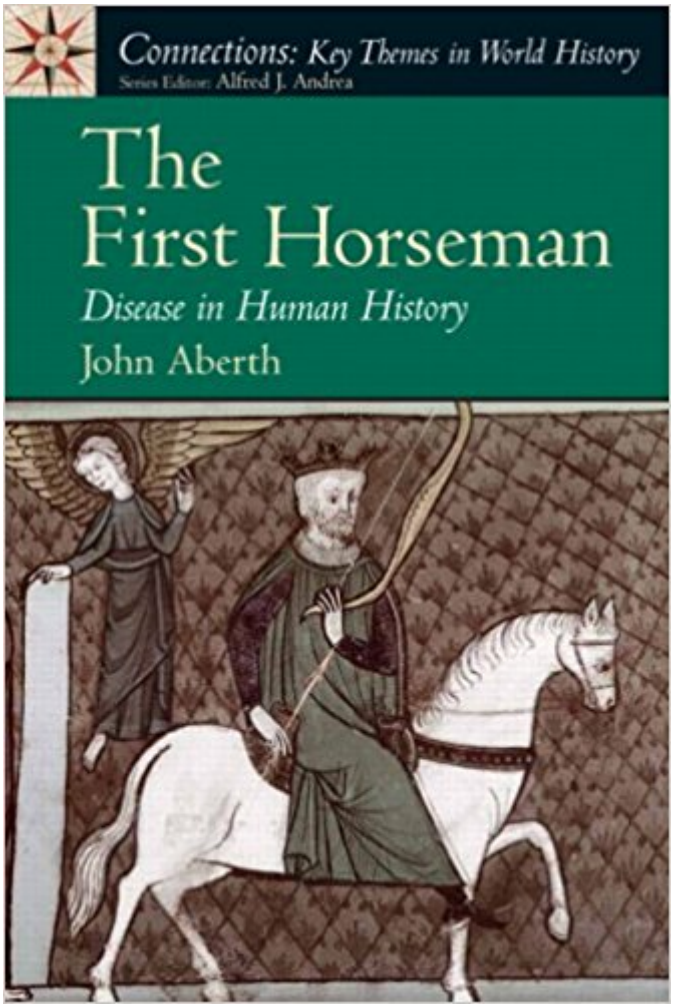
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The First Horseman: Disease In Human History



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Synopsis

This text intends to emphasis to students that widespread, deadly disease is not a distant historical phenomenon, but a continuing threat to humanity. It explains the economic, political, social, and psychological problems that deadly diseases have caused in our past and the challenges we face currently and in the future. The importance of this study is emphasized by the author's last line in the text, "The history of disease will go on, despite once confident predictions of an end to epidemics in our times, and those who now wage the heroic struggle to find elusive cures to our new plagues may find that they have more to learn from the past than had once been thought."

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This is a great book to use as a supplement to classes that are broad in historical focus or ones that focus on disease in history. Most of the diseases that Aberth chooses are perfect for the task. They

are clear explanations of the biological and historical factors of each disease, as well as the social ramifications of each. The final section, on AIDS,doesn't quite hit the mark. I believe this may be due to the fact that it is a relatively recent phenomenon and there is a certain lack of perspective about it. The Influenza of 1918 is missing as is flu in general and those may have been more interesting choices. Each chapter also contains primary sources which are well chosen and edited for good effect.

This is a very concise, structured and informative little book. It was the first of its kind to introduce me to the field, and it was a really good pick by my history professor. Thoroughly recommended to every college student or history enthusiast who wishes to never see and think of history in the same manner again.

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