



At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:

*know the reason why gambling has thrived until contemporary times.

*explain why gambling has been an addiction to both influential and the commoners.



Read the Article:

Gambling has always had its **dark side**. It was not so long ago that most countries were content to leave the business to a few cities like Las Vegas, Macao and Monte Carlo. In respectable nations, gambling was considered **inherently immoral**. It corrupted public officials, attracted **racketeers** and organized crime. It addicted and **indebted** the most **vulnerable** and **gullible** of the citizens. So it was **outlawed** or kept under tight state control. But look around now. **Cash-strapped governments** are turning greedily to lotteries to raise an extra buck or hundred million. They are rushing to approve new casinos so they can tax a golden stream of **revenue** that totals more than \$16 billion a year in the United States alone.

The decline of **Communist** and authoritarian states has unleashed what gambling expert Nelson Rose calls the biggest gambling boom since Francisco Franco's death in 1975 turned Spain into the slot-machine capital of the Uruguay has hired Hilton to build the

world's biggest casino. Greece is holding an American-style mega casino. It looks like easy money, but, as governments are starting to find out, it's not Easy Street. In Russia the gambling scene seems like something out of Vegas in the **mobster** days. **Burly** guards politely ask patrons for their guns- and that's at the good places. There are 264 casinos already, and new ones open at the rate of five a week. Many are **reputed** to be **money-laundering** fronts for the Mafia, while the government officially taxes casino at a rate of 90%.

The United States, where gambling is highly regulated, is having an explosion of it's own. Americans have made gambling their country's most **lucrative pastime** - a bigger business than Hollywood and baseball combined. They bet nearly \$500 billion on legal gambling last year- a **fourfold** increase in just 10 years.



Let's Talk:

1. What do many countries think about gambling?
2. What are the side-effects of gambling?
3. Why are many countries busy permitting new casinos?
4. Why isn't it easy for governments to collect taxes from gambling?



Express Yourself:

1. What are the good things and bad things about gambling?
2. Do you know why many people can't stop betting even after they lose a lot of money?
3. What's the difference between betting on horseracing, gambling and playing the lottery?
4. Which do you think the government should do, make gambling illegal or make it legal and collect taxes from it?
5. Talk about the psychological side effects of gambling?
6. What do you mean by these words:

Gambling has always had its dark side.

Cash-strapped governments

Money-Laundering