

[Download ebook] Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence

Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence

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#3907763 in Books Facts on File 1995-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 11.50 x 8.75 x 1.00l, #File Name: 0816027587408 pages | File size: 75.Mb

From Brand: Facts on File : Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Depressing but vitalBy jbtoughGlobal, historic, hard to find information. .0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting but disorganizedBy ealovittSome encyclopedias such as "The Encyclopedia of Serial Killers," "The Encyclopedia of Country Living," or "The Cat Fanciers' Association Cat Encyclopedia" are interesting and well-organized enough to be read straight through. The same cannot be said of "Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence," mainly because of the way its subjects are ordered. I would have been tempted to arrange the encyclopedia by disease, then historical occurrences within the disease category. Instead, the editor used a strictly alphabetical format that usually begins with the name of a country or city, e.g. "African Influenza Epidemic of 1890" is followed by "Albenga Meningitis Epidemic of 1815." There are also plagues listed under the names of emperors and saints, e.g. Antonine Plague, Plague of Cyprian, and Plague of Justinian.Luckily, there are several appendices including a "Timetable of Plague and Pestilence" and a "Geographical Appendix." One of the more interesting entries in the latter appendix is "Ancient History"--not precisely a geographical entity but containing references to plagues such as the "Thasian Mumps Epidemic" (c. 410 B.C.), and the "Cough of Perinthus" (c. 410 B.C.).This book was first published in 1995, so it is slightly outdated as far as AIDS (the only entries are for Africa and the United States), and some of the hemorrhagic fever outbreaks, although the Zairian Ebola Epidemic of 1976 is thoroughly covered. The SARS virus, and the new potential mass killer, the H5N1 avian flu

virus are not included, but articles can be found on the H1N1, H2N2, and H3N2 influenza outbreaks (if you know to look under headings such as "Russian (Red) Influenza Pandemic of 1977-78" for H1N1.) The encyclopedic entries generally offer a discussion of how and when an epidemic started, how or why it occurred or spread, whom it affected, and what the eventual outcome was. Also included (when available) is the number of casualties, symptoms, and historical implications. For instance, under "Dancing Mania (St. John's Dance, St. Vitus's Dance, Tarantism)" the author reports that "...dancing mania was closely related to the flagellant movement--a cult desperate to find someone or something responsible for the Black Death..." The entries in the "Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence" are fascinating to browse, but if you are trying to research a particular disease such as cholera, you will be making heavy use of this book's 8-point-type index. A magnifying glass is strongly recommended!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Meticulous, fascinating, but oddly organized. By ealovitt. Some encyclopedias such as "The Encyclopedia of Serial Killers," "The Encyclopedia of Country Living," or "The Cat Fanciers' Association Cat Encyclopedia" are interesting and well-organized enough to be read straight through. The same cannot be said of "Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence," mainly because of the way its subjects are ordered. I would have been tempted to arrange the encyclopedia by disease, then historical occurrences within the disease category. Instead, the editor used a strictly alphabetical format that usually begins with the name of a country or city, e.g. "African Influenza Epidemic of 1890" is followed by "Albenga Meningitis Epidemic of 1815." There are also plagues listed under the names of emperors and saints, e.g. Antonine Plague, Plague of Cyprian, and Plague of Justinian. Luckily, there are several appendices including a "Timetable of Plague and Pestilence" and a "Geographical Appendix." One of the more interesting entries in the latter appendix is "Ancient History"--not precisely a geographical entity but containing references to plagues such as the "Thasian Mumps Epidemic" (c. 410 B.C.), and the "Cough of Perinthus" (c. 410 B.C.). This book was published in 1995, so it is slightly outdated as far as AIDS (the only entries are for Africa and the United States), and some of the hemorrhagic fever outbreaks, although the Zairian Ebola Epidemic of 1976 is thoroughly covered. The SARS virus, and the new potential mass killer, the H5N1 avian flu virus are not included, but articles can be found on the H1N1, H2N2, and H3N2 influenza outbreaks (if you know to look under headings such as "Russian (Red) Influenza Pandemic of 1977-78" for H1N1.) The encyclopedic entries generally offer a discussion of how and when an epidemic started, how or why it occurred or spread, whom it affected, and what the eventual outcome was. Also included (when available) is the number of casualties, symptoms, and historical implications. For instance, under "Dancing Mania (St. John's Dance, St. Vitus's Dance, Tarantism)" the author reports that "...dancing mania was closely related to the flagellant movement--a cult desperate to find someone or something responsible for the Black Death..." The entries in the "Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence" are fascinating to browse, but if you are trying to research a particular disease such as cholera, you will be making heavy use of this book's 8-point-type index. A magnifying glass is strongly recommended!

Tracing the history of infectious diseases, the Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence provides concise descriptions of nearly 700 epidemics. This is the first and most comprehensive reference available on the subject.

From School Library Journal YA? Where did the Black Death originate? How many kinds of plague are there? How widespread was polio? What is Legionnaire's Disease? This factual, yet fascinating, volume answers these questions and many more in a clear, readable form. Although it is a reference book, it may be read as a history and geography of world diseases. There is plenty of information in each alphabetically arranged entry, and suggestions for further reading are included for more serious scholars. A book that will enrich science, social studies, English, and other classes, as well as inform general readers. Margaret C. Hecklinger, Lee High School, Springfield, VA Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Edited by prolific reference author Kohn (Dictionary of Historic Documents, LJ 5/1/91), this unique encyclopedia provides brief entries on most of the significant epidemics throughout history. A typical entry is less than one page and covers basic facts such as time and location of the outbreak, number of stricken, and any historical significance of the epidemic. A few suggested readings follow each entry, and a comprehensive bibliography of classic and current epidemiological works is included. Additional special features include a time line and a listing of epidemics by geographical area. The biggest drawback to this source is its arrangement. While the book is adequately indexed, most entries are alphabetized according to location of outbreak (e.g., Legionnaires' Disease is located in the "P" section under "Philadelphia 'Legionnaires' Disease' Epidemic"), which makes some articles difficult to locate. But though brief, the articles are also informative, making this a useful ready-reference source for general readers. Tina Neville, Univ. of South Florida at St. Petersburg Lib. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Disease has decimated populations, defeated armies, and caused great suffering all over the world. The Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence offers an introduction to the role of disease in world history, with information on major epidemics and their effects on civilization. The book is arranged alphabetically by the location of the epidemic, e.g., Afghan Influenza Epidemic of 1918, Zanzibar Cholera Epidemic of 1916. Multiple entries are listed chronologically: Asiatic Cholera Pandemic of 1846[^]-63, Asiatic Cholera Pandemic of 1865[^]-75. There are some inconsistencies in titles, such as Plague of Athens, Great and Plague of Florence (Black

Vomit). With the exception of Black Death, there are no general entries for diseases. General and geographic indexes facilitate access, and see also references direct readers to related articles. Entries range in length from one paragraph to two pages. They present basic facts about location, date, how and why the epidemic started and spread, the people affected, and its outcome or significance. Clinical and epidemiological information is minimal. The cause, mode of transmission, and symptoms are mentioned in some entries, but not repeated in every article about the same disease. The focus of the book is historical. More than 700 epidemics, ranging from various outbreaks of cholera, smallpox, and typhus to English Sweating Disease and the French Army Syphilis Epidemic of 1494, are covered. A time line of epidemics supplements the text. Most entries have references for further reading, and there is an extensive bibliography of both classic and contemporary literature. Although this book lacks the depth of *The Cambridge World History of Human Disease* (1993), it provides a fine introduction to a fascinating subject. *The Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence* is a good source for high-school and public libraries.