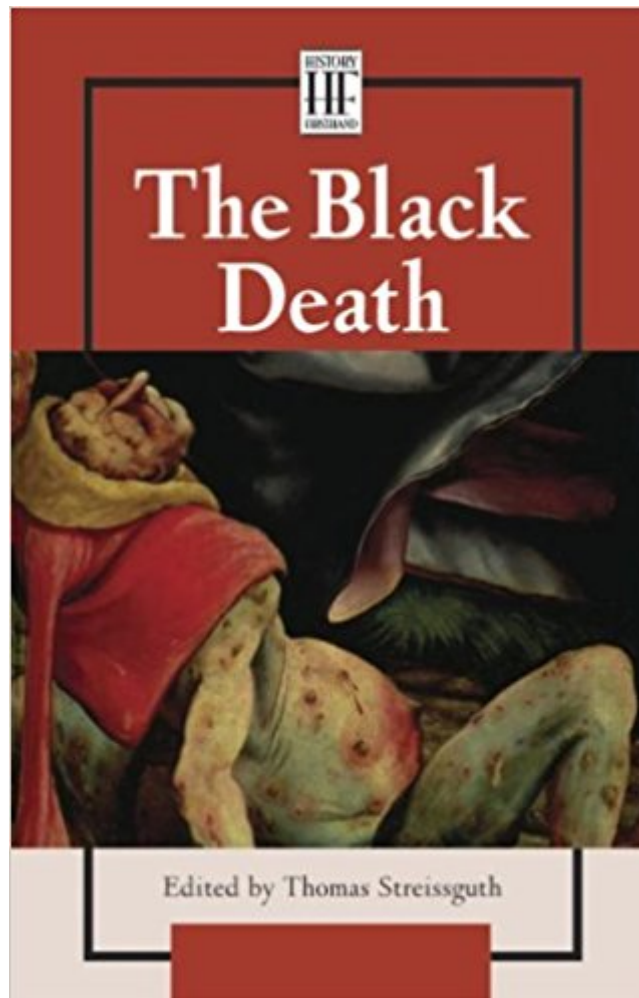




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History Firsthand - The Black Death (hardcover Edition)



Synopsis

A terrifying disease arrived in the ports of southern Italy and Sicily in the fall of 1347. Within two years, one-third of Europe's population had died of the bubonic and pneumonic plagues. As the sickness spread rapidly from one town to the next, the people of medieval Europe struggled in vain to find its cause and its cure. Letters, reports, medical treatises, and literary accounts collected in this book vividly describe the plague, the terror it brought to those who witnessed it, and its larger effects on medieval society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up--The most terrifying pandemic disease experienced by humankind is explored through primary-source accounts, translated into modern English. While most works limit coverage to the 14th century, this volume also includes eyewitness reports from 430 B.C.E. Athens and the 6th-century Justinian's Plague as well as selections from Daniel Defoe's *A Journal of the Plague Year* and Samuel Pepys's diary account of the 1665 plague in London. A well-annotated table of contents and chapter prefaces provide contextual framework for the individual accounts. Chroniclers detail the horror and confusion caused by the bubonic plague, describing its symptoms, spread, treatments, supposed causes, and sociological effects. Black-and-white reproductions of a few contemporary woodcuts and etchings offer a visual glimpse into the world under discussion. Boxed sidebars help break up longer descriptions with brief excerpts from additional sources. The writing

styles and the similarity among several selections may make this treasure trove of firsthand experiences a dense companion to more general, more engagingly written descriptions. John M. Dunn's generously illustrated *Life during the Black Death* (Lucent, 2000) covers the great plagues of the 14th century, highlighting many aspects of the disease and its societal effects in a fascinating, readable style.--Ann G. Brouse, Steele Memorial Library, Elmira, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"The contributions in the eclectic mix come from individuals such as Eleanor Roosevelt, actress June Havoc, and hobo Box-Car Bertha, with each person's perspective taking readers directly into the experience through details and eye-opening observations." -- Booklist (May 2001) (Booklist 20010515)"Following a thorough introduction that provides novice historians with background information, this series entry uses primary-source documents organized in a coherent chronology. With its important documents, this work will help budding historians and researchers make sense of a complex time." -- School Library Journal (July 2002) (School Library Journal 20020701)"These are in keeping with the aim of the series, to personalize history and, in this way, make it more meaningful." -- School Library Journal (May 2002) (School Library Journal 20020501)"The History Firsthand series presents excerpts from period documents, organized under broad subject heading and introduced by a paragraph of background. Each book includes a few black-and-white illustrations." -- Booklist (February 2001) (Booklist 20010215)"This series is written for high school students who are beginning to do serious historical research." -- Catholic Library World (March 2005) (Catholic Library World 20050301)

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