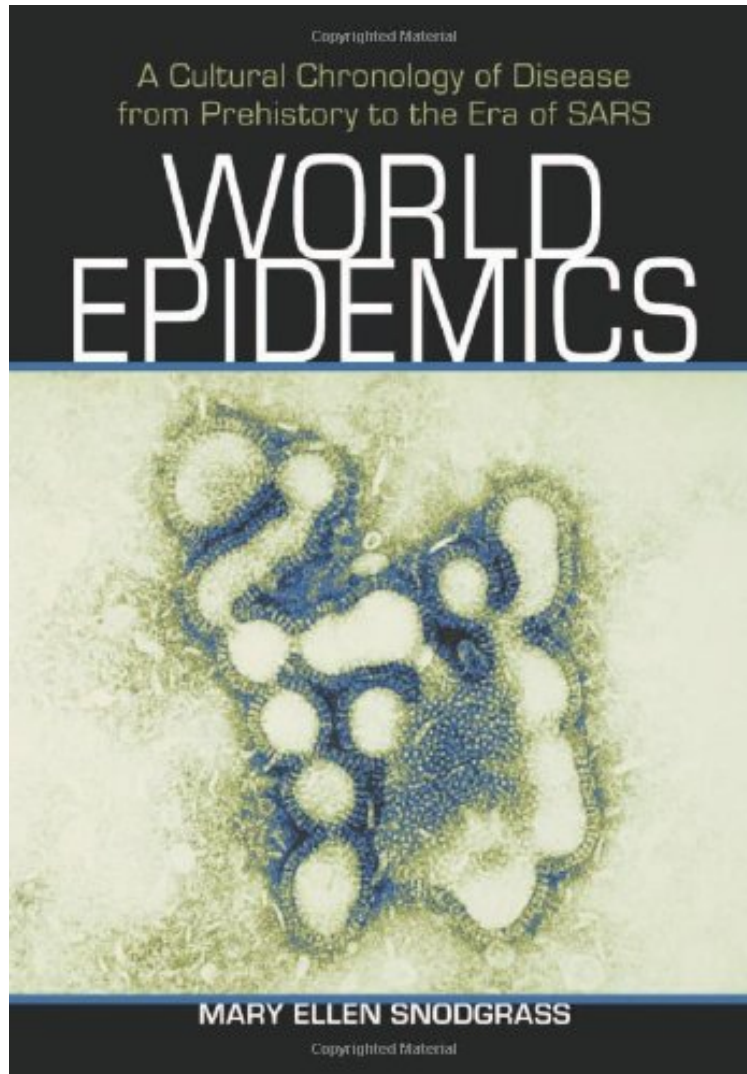


[Free and download] World Epidemics: A Cultural Chronology of Disease from Prehistory to the Era of Sars

World Epidemics: A Cultural Chronology of Disease from Prehistory to the Era of Sars

Mary Ellen Snodgrass

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Mary Ellen Snodgrass : World Epidemics: A Cultural Chronology of Disease from Prehistory to the Era of Sars before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised World Epidemics: A Cultural Chronology of Disease from Prehistory to the Era of Sars:

The chronological entries of this book provide a record of the impact upon human culture of epidemic illness and

death throughout history. From the bone deposits suggesting yaws bacteria on a femur from 498,000 B.C., to an outbreak of sudden acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003, the work covers demographics, symptoms, community health, nursing, study, prevention, treatment, and disease control since ancient times. Biographical information highlights notables who identified and battled disease. Enhancing the historical data are a map of resurgent vector-borne diseases and comparative charts of types of infection, results of scourges, and rough estimates of people affected by each event. A glossary clarifies 106 crucial terms. Appendix A lists diseases by both proper and informal names, Latin names of pathogens, dates and places of early outbreaks of each disease, and the manner of their infection. Three additional appendices present historic writings on disease. Two bibliographies (general resources; specific diseases) of major works, histories of medicine, health journals, and web sites on the history of contagion, and a generously cross-referenced index complete the work.

From Booklist Epidemic illness and related topics from antiquity to the present day are described in this work. The chronologically arranged entries range in length from a paragraph to several pages. The information is objectively presented, with no editorial comment. It is left to the reader to deduce the cultural impact of population-devastating disease throughout history and also the impact of history on the spread of disease. Cross-references help tie some information together. The index can be used to locate all the entries on a disease, but the references are to dates rather than pages, which can make it time-consuming to locate a mention of a particular topic. There are other problems with the index. The entry for Black Death gives only three twentieth-century dates in addition to a see reference to plague. The term bubonic plague is not indexed at all, although there are textual entries using the term. To find all the information the user must search through the hundreds of dates indexed under plague. More useful are the data charts and tables and the appendixes. One appendix lists epidemic diseases by date and source. Two others, general and disease-specific bibliographies, will be useful to scholars and researchers, who are clearly the target audience for the work. The general reader will learn more in a less-labor-intensive manner from a work such as *Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence: From Ancient Times to the Present* (rev. ed., Facts On File, 2001), which provides a broader approach to the multifaceted impact of epidemics. Serious students of epidemiological history are likely to find the strict chronological arrangement of *World Epidemics* a workable research aid, and it is appropriate for academic and large public library collections. RBBCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "a welcome addition...recommended"--Choice; "research...is phenomenal"--ARBA; "useful"--CRL News; "this work fills a gap"--Catholic Library World; "this fascinating book is an impressive collection of information that has been finely distilled into a 360-page chronology...the index is invaluable...absorbing...useful glossary...particularly useful to anyone doing preliminary research on a historical disease or epidemic...highly recommended"--Reference s. About the Author Mary Ellen Snodgrass, a resident of Hickory, North Carolina, is an award-winning author of textbooks and reference works, including a number of volumes in the McFarland Literary Companions series. In addition to teaching at Lenoir Rhyne University, she serves the state as a traveling lecturer for the Humanities Commission and a board member of the state library commission.