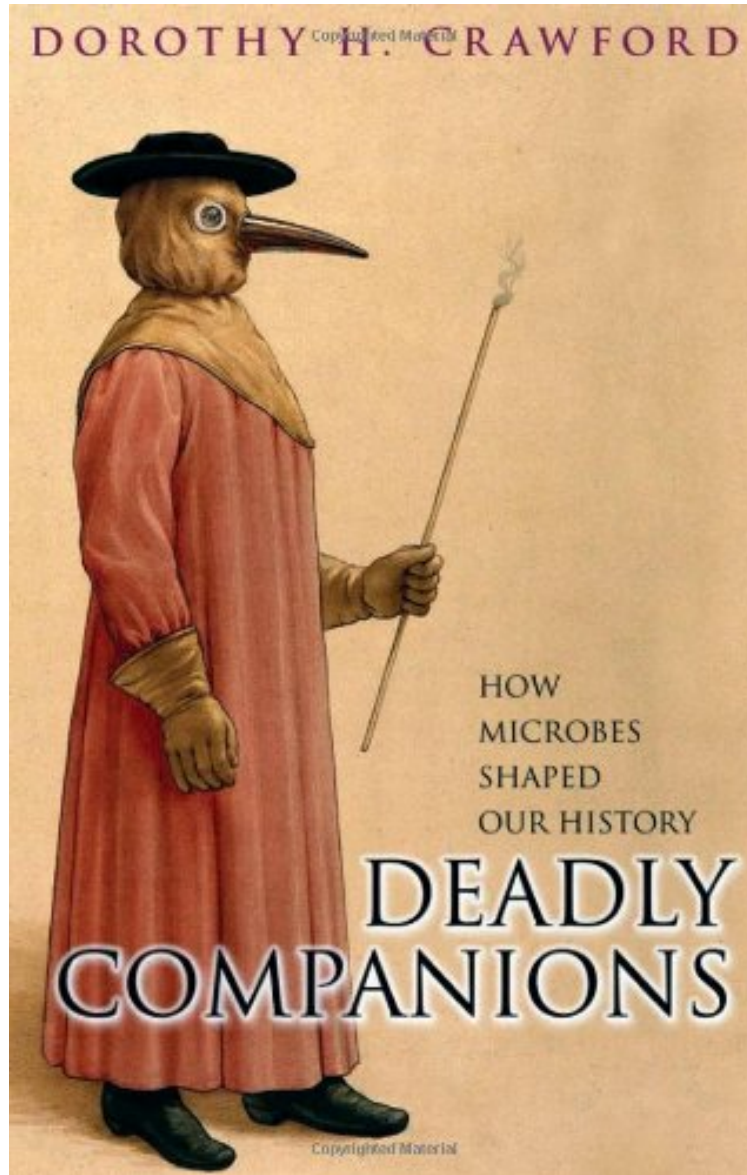


(Download) Deadly Companions: How Microbes Shaped Our History

## Deadly Companions: How Microbes Shaped Our History

*Dorothy H. Crawford*

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**Dorothy H. Crawford : Deadly Companions: How Microbes Shaped Our History** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Deadly Companions: How Microbes Shaped Our History:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Robert Montano Awesome a must read for those who are interested (like me) on the world diseases...12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Our Longstanding

War Against Microbes  
By Anonymous  
In *Deadly Companions: How Microbes Shaped Our History*, Dr. Dorothy Crawford tells the tale of how microbes have impacted human society throughout the ages. She begins with a basic description of the life cycle of bacteria and viruses and then proceeds to discuss the methods of transmission to the early hunter-gatherer societies. From there, she traces the evolution of microbes in conjunction with the growth of human civilization. Dr. Crawford's main purpose in this investigation is to evaluate mankind's future in relation to the microbes that have plagued us for centuries. While history has shown man fighting desperately to survive, modern technology has given us the tools to alter this war. However, even tools such as antibiotics, antiviral drugs, and vaccines have, on occasion, been rendered ineffective as microbes evolve and mutate far faster than we do. With that in mind, Dr. Crawford proposes that we find a solution in which we live in harmony with, rather than at odds to, the multitude of microbes. Structurally, Dr. Crawford progresses chronologically starting with the infection of hunter-gatherers by malaria and ending with the recent epidemics of SARS and H5N1 Avian Flu. During each era of history, certain microbes were more prevalent and Dr. Crawford highlights these microbes in their historical context. I would highly recommend *Deadly Companions* to all readers. While the subject matter may seem to be quite "academic," Dr. Crawford does an excellent job of formatting the material for the general audience while still remaining objective and factual and captivating the mind through the last page.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.  
Who Knew Microbes were so interesting?  
By harleygirl  
This was a required course book for my Microbiology course, what intrigued me was the cover and I immediately thought, this is going to be fun! The author, Dorothy Crawford weaves an such an interesting mystery style story about microbes, you learn microbial event timeline as it equates to historic pandemics. The cover illustration is a factual depiction that you discover the meaning when you read the book. I kept this book because it is a very good read and explains the mysteries of our *Deadly Companions*.

Combining tales of devastating epidemics with accessible science and fascinating history, *Deadly Companions* reveals how closely microbes have evolved with us over the millennia, shaping human civilization through infection, disease, and deadly pandemic. Beginning with a dramatic account of the SARS pandemic at the start of the 21st century, Dorothy Crawford takes us back in time to follow the interlinked history of microbes and humanity, offering an up-to-date look at ancient plagues and epidemics, and identifying key changes in the way humans have lived--such as our move from hunter-gatherer to farmer to city-dweller--which made us ever more vulnerable to microbe attack. Showing that how we live our lives today--with increased crowding and air travel--puts us once again at risk, Crawford asks whether we might ever conquer microbes completely. Among the possible answers, one thing becomes clear: that for generations to come, our deadly companions will continue to influence our lives. New in Paperback

Lucid and authoritative... crisply written narrative. Wendy Moore, Sunday Telegraph  
Fascinating... *Deadly Companions* is authoritative, detailed and - despite its gruesome subject - never sensational. PD Smith, The Guardian  
About the Author  
Dorothy Crawford is Professor of Medical Microbiology at the University of Edinburgh, where she is also Assistant Principal for the Public Understanding of Medicine. She was awarded an OBE in 2005 for services to medicine and higher education. Books by the same author: *The Invisible Enemy: A Natural History of Viruses*