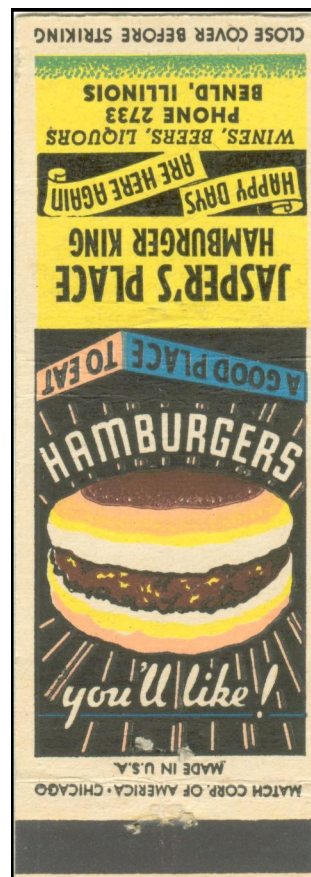
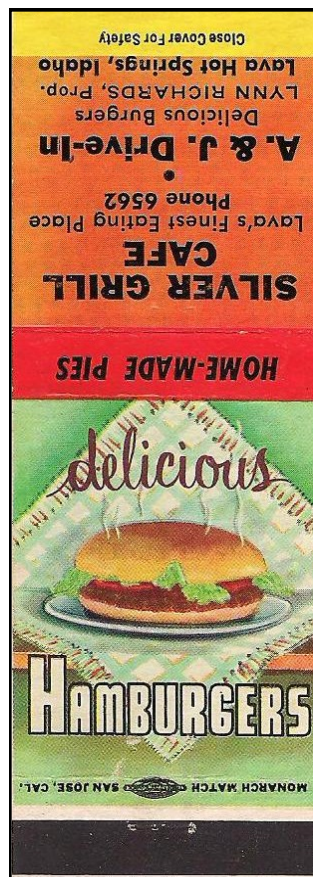
Americans contend they were the first to combine two slices of bread and a steak of ground beef into a "hamburger sandwich" and sell it. Part of the controversy over the origin of the hamburger is because the two basic ingredients, bread and beef, were prepared and consumed separately for many years before their combination. Shortly after its creation, the hamburger was prepared with all of the now typically characteristic trimmings, including onions, lettuce, and sliced pickles.

During the 20th century, there were various controversies, including a nutritional controversy in the late 1990s. The burger is now readily identified with the United States, and a particular style of cuisine, namely fast food. Along with fried chicken and apple pie, the hamburger has become a culinary icon in the United States.

The hamburger's international popularity demonstrates the larger globalization of food that has also been witnessed in the rise in the global popularity of other national dishes, including the Turkish döner kebab, the Italian pizza, and Japanese sushi. The hamburger has spread from continent to continent perhaps because, in part, it is easy to understand in different culinary cultures.

This global culinary culture has been produced, in part, by the concept of selling processed food. This idea was first imagined in the 1920s by the White Castle restaurant chain and its visionary Edgar Waldo "Billy" Ingram, and was refined by McDonald's in the 1940s. This global expansion has provided comparative economics such as the Big Mac Index, which allows for the comparison of the purchasing power of different countries where the Big Mac hamburger is sold. [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_hamburger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_hamburger)]

*....I want to stay at the Hotel de Hamburger!*





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