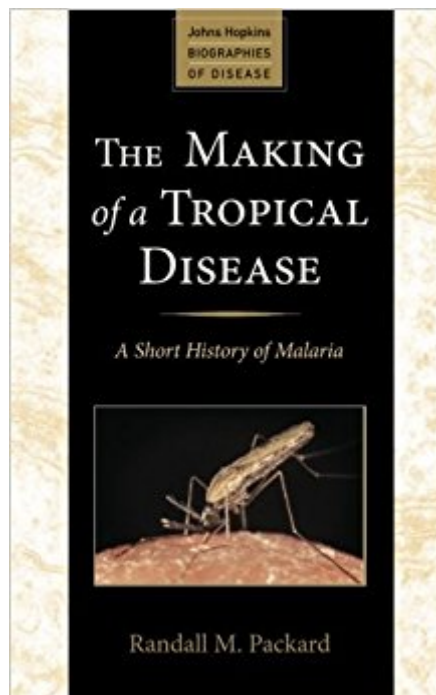




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The Making Of A Tropical Disease: A Short History Of Malaria (Johns Hopkins Biographies Of Disease)



Synopsis

Malaria sickens hundreds of millions of people and kills one to three million each year. Despite massive efforts to eradicate the disease, it remains a major public health problem in poorer tropical regions. But malaria has not always been concentrated in tropical areas. How did other regions control malaria and why does the disease still flourish in some parts of the globe? From Russia to Bengal to Palm Beach, Randall Packard's far-ranging narrative traces the natural and social forces that help malaria spread and make it deadly. He finds that war, land development, crumbling health systems, and globalization coupled with climate change and changes in the distribution and flow of water create conditions in which malaria's carrier mosquitoes thrive. The combination of these forces, Packard contends, makes the tropical regions today a perfect home for the disease. Authoritative, fascinating, and eye-opening, this short history of malaria concludes with policy recommendations for improving control strategies and saving lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"What Randall M. Packard does masterfully in his book on malaria is to integrate the biological complexity of the disease into its historical, social and economic context, even if he stops short of drawing all the obvious conclusions from the data he so ably presents." (G. Dunkel Workers World)"Useful in collections that support tropical medicine, public health, and the history of medicine." (Choice)"A fine book... This short book carries through its thoughtful approach with

admirable power and consistency." (Bill Bynum *Lancet*) "This is an excellent and well-balanced book that will be of interest to a wide audience." (Brian Greenwood *Nature Medicine*) "This is an interesting read—a short, well-written, and exceptionally well-documented history and commentary on the possible control—and, hopefully, eradication—of one of the world's major diseases." (Markley H. Boyer, MD, DPhil, MPH *JAMA*) "This is a remarkable book that will be of great interest to any historian working on the history of disease and to those historians who deal with the difficult question of how to write sound and clear general histories." (Marcos Cueto *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*) "Packard's is a terrific book that will guide the next generation of medical and environmental historians as global challenges to health persist and expand in the wake of unintended environmental change." (James C. McCann *International Journal of African Historical Studies*) "The Making of a Tropical Disease is a vigorously argued and accessibly narrated ecological history of malaria, a contribution as much to social medicine and studies in the political economy of disease as to medical history." (Warwick Anderson *Isis*) "What gives a special energy to this volume is his conviction that the history of malaria is embedded in the history of development and that the lessons of this history must be applied to contemporary development policies." (Marcia Wright *Journal of Global History*) "Packard's lightness of touch allows his book to be both enjoyable and compelling, despite the frustration and heartbreak in his story." (Anne Hardy *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*) "An excellent and well-balanced book that will be of interest to a wide audience. It should be required reading for all those contemplating a second malaria eradication campaign." (Brian Greenwood *Nature Medicine*) "The author can be congratulated for having tackled such a complex and difficult topic. His research and depth of knowledge on the topic as a historian are just amazing. He has also provided excellent references for further studies." (Walter Kipp *Canadian Studies in Population*) "Authoritative, fascinating, and eye-opening." (Book Bargains and Previews)

2008 Book of the Year, End Malaria Awards, Malaria Foundation International Malaria sickens hundreds of millions of people—and kills one to three million—each year. Despite massive efforts to eradicate the disease, it remains a major public health problem in poorer tropical regions. But malaria has not always been concentrated in tropical areas. How did other regions control malaria, and why does the disease still flourish in parts of the globe. This acclaimed history of malaria traces the natural and social forces that help the disease spread and make it deadly. "This is an interesting read—a short, well-written, and exceptionally well-documented history and commentary on the possible control—and, hopefully, eradication—of one of the world's major diseases." — *JAMA* "A

vigorously argued and accessibly narrated ecological history of malaria, a contribution as much to social medicine and studies in the political economy of disease as to medical history."â • Isis "This is a remarkable book that will be of great interest to any historian working on the history of disease and to those historians who deal with the difficult question of how to write sound and clear general histories."â • Bulletin of the History of Medicine "An excellent and well-balanced book that will be of interest to a wide audience. It should be required reading for all those contemplating a second malaria eradication campaign."â • Nature Medicine

The book is very well researched and presented, the details are amazing and it is incredibly thorough. It is interesting, especially if you're interested in the topic, however it is a very exhaustive read. At times overwhelming with the amount of information and intricate details being shared. Also I find the number of examples to be excessive and repetitive and therefore unnecessary. While this supports the points, I feel several pages on one example would have sufficed. Overall it's an interesting read with some very good insights.

I share similar views to what others have written. This is definitely an interesting read, but it is not quite what I expected. I detected a bit of a political bent that detracted a bit from the overall book. The author does make a compelling case that focusing solely on prevention and treatment of malaria (e.g. ACTs, nets, IRS, etc.) that we might be too narrow in our focus. That malaria is more of an ecological and economic disease that requires a broader focus to eradicate. And he makes a compelling case that increased economic growth does result in reduced malaria burden. I think what is missing is a real in depth discussion of the efficacy of the various malaria interventions. I would have liked to have seen more discussion of the history of nets, IRS, and ACTs and how different mixes of interventions have succeeded or failed. I would have also like to have seen more of a discussion on the actual malaria interventions, how they are organized and implemented. In addition, having travelled throughout Africa and seen some of these interventions first hand, I think the book is a little outdated. There has been tremendous progress in malaria reduction in Africa in just the past few years. It is really an incredibly powerful story, and it is a combination of the interventions and increased economic growth. Overall, if you have an interest in malaria it is worth a read.

What can I say that hasn't been said in all the reviews already? An excellent book to get started on understanding all things malaria, for anyone wanting some baseline knowledge or looking for a foundation upon which they can delve deeper into the subject.

This book made a seemingly boring subject into a really interesting read from an anthropological/ecological viewpoint. Definitely plan on reading it again!

very readable. insightful. well organized and easy to follow. needs to be read by anyone working with people in developing countries.

It's great! Wonderful book that's very informative. Very interesting if you like topics of disease or epidemiology. Didn't take long to finish either. Easy to read!

A well-written overview and analysis of malaria from all angles - biological, historical, economic, social, etc. Very readable even for someone who has no prior knowledge of malaria.

This book has brought out a lot of good reviews, especially 4 star reviews. The author strongly argues for broad strategies to improve the conditions of life in poor countries instead of only simple targeted disease eradication programs. This is important and he makes a good case. He also writes a good history of malaria. Midwest Independent Research, educational websites. Health care information, mwir-healthcareinformation.blogspot. There is information and a book list on infectious disease here.

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