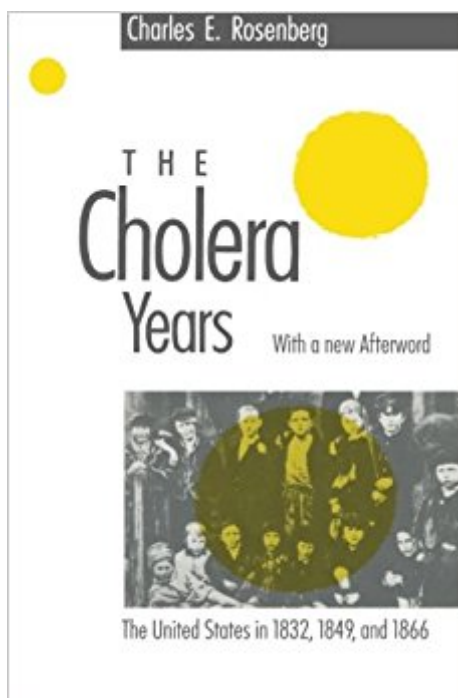


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The Cholera Years: The United States In 1832, 1849, And 1866



Synopsis

Cholera was the classic epidemic disease of the nineteenth century, as the plague had been for the fourteenth. Its defeat was a reflection not only of progress in medical knowledge but of enduring changes in American social thought. Rosenberg has focused his study on New York City, the most highly developed center of this new society. Carefully documented, full of descriptive detail, yet written with an urgent sense of the drama of the epidemic years, this narrative is as absorbing for general audiences as it is for the medical historian. In a new Afterword, Rosenberg discusses changes in historical method and concerns since the original publication of *The Cholera Years*. "A major work of interpretation of medical and social thought . . . this volume is also to be commended for its skillful, absorbing presentation of the background and the effects of this dread disease." —I.B. Cohen, *New York Times* "The Cholera Years is a masterful analysis of the moral and social interest attached to epidemic disease, providing generally applicable insights into how the connections between social change, changes in knowledge and changes in technical practice may be conceived." —Steven Shapin, *Times Literary Supplement* "In a way that is all too rarely done, Rosenberg has skillfully interwoven medical, social, and intellectual history to show how medicine and society interacted and changed during the 19th century. The history of medicine here takes its rightful place in the tapestry of human history." —John B. Blake, *Science*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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fourteenth. Its defeat was a reflection not only of progress in medical knowledge but of enduring changes in American social thought. Rosenberg has focused his study on New York City, the most highly developed center of this new society.

The themes of this book focus the reader on how cholera was an impetus for societal change (when it comes to the role of government in overall well being) and how its appearance was received by the varying societies of the 19th century. Certainly Rosenberg makes the effort to contrast 1832 with 1866. You'll find explicit comparisons lacking, and often his descriptions are repetitive. However, a student of medical history can glean a great deal of information from the insight he provides.

Good

I loved this book! It was assigned reading for my Social Welfare Policy I course and I cracked the spine expecting to drag myself through it. Not so! I loved this book! A great read, with lots of lessons and relevance today. Unfortunately, we haven't seemed to learn many of them.

Got this for my wife. She didn't like all the context around the disease, religion, government, etc. Mostly stuff that is fairly common knowledge. Only the last few pages are devoted to talking about Cholera and how they dealt with it, which is what she wanted.

I found this book a very nice review of cholera in the US in the 19th century. My only quibble is that the author didn't really spend time between the '32 and '49 and the '49 and '66 describing changes in the medical field that made '66 different (especially the epidemiologists who made the association between contaminated water and disease.)

Raising my children in Central America when the sixth world cholera pandemic reached the shores of this continent heightened my awareness as to existence of this mysterious disease. My children would bring home their cholera awareness materials from school that emphasized hand washing and clean water. Later on, I researched an incident in 1852 when Ulysses S. Grant and the U.S. 4th Infantry were devastated by cholera when passing through Panama on their way to California. However, it wasn't until I read Rosenberg's book that I understood how horrible a death from cholera was and yet how easy it is nowadays to treat. Rosenberg brings out so many interesting

aspects of the impact of cholera on public health and the fact that the disease has only been known in the Western world for a little over 200 years. Most people think cholera is biblical. The book is an easy read for a layman and too bad it appears to be mostly used as a text book in college.

A lively recounted, well researched account of the U.S. during three cholera epidemics.

Love all the details. A very compelling narrative about the development of city sanitation and disease control. It clearly shows the development of cholera from a moral scourge to a plight of an industrialized society not serving all of its citizens equally.

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