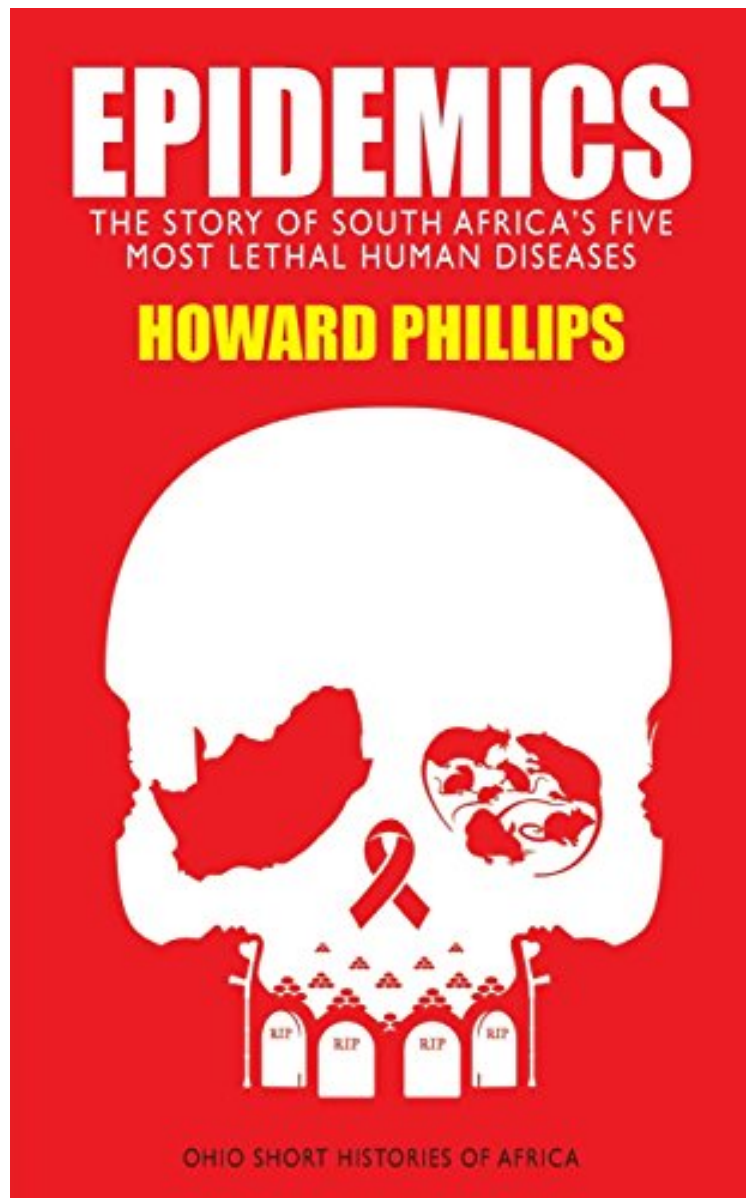


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Epidemics: The Story of South Africa's Five Most Lethal Human Diseases (Ohio Short Histories of Africa)

Howard Phillips

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Howard Phillips : Epidemics: The Story of South Africa's Five Most Lethal Human Diseases (Ohio Short Histories of Africa) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised

Epidemics: The Story of South Africa's Five Most Lethal Human Diseases (Ohio Short Histories of Africa):

This is the first history of epidemics in South Africa, lethal episodes that significantly shaped this society over three centuries. Focusing on five devastating diseases between 1713 and today—smallpox, bubonic plague, Spanish influenza, polio, and HIV/AIDS—the book probes their origins, their catastrophic courses, and their consequences in both the short and long terms. The impacts of these epidemics ranged from the demographic to the political, the social, the economic, the spiritual, the psychological, and the cultural. Moreover, as each of these epidemics occurred at crucial moments in the country's history—such as during the South African War and World War I—the book also examines how these processes affected and were affected by the five epidemics. To those who read this book, history will not look the same again.

Such a book is overdue. It is precisely written, accessible, eminently readable, and, as I have found out, can be effectively deployed as an effective teaching tool. Julie Parle, University of KwaZulu-Natal