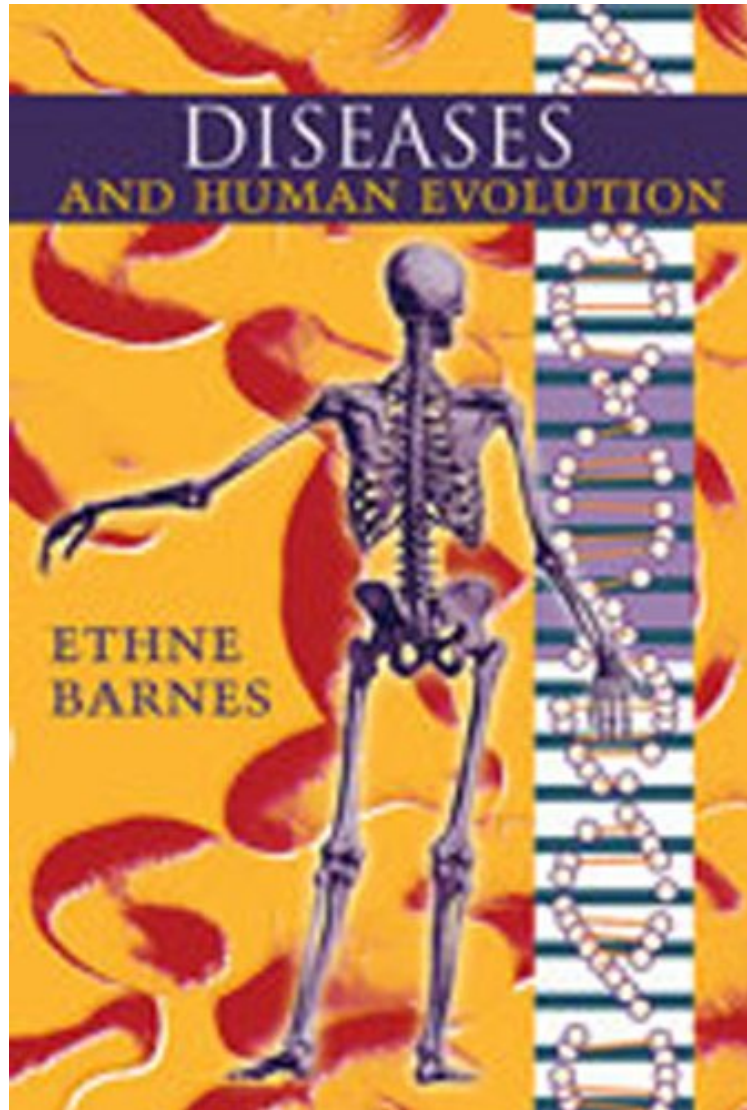


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Diseases and Human Evolution

Ethne Barnes

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review helpful. It is a great book, it has enough detail to be informative ...By pepecaI am using this book to teach a history of human disease class. It is a great book, it has enough detail to be informative but it is also written in a way that is accessible for public-Uni undergraduates. My students also like the book, and that is a rare find, a book that the professor and the students like I think it should be considered "a must" for classes such as this.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Kayla GoodmanGreat book. Easy to read and understand the hard topics!

Recent interest in new diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and Ebola, and the resurgence of older diseases like tuberculosis has fostered questions about the history of human infectious diseases. How did they evolve? Where did they originate? What natural factors have stalled the progression of diseases or made them possible? How does a microorganism become a pathogen? How have infectious diseases changed through time? What can we do to control their occurrence? Ethne Barnes offers answers to these questions, using information from history and medicine as well as from anthropology. She focuses on changes in the patterns of human behavior through cultural evolution and how they have affected the development of human diseases. Writing in a clear, lively style, Barnes offers general overviews of every variety of disease and their carriers, from insects and worms through rodent vectors to household pets and farm animals. She devotes whole chapters to major infectious diseases such as leprosy, syphilis, smallpox, and influenza. Other chapters concentrate on categories of diseases ("gut bugs," for example, including cholera, typhus, and salmonella). The final chapters cover diseases that have made headlines in recent years, among them mad cow disease, West Nile virus, and Lyme disease. In the tradition of Berton Rouech, Hans Zinsser, and Sherwin Nuland, Ethne Barnes answers questions you never knew you had about the germs that have threatened us throughout human history.

Ethne Barnes provides a readable account of diseases past and future and of how human habits influence disease. -- JAMA: Journal of American Medical AssociationDiseases and Human Evolution provides an objective and fascinating introduction to this subject. --The Bloomsbury From the Inside FlapBarnes, a paleopathologist, offers general overviews of specific diseases (West Nile virus, Lyme disease, Ebola, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, cholera, etc.) and their carriers.About the AuthorEthne Barnes is research consultant in physical anthropology/paleopathology with the Corinth excavations of the American School of Classical Studies, Athens, Greece. She serves in the same capacity for the INAH La Playa burial excavations in Northwest Mexico.