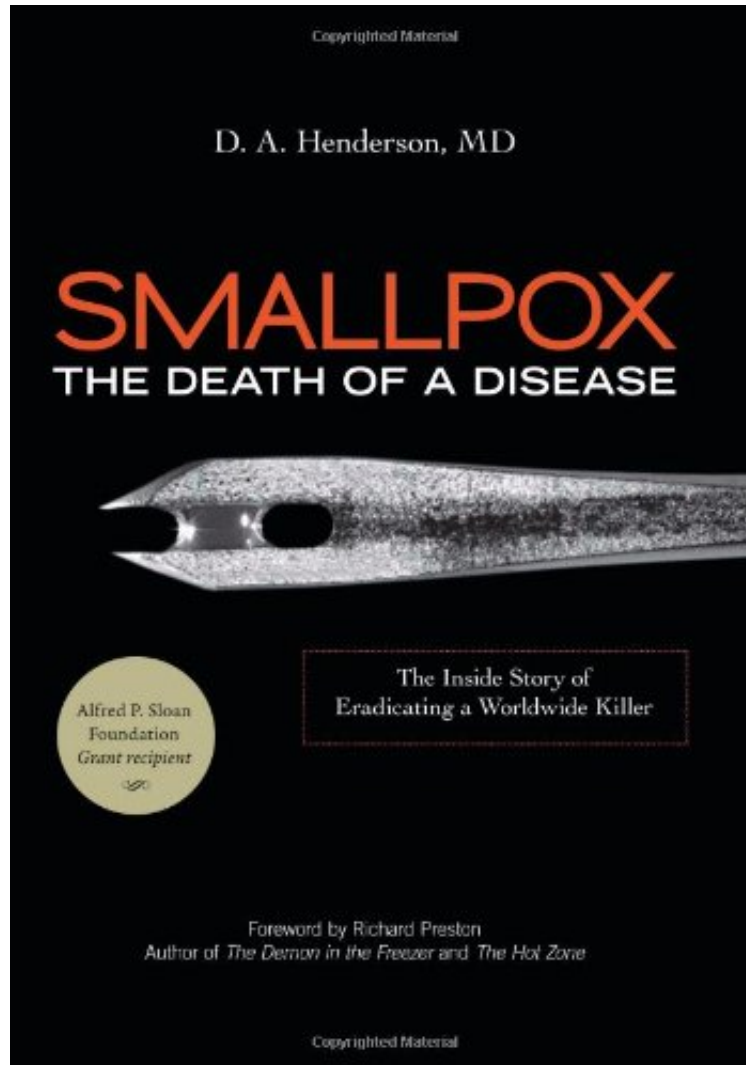


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Smallpox: The Death of a Disease - The Inside Story of Eradicating a Worldwide Killer

D. A. Henderson

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Smallpox: The Death of a Disease - The Inside Story of Eradicating a Worldwide Killer:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Eloquent, Thrilling, Informative, and AstoundingBy J. MurszewskiThis book is unequivocally one of the most well written and informative works I have ever read. Henderson gives an endearing and witty account of himself through the turmoils of battling one of the world's greatest

scourges on mankind. His writing is extremely real but yet with a touch of eloquence. Reading the book you can feel yourself become one of his disciples against the complete eradication of smallpox. The best part is you also are being imbibed with something so important- knowledge. You are introduced to a full timeline of smallpox: from the invention of the bifurcated needle to the declaration by the WHO of eradication. You are also given cultural perspectives as well and shown how many places worshiped smallpox as deities. Henderson also goes into great depth reflecting upon the future implications of keeping variola major stores in US and Russia. That it is undoubtedly the one fact that pulls the entire triumphant story of global eradication down. The book's forward is written by Richard Preston, author of *The Hot Zone*. He states that "... [Henderson] feels that the official destruction of smallpox would set a moral and ethical standard for the international community. Any person, group, or nation that continued to hold smallpox after the point [of complete reserve destruction] would be committing a crime against humanity." With that, it is almost a cruel and sick slap in the face to the hundreds of thousands of people who worked to eradicate the disease as the DNA for smallpox has been decoded. That is the one true life caveat that I wish could change to make Henderson's work complete. Thrilling book that you will relish cover to cover. Not enough praise can be heaped upon this book for its quality. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the victims dying a horrible death or else leaving them scarred for life By Wilbur D McFadden A very well written story about the WHO program to eradicate that killed more people in our world's history than any other disease. Smallpox is still a disease without treatment, a contagious disease with a high mortality rate, the victims dying a horrible death or else leaving them scarred for life. This book has another huge plus----it is written by D.L. Henderson, the leader of the very successful program. Truly one of the really remarkable medical stories of the 20th century! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well worth the read By Kindle Customer Really good book for anybody interested in public health and/or leadership. DA (the head of the program) explains very candidly the WHO effort to eradicate smallpox. Great examples used throughout the book along with great supplemental images and figures. It makes you wonder if such an effort would be successful in the modern world due to the increased access to transportation.

For more than 3000 years, hundreds of millions of people have died or been left permanently scarred or blind by the relentless, incurable disease called smallpox. In 1967, Dr. D.A. Henderson became director of a worldwide campaign to eliminate this disease from the face of the earth. This spellbinding book is Dr. Henderson's personal story of how he led the World Health Organization's campaign to eradicate smallpox, the only disease in history to have been deliberately eliminated. Some have called this feat "the greatest scientific and humanitarian achievement of the past century." In a lively, engrossing narrative, Dr. Henderson makes it clear that the gargantuan international effort involved more than straightforward mass vaccination. He and his staff had to cope with civil wars, floods, impassable roads, and refugees as well as formidable bureaucratic and cultural obstacles, shortages of local health personnel and meager budgets. Countries across the world joined in the effort; the United States and the Soviet Union worked together through the darkest cold war days; and professionals from more than 70 nations served as WHO field staff. On October 26, 1976, the last case of smallpox occurred. The disease that annually had killed two million people or more had been vanquished and in just over ten years. The story did not end there. Dr. Henderson recounts in vivid detail the continuing struggle over whether to destroy the remaining virus in the two laboratories still that held it. Then came the startling discovery that the Soviet Union had been experimenting with smallpox virus as a biological weapon and producing it in large quantities. The threat of its possible use by a rogue nation or a terrorist has had to be taken seriously and Dr. Henderson has been a central figure in plans for coping with it. New methods for mass smallpox vaccination were so successful that he sought to expand the program of smallpox immunization to include polio, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, and tetanus vaccines. That program now reaches more than four out of five children in the world and is eradicating poliomyelitis. This unique book is to be treasured a personal and true story that proves that through cooperation and perseverance the most daunting of obstacles can be overcome.

From Publishers Weekly In his introduction, *The Hot Zone* author Preston points to the fact that "in smallpox's last hundred years," 1879-1979, it killed more people than "all the wars on the planet during that time." For more than 50 years, doctor and public health expert Henderson combated the disease, first as director of the Center for Disease Control's Epidemic Intelligence Service, then (from 1965 on) as director of the World Health Organization initiative which would later be known as The Eradication. Henderson provides an overview of the painful disease, "a monster" that killed roughly a third of the unimmunized it infected. Chillingly, "variolation," the direct subcutaneous injection of a patient's pus into a healthy person, was used to spur immunity from before the 10th century. The much safer cowpox vaccination was discovered in 1796 (mandated by Washington for the Continental army); meanwhile, smallpox had decimated the Native American population. Henderson's "surveillance and containment strategy" would indeed eradicate smallpox globally; India, the last holdout, was rid of it in 1974 by 115,000 health workers, dispatched to villages throughout the country to identify, quarantine, and vaccinate. This inspiring achievement makes a stirring read for medical history fans, though readers of Preston may find it a bit dry. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Outstanding! What a great read. D.A. Henderson pulls no punches

as he tells the inside story of the global eradication of smallpox. He and his WHO team faced a formidable array of obstacles, frustrations, and outright disasters in their decade-long struggle; any one of a hundred of which could have doomed the effort to failure....The passion, commitment, and raw determination shine through. THIS is the heroic stuff of true public health leadership!" --Donald S. Burke, MD, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Jonas Salk Chair in Global Health, University of Pittsburgh

There has been no greater medical --or humanitarian--miracle in modern times than the eradication of smallpox, history's deadliest infectious disease. Now, for the first time, we learn the inside story from D. A. Henderson, the legendary public health official who led the global effort that brought this miracle about.

Smallpox--The Death Of A Disease is more than a riveting account of the day-to-day struggle for international cooperation in a divided world; it also offers a winning blueprint for the great medical challenges to come." --David Oshinsky, winner of the 2006 Pulitzer Prize in History for Polio: An American Story"Thorough, balanced and well-crafted, Smallpox--The Death of a Disease is the story of one of mankind's greatest achievements. The success of the eradication campaign is a testament to the difference the global public health community can make when it truly comes together for a common purpose. Whether one speaks of HIV/AIDS or Neglected Tropical Diseases, the solution lies in allies and adversaries working as one to alleviate suffering and save lives. This is the lesson to be drawn from Dr. Henderson's excellent book." --Tommy G. Thompson, Secretary of Health and Human Services (2001-2005); Governor of Wisconsin (1987-2001)

About the AuthorD. A. Henderson, MD is currently professor of medicine and public health at the University of Pittsburgh and a distinguished scholar at the Center for Biosecurity in Baltimore. He is a professor and former dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He served as Life Sciences Adviser to President G. H. W. Bush and was the first director of the newly created Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness in the Department of Health and Human Services. He is the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the National Medal of Science plus many other awards. He has received the Japan Prize and has been knighted by the King of Thailand.