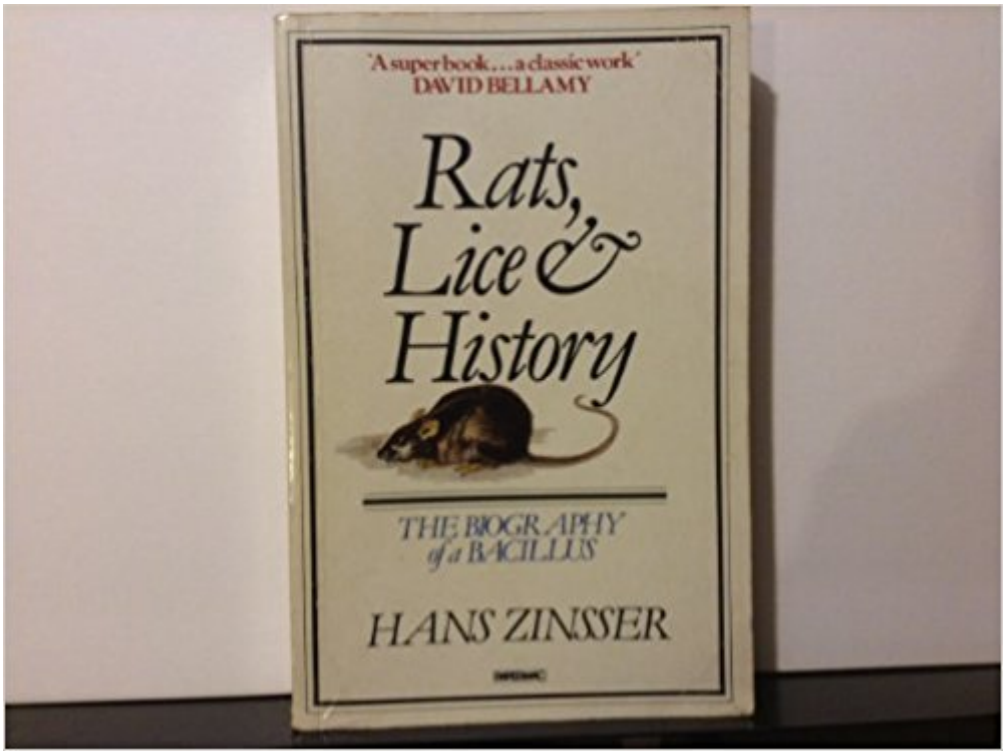
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Rats, Lice And History (Papermac)



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Synopsis

The classic chronicle of the impact disease and plagues have had on history and society over the past half-millennium. Intriguingly fascinating and entertaining reading for anyone who is interested in how society copes with catastrophe and pain. Relevant today in face of the worldwide medical calamity of AIDS. Continuously in print since its first publication in 1934, with over 75 printings. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Zinsser's account of lice and men remains a delight. Written in 1935 as a latter-day variation on Laurence Sterne's The Life and Opinions of Tristam Shandy, Zinsser's book gives a picaresque account of how the history of the world has been shaped by epidemics of louseborne typhus.....Zinnser's romp through the ancient and modern worlds describes how epidemics devastated the Byzantines under Justinian, put Charles V atop the Holy Roman Empire, stopped the Turks at the Carpathians, and turned Napolean's Grand ArmÃƒÂ©e back from Moscow." Ã¢â ¬â •Gerald Weissmann, Emerging Infectious Diseases "This book... is listed among the best sellers. The style is delightful, and the subject matter very interesting... [It gives an] account of man's defeats and victories against epidemics... Those who have read Dr. Zinsser's articles will enjoy this book, and to otehrs it will be a pleasant surprise." Ã¢â ¬â •Elizabeth Hard, The American Journal of Nursing "No one who buys this book will feel cheated." Ã¢â ¬â •H. M.

Parshley, Nation "This book will surely be studied with great interest by the lay reader... [I]t presents "a fascinating blend of scientific and historical research, humour, and stimulating opinion." Ã¢â ¬â •The British Medical Journal Ã¢â ¬Å“I had the fun of editing HansÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book Rats, Lice and History, that unique account of what infectious diseases had done to change the fate of nations.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Edward Weeks, The Atlantic --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Hans Zinsser (1878-1940) received his doctorate at Columbia University and also was an instructor of bacteriology at Columbia University. Throughout his career he was also a professor at Stanford University as well as Harvard University. His scientific work focused on bacteriology and immunology and he is greatly associated with Brill's disease as well as typhus. Gerald N. Grob is the Henry E. Sigerist Professor of the History of Medicine (emeritus) at Rutgers University. He is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and has been the president of the American Association for the History of Medicine. He is the author of The Deadly Truth: A History of Disease in America and, most recently, (with Howard H. Goldman) The Dilemma of Federal Mental Health Policy: Radical Reform or Incremental Change? --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book met all of my expectations, and more. It was interesting to read the stories of how diseases and parasites had played major roles in the history of the world. A fascinating book.

My all-time favorite history-and-disease book. First read it as a teen many many years ago, and it probably played a part in focusing my interest in biology. Dr Zinsser shines through on every page, making it highly readable as well as good science (and sociology) history.I highly recommend it.

I love this book! Originally published in 1934, it has withstood the test of time. Clearly, the writer loves his subject. His writing is sly, witty and informative, as he draws the reader in to a growing appreciation of this unusual subject.

Not every book leaves you wiser than when you began. This one does. It makes sense out of the bits and pieces of history that are often neglected by the historians.

A classic. Well worth reading.

Studying it and taking a class on the Sociology of health and Illness really helped me understand the nature of disease. I wrote a paper for college on this book and received a 98!

great

This is a must read for anyone who is interested in science or history.

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