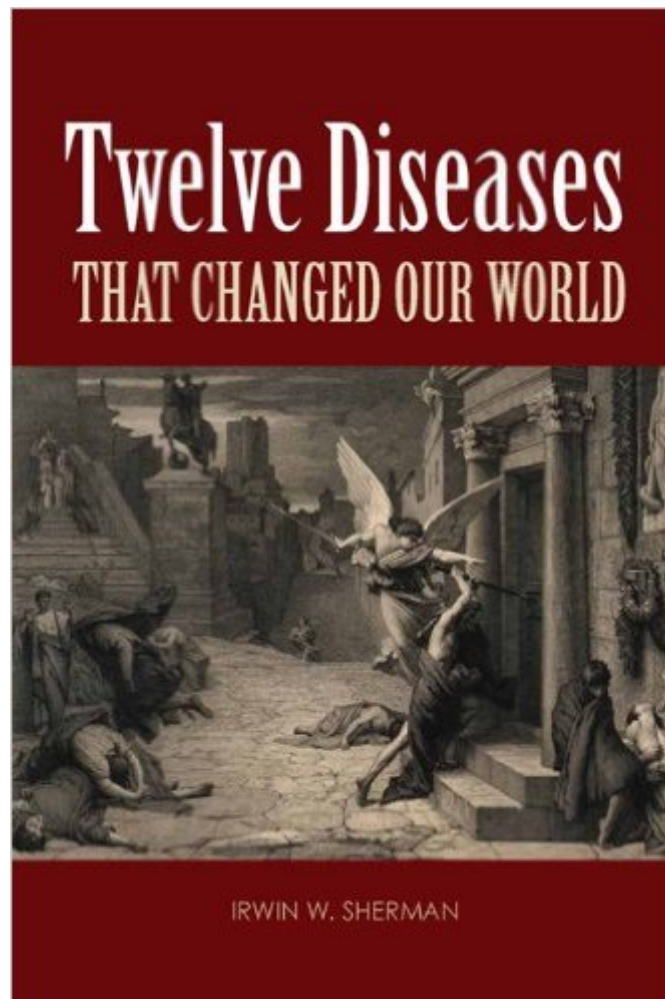


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# Twelve Diseases That Changed Our World



## Synopsis

Covers the history of twelve important diseases and addresses public health responses and societal upheavals. Chronicles the ways disease outbreaks shaped traditions and institutions of Western civilization. Explains the effects, causes, and outcomes from past epidemics. Describes a dozen diseases to show how disease control either was achieved or failed. Makes clear the interrelationship between diseases and history. Presents material in a compelling, clear, and jargon-free prose for a wide audience. Provides a picture of the best practices for dealing with disease outbreaks.

## Book Information

Paperback: 219 pages

Publisher: ASM Press; 1 edition (August 31, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1555814662

ISBN-13: 978-1555814663

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Twelve Diseases  
Irwin W. Sherman is Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Riverside. He wrote three other books. Disease has a major impact on society (âPrefaceâ<sup>TM</sup>). It has affected royal families, decimated populations, created panic, and fostered discrimination. Disease affected colonial expansion and forced a mass migration. There were many diseases but he has selected twelve diseases that shaped history. Influenza and AIDS are still uncontrolled. These diseases resulted in public health measures to control their spread. Whatever the illness, there is hope or remedy. This 2007 book has a âContentsâ<sup>TM</sup>, eleven chapters, âNotesâ<sup>TM</sup>, and an âIndexâ<sup>TM</sup> in its 219 pages. Economics is the other factor that affects society but may be too controversial for this book. Chapter 1 discusses Porphyria and Hemophilia. It references the physical ailments of President John F. Kennedy and wonders if his medication affected the Cuban missile crisis and

other political decisions. Porphyria affected the British Royal family from Mary Queen of Scots until the reign of Queen Victoria. Hemophilia was passed on by Queen Victoria's daughters and granddaughters to their royal offspring. It prevents blood from clotting so a wound or bruise can lead to uncontrolled bleeding and death. Chapter 2 tells of the oppression of the Irish people. The cool moist conditions allowed potatoes to grow, this fed the poorest peasants. The blight arrived in 1845 and led to famine and disease. Those who could migrated to Canada, the US, and Great Britain. Potatoes are still the primary food source for many today. The 1916-1917 potato famine in Germany affected the morale of German soldiers. [Academic historians often ignore these facts.] Chapter 3 describes death from cholera.

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