

# When Germs Travel: International Efforts to Control Infectious Diseases Across Time

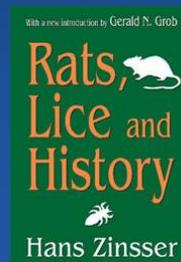


## Howard Markel, M.D., Ph.D.

*George E. Wartz Distinguished Professor of the History of Medicine  
Director, Center for the History of Medicine  
Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases  
The University of Michigan Medical School*

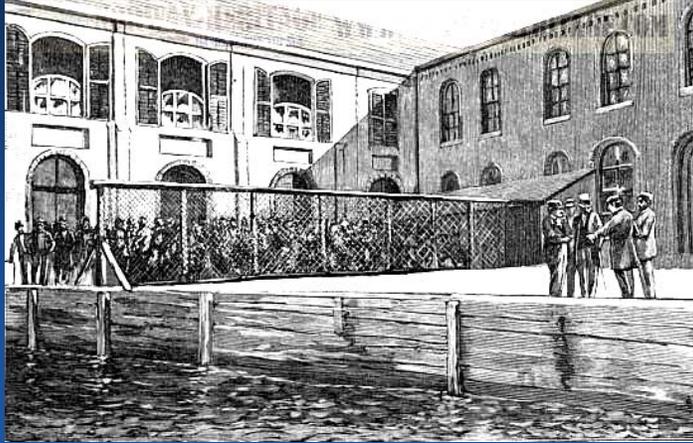
Infectious disease is one of the great tragedies of living things – the struggle for existence between different forms of life. Man sees it from his own prejudiced point of view; but clams, oysters, insects, fish, flowers, tobacco, potatoes, tomatoes, fruit, shrubs, trees, have their own varieties of smallpox, measles... or tuberculosis. Incessantly, the pitiless war goes on. Without quarter or armistice – a nationalism of species against species.

Hans Zinsser, M.D., *Rats, Lice and History*, (1935)



## *A Brief History of Quarantine and its Many Meanings*

(New York Quarantine Station, Hoffman Island, 1892)



**QUARANTINE**

**DIPHTHERIA**

By Order of County Health Officer

Quarantine Placard, Baltimore County, c. 1925



## ***Social Responses to Contagion Across Time***

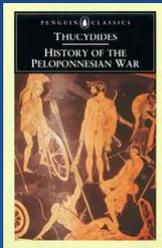
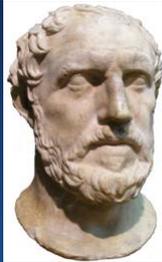
- Calls for avoiding the ill, or those perceived to be ill, particularly if the disease is thought to be contagious;
- Negotiations over how experts and the community at large understand the disease, especially in terms of cause, prevention, and amelioration;
- The complex political, economic, and social battles that guide or obstruct a community's efforts to respond to the epidemic;
- The extent to which social and cultural perceptions about those most stricken with the epidemic disease in questions often frames the responses that shape control measures aimed at individuals or communities.



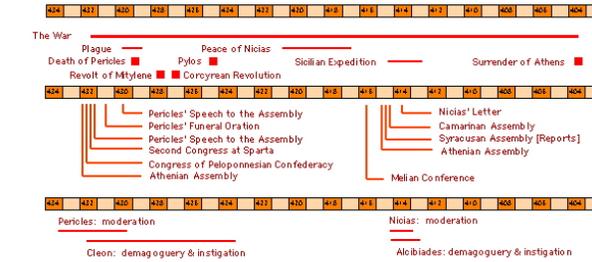
## ***Leviticus, Five Books of Moses***



# Thucydides, 460-400, B.C.



## The Peloponnesian War



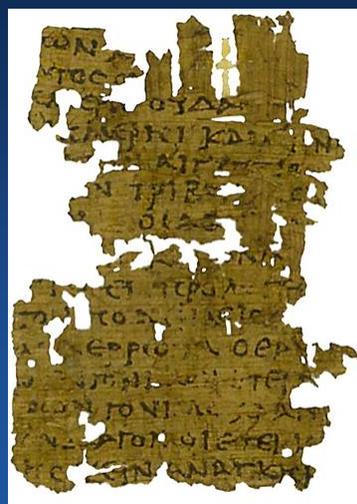
[This map of the region in 900 AD is from *Atlas To Freeman's Historical Geography*, Edited by J.B. Bury, Longmans Green and Co. Third Edition, 1903, posted by the Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, University of Texas: [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map\\_collection/historical/se\\_euro\\_pe\\_900.jpg](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/historical/se_euro_pe_900.jpg)]



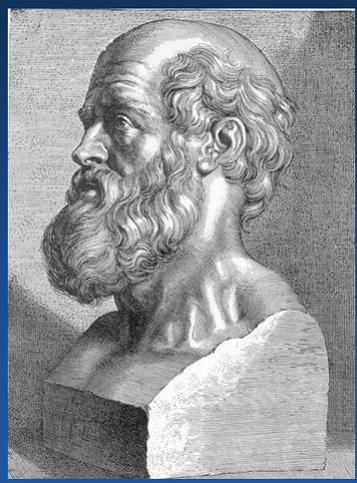
v.1.0 1999.02.24 © 1999 Bruce D. Lentz



# Hippocrates, 460-370, B.C.



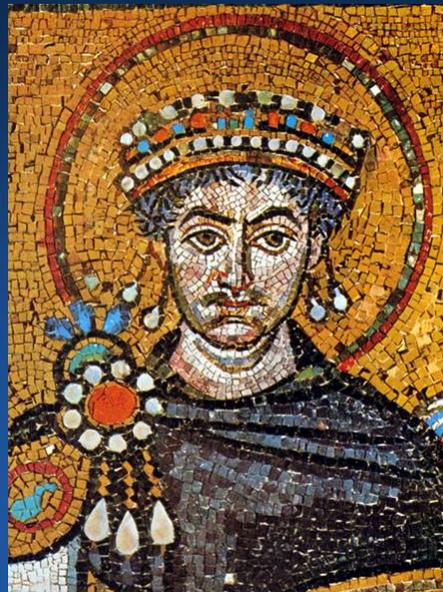
MS 2634/3  
Hippocrates: Epidemics II. Alexandria, late 2nd-1st c. BC



## Galen of Pergamon, 131-201, A.D.



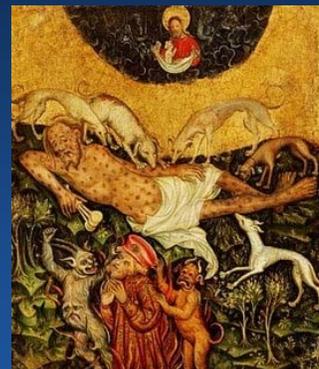
## Emperor Justinian, 482-565, A.D., author of one of the first international sanitary laws



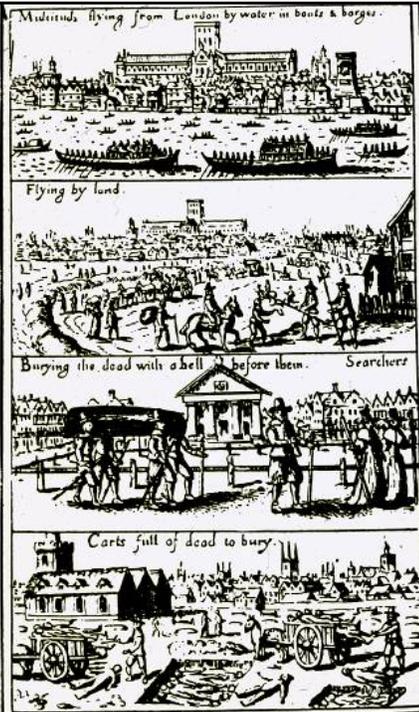
**Triumph of Death; Buonamico Buffalmacco, c. 1330  
(Fresco, Campo Santo, Pisa).**



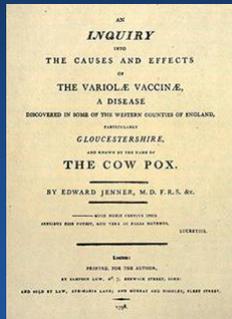
**The Birth of the Quarantine:  
Lazaretto, Santa Maria di Nazareth Island,  
Venice, founded in 1374**



# London, during the Great Plague of 1664



# Small pox, diphtheria, yellow fever, and many other epidemic diseases routinely ravished communities during the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries





# Immigrants and Infection: The View from New York City

(from *Puck Magazine*, 1884)

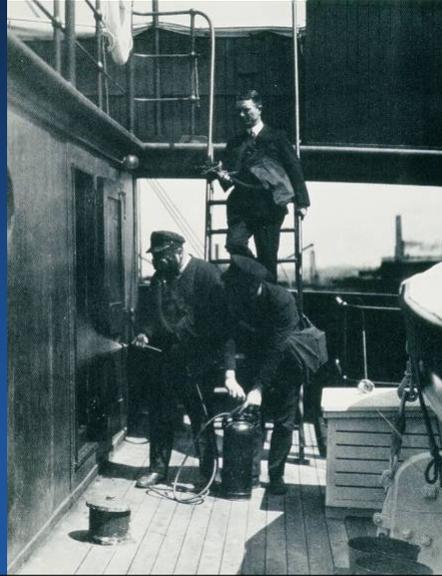


# Cholera and Immigrants, 1892

(from *Judge Magazine*, Sept. 1892)



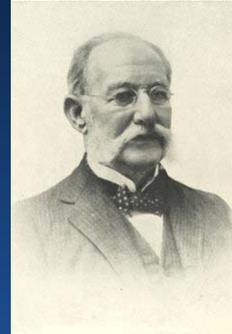
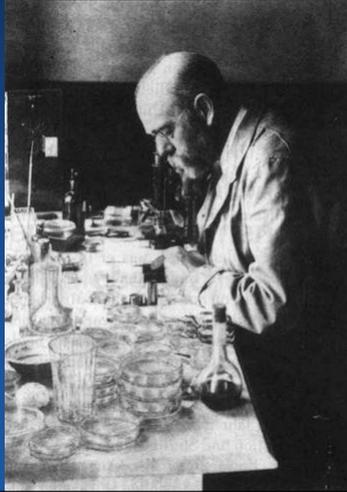
## Sanitary Inspection of Transatlantic Steamship, c. 1899



## International Sanitary Bureau, c. 1902



**Pasteur, Koch, and Finlay**



**A Brief Trip Through Ellis Island, 1892-1924**



**S.S. *Westerland*, c. 1890**



**S.S. *Kaiser Wilhelm*, Sailing into New York Harbor, circa 1910**



## Immigrants Steaming into New York Harbor

(From: Brandenburg, B. Imported Americans, 1904)



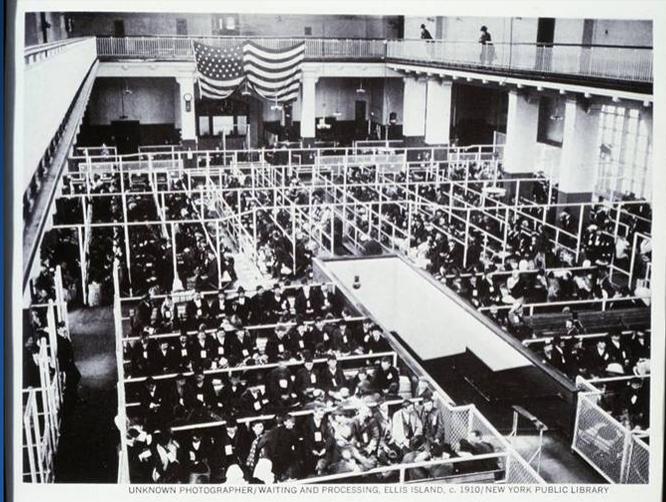
THE EMIGRANTS IN SIGHT OF THE GREY-GREEN STATUE OF LIBERTY IN NEW YORK HARBOUR.



## Landing at Ellis Island, c. 1907



## Ellis Island, Great Hall, c. 1910



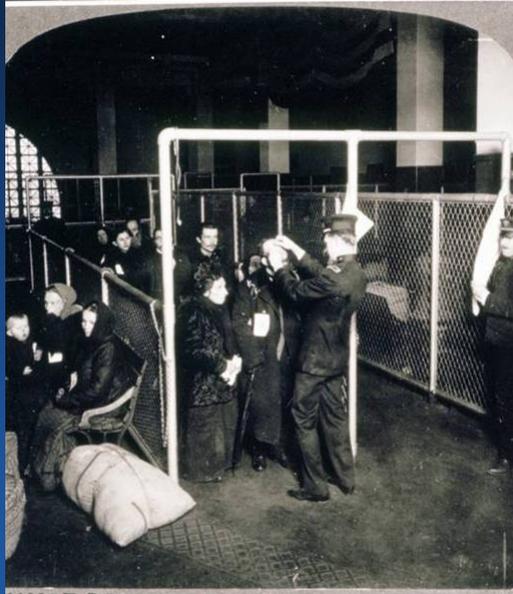
UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER, WAITING AND PROCESSING, ELLIS ISLAND, c. 1910/NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY



## The Inspection Line at Ellis Island, c. 1910



## Trachoma Inspections at Ellis Island, 1911



11164-U. S. Inspectors examining eyes of immigrants, Ellis



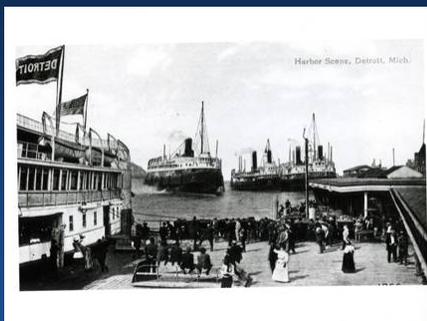
## Ellis Island Hospital, c. 1918



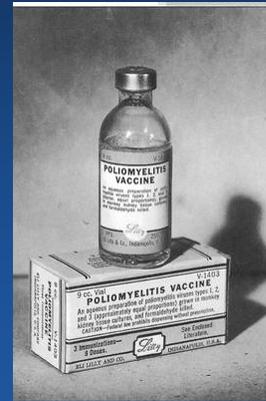
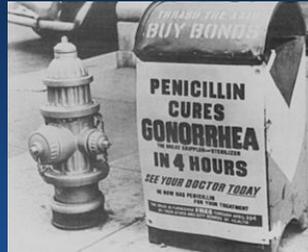
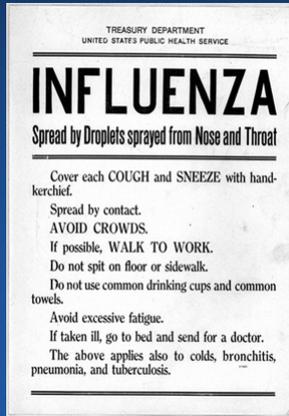
## Port Huron, Michigan, c. 1910



## Detroit's Riverfront, 1900-1930



## 20<sup>th</sup> Century International Efforts at Containing the Spread of Infectious Diseases



## Pan-American Health Organization, founded in 1902 as the Pan American Sanitary Bureau



# The League of Nations

## ORIGIN OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

January 8th, 1918. Fourteen Points laid down by President Wilson as the basis of world peace. (\*)  
 January 25th, 1919. League accepted in principle.  
 April 28th, 1919. Covenant adopted.  
 January 10th, 1920. League came into being; Secretariat established in London.



Woodrow WILSON

January 16th, 1920. First meeting of Council at Paris.  
 November 1st, 1920. League Headquarters moved from London to Geneva.  
 November 15th, 1920. First Meeting of Assembly at Geneva.

(\*) THE FOURTEENTH POINT :

" A General Association of Nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small States alike."



League of Nations Commission of the Peace Conference

Seated (left to right) :

Vicomte CHIESA; Baron MAKINO; M. ROUSSELOTT; Lord Robert CURIEL; M. OLEANDI; M. PERRON; M. VENIZELOS.

Standing (left to right) :

M. DRAMANI; M. TCHO WEE; Colonel HAYES; M. DROUOT; M. VERSTIGER; General SMUTS; President WILSON; M. KHAMAR; M. HYMAN; M. WELLINGTON KOO; M. HAYASHI HIRI; M. SCIALOJA; M. LABAUDE.



# World Health Organization, founded 1945



**WHO Smallpox Vaccinations, Pakistan, c. 1967**



**WHO Food Distribution Program, India, c. 1985**



## WHO Measles Vaccination Program, Africa, circa 1990s



## International Disaster Relief, Medical Aid and Philanthropic Agencies



# Back to the Future



# International Jet Travel, c. 2008



## International Transport of Goods, Food, Insects, and Animal Products in 2008



## Abraham Cahan, Yiddish-American Journalist, Novelist, and Editor, 1860-1951



Abraham Cahan, editor of the Jewish Daily Forward



## Plague in India, 1994

THE NEW YORK TIMES, September 24, 1994

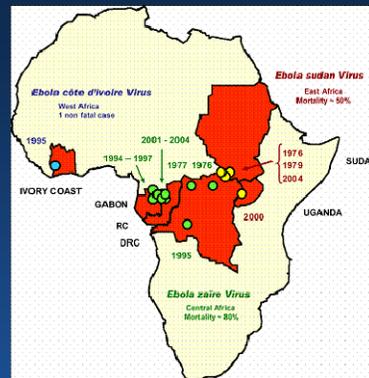


Associated Press  
Women seeking to flee an epidemic of pneumonic plague waited on a rail platform yesterday in Surat, India.

Thousands Flee Indian City  
In Deadly Plague Outbreak



## Ebola Virus, Africa, 1995



# SARS, 2003



# SARS Epidemic, China, 2003



## Andrew Speaker, XDR-TB, and the Summer of 2006



## Avian Influenza in the 21<sup>st</sup> century



kenies in western France.

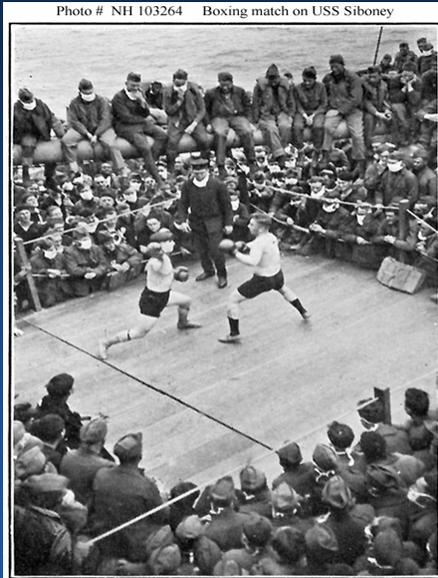


## Hans Zinsser, M.D., c. 1918



## U.S.S. Siboney, a troop ship *en route* to Europe, Fall 1918 (Boxing Match on the ship's forecastle complete with soldiers wearing facemasks)

Photo # NH 103264 Boxing match on USS Siboney



Boxing Bout on Fo'c'le