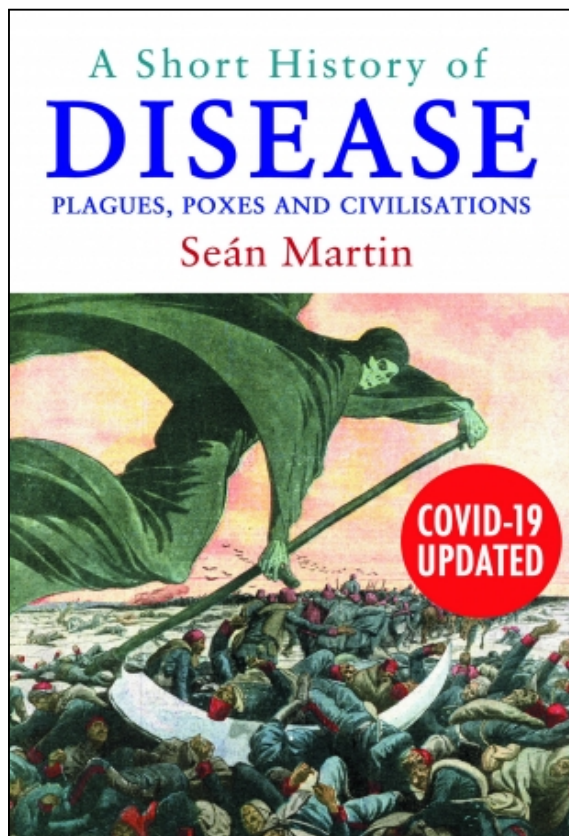




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Pub. Date:	28 April 2022	Price:	£16.99
ISBN:	978-0-85730-415-5	Binding:	Paperback
Format:	B (198 x 129mm)	Extent:	352
Weight:	226g	Rpt. Code:	IP
Publishing Rights:	World		
Sales Rights:	World		
Market:	Medical History, Social History, World History		
BISAC Code:	MED022000: Medical : Diseases MED022090: Medical : Infectious Diseases MED039000: Medical : History HIS054000: History : Social History		
THEMA Code:	MBX: History of medicine MBN: Public health & preventive medicine NHB: General & world history		
Country of Manufacture:	UK		

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A SHORT HISTORY OF DISEASE

Plagues, Poxes and Civilisations

by SEÁN MARTIN

THE BOOK

Disease has plagued human civilisations throughout history, claiming more lives than natural disasters and warfare combined. The Black Death took the lives of one third of Europe's population in the fourteenth century. The conquest of the New World was accompanied by devastating waves of smallpox. The Industrial Revolution happened in a world blighted by the diseases of urbanisation and overcrowding, typhoid and cholera, typhus and TB. New diseases such as AIDS, Ebola, and COVID-19 present further challenges to medical science and healthcare.

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SEÁN MARTIN (Location: Edinburgh, UK)

Seán Martin is a writer, poet and filmmaker. He is the author of *The Knights Templar*, *The Cathars*, *The Gnostics*, *The Black Death*, *Alchemy and Alchemists*, *A Short History of Disease* and, for Kamera Books, *Andrei Tarkovsky* and *New Waves in Cinema*. His films include *Lanterna Magicka: Bill Douglas & the Secret History of Cinema* ('a fine documentary' - *Guardian*), *Folie à Deux*, and a series of documentaries on Tarkovsky: *Tarkovsky's Andrei Rublev: A Journey* and *The Dream in the Mirror*.



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