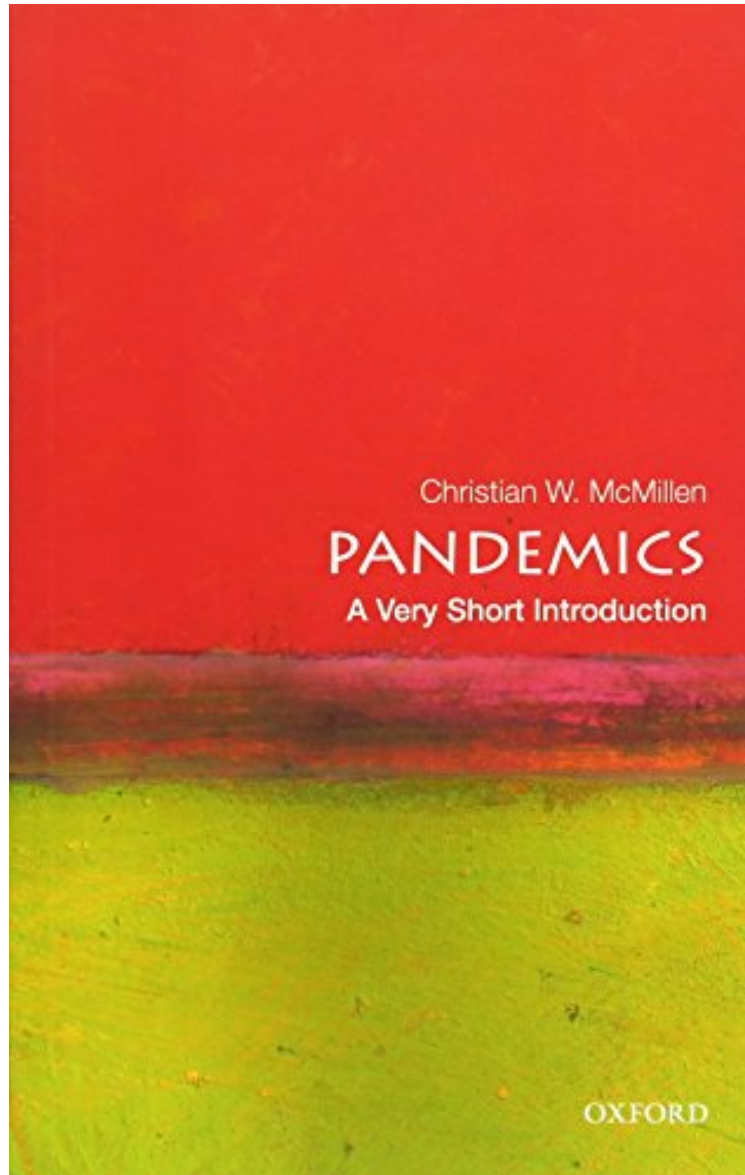


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Pandemics: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

Christian W. McMillen

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#988624 in Books Christian W Mcmillen 2016-12-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 4.40 x .50 x 6.70l, .0 #File Name: 0199340072176 pagesPandemics A Very Short Introduction Very Short Introductions | File size: 41.Mb

Christian W. McMillen : Pandemics: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pandemics: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating, rigorous and readable.By Nicholas J. EdelsonThis is an

excellent short work on a fascinating if frightening topic. The significance of disease on history past and present has become more and more apparent in recent years and McMillen does a great job of covering the topic efficiently and clearly. Written in a straight forward readable manner, it nevertheless has the penetrating analysis and rigorous support of the serious scholar, (which I am not). Engaging and interesting for the casual student of history, (that's me), but a suitable survey of the topic for more academic readers. Highly recommended.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Plagues Prevail, more on the wayBy aron rowNature has its own lethal armory in the form of plagues exploding into epidemics that spread over global areas as pandemics. In this very short introduction to diseases that have ravaged populations, University of Virginia History Professor Christian McMillen chronicles the background of seven feared infections, starting with the historic Plague and continuing on to the dreaded Smallpox, Cholera, Malaria, Tuberculosis, Influenza, and finally HIV/AIDS. Some of these outbreaks are periodic such as the flu, while others like malaria and HIV persist over time. With the advance of medical science some diseases have come under control with vaccines, medications, sanitation, and education. This short but comprehensive study of pandemics reviews the economic, social, and political factors that operate when the disease strikes and the precautions adopted to limit contagion and reoccurrence. Poverty, dense populations, cultural beliefs, and increased mobility of the population enable the human vector to transmit the infective organism. The history of past and present pandemics is impressively described, and the author cautions that this history should serve as a lesson for possible future incidents that may arise especially as crowding and mobility increase. The reader might reflect on the Zika, Ebola viruses and the unpredictable mutagenic strains of the influenza bug along with other potential threats.

The 2014 Ebola epidemic demonstrated the power of pandemics and their ability not only to destroy lives locally but also to capture the imagination and terrify the world. Christian W. McMillen provides a concise yet comprehensive account of pandemics throughout human history, illustrating how pandemic disease has shaped history and, at the same time, social behavior has influenced pandemic disease. Extremely interesting from a medical standpoint, the study of pandemics also provides unexpected, broader insights into culture and politics. This Very Short Introduction describes history's major pandemics - plague, tuberculosis, malaria, smallpox, cholera, influenza, and HIV/AIDS - highlighting how each disease's biological characteristics affected its pandemic development. McMillen discusses state responses to pandemics, such as quarantine, isolation, travel restrictions, and other forms of social control, and pays special attention to the rise of public health and the explosion of medical research in the wake of pandemics, especially as the germ theory of disease emerged in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Today, medicine is able to control all of these diseases, yet some of them are still devastating in much of the developing world. By assessing the relationship between poverty and disease and the geography of epidemics, McMillen offers an outspoken and thought-provoking point of view on the necessity for global governments to learn from past experiences and proactively cooperate to prevent any future epidemic.

About the AuthorChristian W. McMillen is Professor of History at the University of Virginia, where he teaches courses on American Indian history and the history of epidemic disease. He is the author of *Making Indian Law: The Hualapai Land Case and the Birth of Ethnohistory* and *Discovering Tuberculosis: A Global History, 1900 to the Present*.