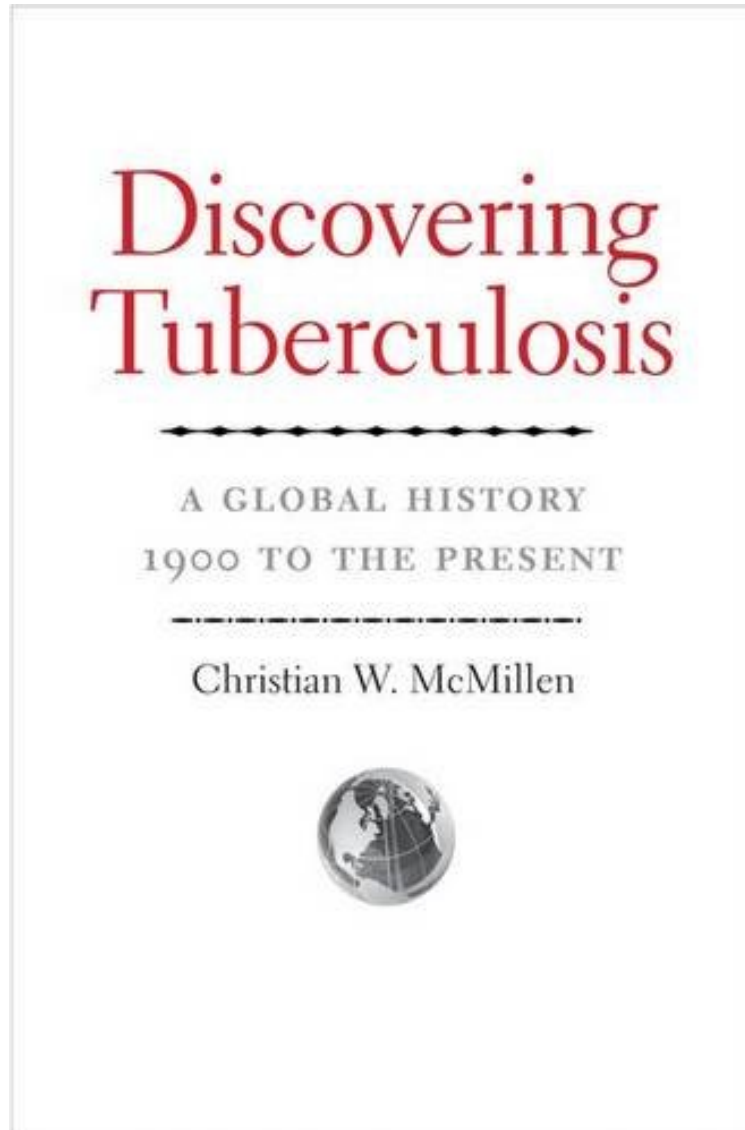


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Discovering Tuberculosis: A Global History, 1900 to the Present

Christian W. McMillen

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Christian W. McMillen : Discovering Tuberculosis: A Global History, 1900 to the Present before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Discovering Tuberculosis: A Global History, 1900 to the Present:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and important history for general audienceBy BacterialoverFor now, just a short posting review of this, as I will be writing a more complete review soon for

incorporation into a Small Things Considered ([...]) piece on the topic of current tuberculosis vaccine research, addressing some of the science behind what this book addresses from a primarily historical perspective. While the author of this is a historian and the realm of history is the primary focus of this book, it obviously contains some medical and scientific details. But it should be easily accessible for any lay reader. As a microbiologist familiar more with the bacteria than the disease and its treatment history I found a lot in this that I hadn't been aware of, particularly in the earlier periods when Tb was frequently thought to be more easily contracted by non-white groups of people, such as the American Indians. The book covers these early views steeped in racism and colonialism through the data that argued against such interpretations. It then covers the development of the Tb vaccine and consistent questions/uncertainties of its effectiveness. Finally the book covers the more modern but at this point hardly new threat of Tb infection in the face of HIV. Throughout, McMillen addresses the question of why Tb continues to be a scourge despite a century of global health efforts. Overall McMillen provides a good historical coverage of the topic. At times I was annoyed at repetitiveness in the text, and I would have appreciated both more coverage of future prospects for Tb vaccines, and more of a scientific discussion of the issues behind this whole history in general. I would recommend this for a general audience with interest in history, medicine, and/or global humanitarian health efforts. Disclaimer: I received a free electronic copy of this from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. More history than science; well worth reading. By Steve GI enjoyed the book. Author Christian McMillen tells the story of tuberculosis from the 1900s to today. The book is about the politics of tuberculosis control, including the use of a vaccine and of antibiotics. McMillen offers his personal opinions throughout the book, but is very clear when he does so, which lets the reader get to know him a little. I liked his writing style which is not quite conversational but is also not academic. The main weakness of the book is the lack of science, including the mechanism of antibiotic resistance in the tuberculosis germ and he seems to overestimate the effectiveness of the tuberculosis vaccine. He also doesn't provide much information on the development of the first antibiotic against tuberculosis, streptomycin, the discovery of which led to the awarding of a Nobel Prize. Nonetheless I recommend this book for anyone interested in public health or the politics of medicine. For more information on the discovery of streptomycin, I strongly recommend *Experiment Eleven: Dark Secrets Behind the Discovery of a Wonder Drug* by Peter Pringle. I also strongly recommend "The Remedy: Robert Koch, Arthur Conan Doyle, and the Quest to Cure Tuberculosis" by Thomas Goetz. Disclaimer: I received this book for free via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Tuberculosis is one of the world's deadliest infectious diseases, killing nearly two million people every year more now than at any other time in history. While the developed world has nearly forgotten about TB, it continues to wreak havoc across much of the globe. In this interdisciplinary study of global efforts to control TB, Christian McMillen examines the disease's remarkable staying power by offering a probing look at key locations, developments, ideas, and medical successes and failures since 1900. He explores TB and race in east Africa, in South Africa, and on Native American reservations in the first half of the twentieth century, investigates the unsuccessful search for a vaccine, uncovers the origins of drug-resistant tuberculosis in Kenya and elsewhere in the decades following World War II, and details the tragic story of the resurgence of TB in the era of HIV/AIDS. *Discovering Tuberculosis* explains why controlling TB has been, and continues to be, so difficult.

Discovering Tuberculosis provides a deep historical account of why tuberculosis remains a major threat to global health, despite more than seventy years of efforts. Taking readers from Kenya to the expert committees in Geneva, this book shows how economic dogma trumped science in shaping global health policy in the twentieth century. Salmaan Keshavjee, author of *Blind Spot: How Neoliberalism Infiltrated Global Health*