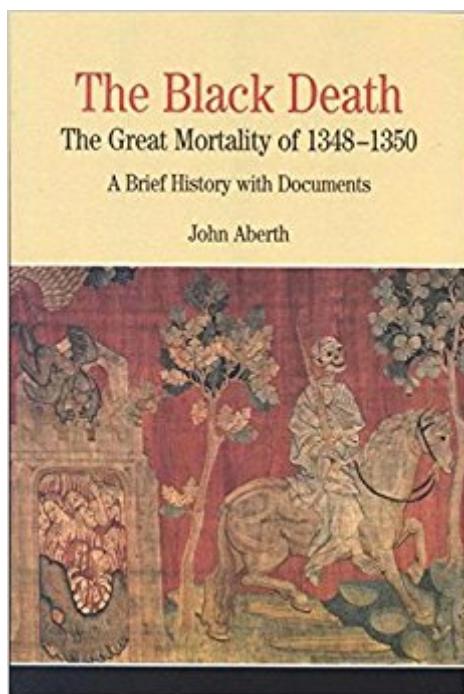


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The Black Death: The Great Mortality Of 1348-1350: A Brief History With Documents (Bedford Series In History & Culture)



Synopsis

A fascinating account of the phenomenon known as the Black Death, this volume offers a wealth of documentary material focused on the initial outbreak of the plague that ravaged the world in the fourteenth century. A comprehensive introduction that provides important background on the origins and spread of the plague is followed by nearly 50 documents organized into topical sections that focus on the origin and spread of the illness; the responses of medical practitioners; the societal and economic impact; religious responses; the flagellant movement and attacks on Jews provoked by the plague; and the artistic response. Each chapter has an introduction that summarizes the issues explored in the documents; headnotes to the documents provide additional background material.

The book contains documents from many countries — including Muslim and Byzantine sources — to give students a variety of perspectives on this devastating illness and its consequences. The volume also includes illustrations, a chronology of the Black Death, questions to consider, a selected bibliography, and an index.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

JOHN ABERTH lives in Roxbury, Vermont, and teaches history at Vermont's Castleton State College, where he formerly served as associate academic dean. He has taught history at a number of other institutions, including Middlebury College, the University of Vermont, St. Michael's College,

the University of Nebraska, and Norwich University. He received his Ph.D. in Medieval History from Cambridge University in England and has published several books, including *Churchmen in the Age of Edward III: The Case of Bishop Thomas de Lisle* (1996), *From the Brink of the Apocalypse: Confronting Famine, War, Plague and Death* (2000), and *A Knight at the Movies: Medieval History on Film* (2003).

Great sourcebook for medieval sources on the Black Death. Very helpful, and Aberth does a great job compiling the sources. My only qualm is in the source from King Philip VI on the flagellants, Aberth's intro notes that Pope Clement VI had issued a papal decree banning the flagellants a couple months earlier, yet Aberth offers NO citation or sourcing for this papal bull. After sifting through lots of latin papal bulls, I finally found them, but a scholar at Aberth's level should have just properly cited it from the get-go if he wanted to mention it. Overall, probably the best black death sourcebook covering a whole smattering of topics.

This small book has an excellent collection of original commentary on the Black Death. It ranges from Boccacio to a multiplicity of Muslim observers. It provides an interesting set of interpretations of the spread, cause, diagnosis and treatment of the plague during this period. For anyone interested in how the local individuals thought of and dealt with the plague, this is an excellent source.

This was great for my term paper that I had to write. This has a lot of information and documents. Very happy with my purchase.

Nicely composed first source historical documents. Excellent source material for the historian, easily accessed and well researched. The extensive bibliography only adds weight to the validity of sources. Also provides interesting insight into the cultural and social events and reactions surrounding the Black Plague.

The book was very good for studying

The book content is well organized. It wasn't repetitive and it was always something new. Its very small too so it wasn't a hard read. I bought it for class. More fun than other books.

The book drew heavily from primary sources and was both entertaining and informative. As for the

physical quality of the book, the cover and binding are very nice.

Looking forward to reading this one. The book is in fantastic condition.

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