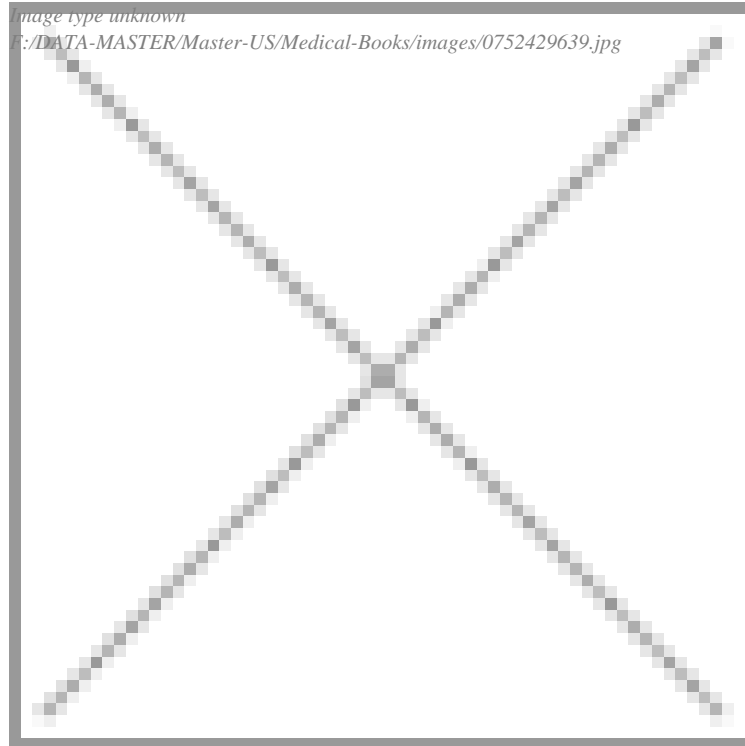


[Ebook free] Plague (Black Death Pestilence in Europe)

Plague (Black Death Pestilence in Europe)

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William G. Naphy, Andrew Spicer : Plague (Black Death Pestilence in Europe) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Plague (Black Death Pestilence in Europe):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerPerfect.8 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A broad overviewBy Axel Mickyfinn
The Black Death is the name commonly given to the plague which arrived in Europe in 1347 and proceeded to ravage the continent with around a third of the population dying as a result. However as the authors show, the 'Black Death' was but the first manifestation in Europe of a cyclic series of epidemics comprising what is known as the Second Great Pandemic. This is not a detailed history of the plague, but rather a popular overview as to its impact and the response of those afflicted in seeking source and prevention, both theological and medical. Social structures changed in the aftermath of the plague with increased social mobility as vacancies were created almost overnight and as state solutions were imposed to attempt to detect and minimise the spread of the plague. Two specific attacks of plague are dealt with in detail - the Great Plague of 1665 in London, and the plague of 1720 in Marseilles. The former is probably familiar to most English speaking readers. Its treatment is spoiled by the authors' detailing the course of the casualties in terms of the current population of London - a rather pointless and confusing exercise. I found the account of the Marseilles plague more interesting as I was unfamiliar with this last outbreak of plague in Western Europe, and the eye-witness accounts of the infighting amongst the medical professions and civil authorities were illuminating. There are inconsistencies - there is some confusion as to when smallpox was recorded in Europe - having initially noted a smallpox epidemic in Roman Italy in AD 165, it is

later stated that smallpox was unknown to the ancient world and not described until 910. Minor irritations - most readers will not require a gloss on the meaning of 'catamite'; although the acronyms BSE and CJD should have been fully defined other than as 'Mad Cow Disease'; and if a French proverb is used, it should be in French...In summation, a readable overview of the Black Death and its successors which sets the pandemic in a European context across four centuries.

The Black Death first hit Europe in 1347, ripping through towns, villages, and families. Men, women, children, young and old succumbed to a painful, drawn-out death as pustules, abscesses, and boils erupted all over their bodies. Subsequent attacks of the disease, coming almost every decade, so limited the population that it was not until the 18th century that it managed to surpass the levels of the 1340s. For over 300 years, Europeans were stalked by death. In the end, this mysterious disease that had terrorized, terrified, and killed millions, disappeared as inexplicably as it had appeared.

A chilling warning from history. -- Sunday Telegraph One of the most enjoyable history books I have read in a long time. -- History Scotland From the Publisher The Black Death first hit Europe in 1347. This horrific disease ripped through towns, villages and families. Men, women, children, young and old succumbed to a painful, drawnout death as pustules, abscesses and boils erupted all over their bodies. Subsequent attacks of the disease, coming almost every decade, so limited the population that it was not until the eighteenth century that it managed to surpass the levels of the 1340s. For over three hundred years, Europeans were stalked by death. In the end, this mysterious disease that had terrorized, terrified and killed millions, disappeared as inexplicably as it had appeared. William Naphy is Senior Lecturer and Head of History at the University of Aberdeen. His other books include Born to be Gay and Sex Crimes, both published by Tempus. Andrew Spicer is Research Fellow at the University of Exeter. His next book, Londons Pariahs: Lepers, Jews Outcasts before the Enlightenment, will also be published by Tempus.