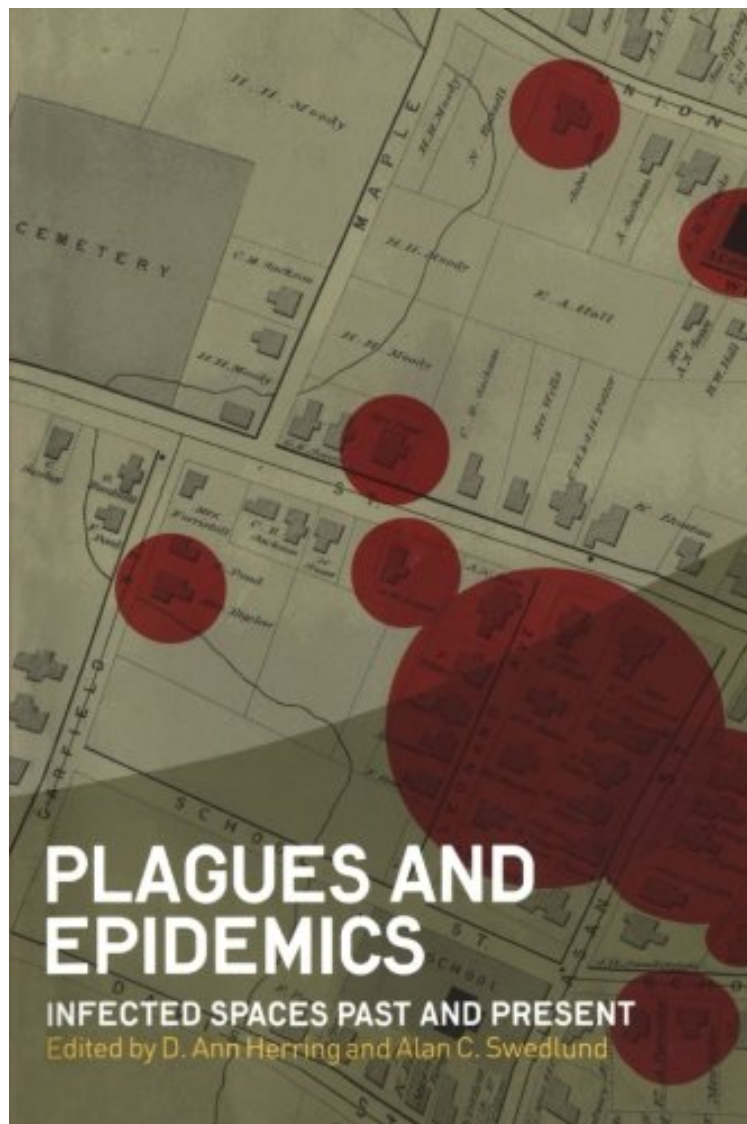


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Until recently, plagues were thought to belong in the ancient past. Now there are deep worries about global pandemics. This book presents views from anthropology about this much publicized and complex problem. The authors take us to places where epidemics are erupting, waning, or gone and to other places where they have not yet arrived, but where a frightening story-line is already in place. They explore public health bureaucracies and political arenas where the power lies to make decisions about what is, and is not, an epidemic. They look back into global history to uncover disease trends and look ahead to a future of expanding plagues within the context of climate change. The chapters are written from a range of perspectives, from the science of modelling epidemics to the social science of understanding them.

interesting collection of nineteen essays ... admirably supported by cited literature that is largely scholarly but also includes articles in the popular press. The Biologist A welcome progression of ideas from several fields that come together as a medical anthropology ... The editors of Plagues and Epidemics have presented key concerns for current considerations, while having strong implications for the future of medical anthropology. Anthropological Notebooks About the Author Ann Herring is Professor of Anthropology at McMaster University. Alan C. Swedlund is Professor Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.