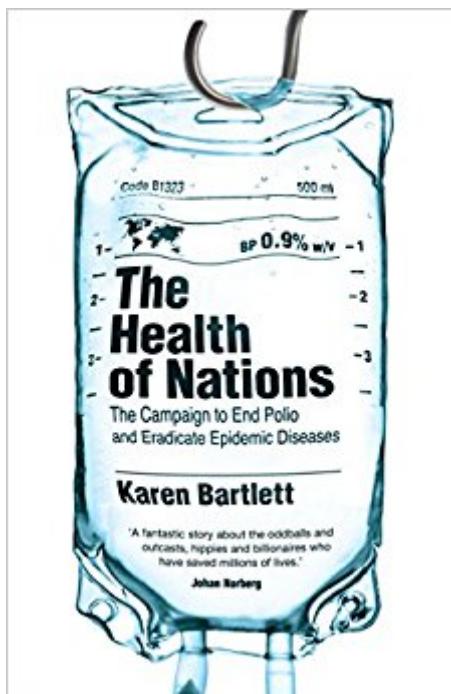


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The Health Of Nations: The Campaign To End Polio And Eradicate Epidemic Diseases



Synopsis

"Anyone interested in public health and its interface with politics will find both hope and frustration here. A fascinating look at epidemiology and the challenges that public health workers face." *Library Journal* "Bartlett's *The Health of Nations* is a well-researched and accessible book. Her writing is clear yet nuanced, and offers compassion, a broad respect for history, and the skills of a strong storyteller." *Choice Magazine* What would a world without disease look like? With the victory against smallpox behind us, polio, malaria and measles each provide their own set of roadblocks as we fight for a world free of epidemic diseases. This might seem a utopian pipe-dream, but that brand new world is a lot closer than you might think. Writing with the pace of a thriller, Karen Bartlett give us a rare inside look at how both global organizations and local campaigns operate on the frontlines in the war against contagious disease. She reveals why politics will prove to be the final enemy in the fight for global health and how victory in this battle will have profound consequences for the balance of world power and will embolden scientists to make other, even more momentous breakthroughs. Thought-provoking and full of reasons to be hopeful for the future, *The Health of Nations* is essential reading on one of the greatest challenges we face in the 21st century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Bartlett's *The Health of Nations* is a well-researched and accessible book. Her writing is clear yet nuanced, and offers compassion, a broad respect for history, and the skills of a strong

storyteller. The story of polio ties together chapters on attempts to control or eradicate various infectious diseases, and Bartlett, a journalist, film-maker, and author, argues that the infrastructure developed by anti-polio campaigns is invaluable in controlling other infectious diseases. Quotes from infectious disease leaders, whom she has interviewed and researched, add to the interwoven stories. Several concerns and questions link the chapters together. Should the focus be on a single virus or on interventions at broader environmental levels? How can environmental costs be anticipated and weighed? How should local control be balanced with the expertise and efficiency of international public and private organizations? How has the balance between individual liberties and the public's health evolved over the centuries? The author does not offer simple solutions, but is optimistic about efforts of the Gates Foundation's polio legacy transition planning, and support from unlikely partners. Recommended. All Readers." ª ª CHOICE Magazine" Bartlett makes it abundantly clear that research to reduce the impact of infectious disease is progressing but that politics, budgetary constraints, competing priorities, and ego clashes are serious impediments. ª ª Kirkus Reviews" Timely." ª ª Publishers Weekly

"A fantastic story about the oddballs and outcasts, hippies and billionaires who have saved millions and millions of lives. As exciting as a thriller and with a happy ending that gives us hope for humankind." ª ª Johan Norberg, author of Progress

Very informative and very readable. This is not a topic that I am familiar with so I learned a lot. And the book makes you think about the intersection of society, policy, and politics.

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