

20 deadliest events in human history

20 Deadliest Events in Human History: Implications for Global Stability and Preparedness

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Abstract: This article explores the 20 deadliest events in human history, examining their causes, consequences, and lasting impact on global societies. It delves into the implications of these catastrophic events for various industries, including public health, insurance, and disaster preparedness, highlighting the crucial need for proactive measures to mitigate future risks.

Introduction: Understanding the 20 Deadliest Events in Human History

The study of the "20 deadliest events in human history" offers a sobering perspective on humanity's vulnerability to large-scale mortality. These events, spanning centuries and continents, reveal patterns of disease, conflict, and famine that continue to pose significant threats. Understanding these past catastrophes is not merely an academic exercise; it's crucial for building resilience and preparedness against future crises. This analysis will investigate the twenty deadliest events, focusing not only on their death tolls but also on their broader implications for the world today.

The List: 20 Deadliest Events and Their Impacts

(Note: Precise death tolls for historical events are often debated due to limited data. The numbers presented here represent widely accepted estimates.)

1. The Antonine Plague (165-180 AD): Estimated 5 million deaths. A devastating pandemic, possibly smallpox or measles, that ravaged the Roman Empire.
2. The Plague of Justinian (541-542 AD): Estimated 25-50 million deaths. Another devastating plague, believed to be bubonic plague, that significantly weakened the Byzantine Empire.
3. The Black Death (1346-1353 AD): Estimated 75-200 million deaths. The most infamous pandemic in human history, causing profound social, economic, and religious upheaval.
4. The 14th Century Eurasian Plague Pandemic: (Including the Black Death and subsequent waves) Estimated 200 million deaths. This extended period of plague outbreaks had a catastrophic effect on the global population.
5. The Great Chinese Famine (1607-1610 AD): Estimated 3 million deaths. Caused by climate change and government policy failures.
6. The Great Famine (1315-1317 AD): Estimated 1.5 million deaths. A severe period of famine across Europe, largely due to climate-related crop failures.
7. The Kokura Earthquake and Tsunami (1361 AD): Estimated 200,000 deaths. One of the deadliest earthquakes and tsunamis in recorded history.
8. The Hongwu Great Famine (1380-1387 AD): Estimated 10 million deaths. Occurred in China, exacerbated by natural disasters and governmental mismanagement.
9. The Great Chinese Famine (1958-1961 AD): Estimated 20-43 million deaths. Often referred to as the Great Leap Forward famine, this was one of the deadliest man-made disasters.
10. World War I (1914-1918): Estimated 15-22 million deaths. A brutal and devastating global conflict that fundamentally reshaped the political landscape.
11. The Spanish Flu Pandemic (1918-1920): Estimated 50-100 million deaths. An unusually deadly influenza pandemic that spread globally.
12. World War II (1939-1945): Estimated 70-85 million deaths. The most deadly conflict in human history, marked by widespread atrocities and genocide.
13. The Bengal Famine (1943): Estimated 3 million deaths. A devastating famine exacerbated by war and British colonial policies.
14. The Holodomor (1932-1933): Estimated 3.9 million deaths. A man-made famine in Soviet Ukraine.
15. The Rwandan Genocide (1994): Estimated 800,000 deaths. A horrific act of genocide that demonstrated the dangers of ethnic hatred.
16. The Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864): Estimated 20-30 million deaths. A massive civil war in China.

17. The An Lushan Rebellion (755-763 AD): Estimated 36 million deaths. A massive rebellion in the Tang Dynasty, resulting in significant loss of life.
18. The Yellow Turban Rebellion (184-205 AD): Estimated 20 million deaths. This Chinese rebellion impacted food supply and resulted in widespread death.
19. The Second Congo War (1996-2003): Estimated 5.4 million deaths. A bloody conflict with high civilian casualties.
20. The ongoing AIDS pandemic: Estimated 40 million deaths (ongoing). A continuing global health crisis that highlights the importance of disease prevention and treatment.

Implications for Industry: Preparedness and Prevention

The "20 deadliest events in human history" have profound implications for various industries:

Public Health: These events underscore the critical need for robust public health infrastructure, disease surveillance systems, and rapid response mechanisms to prevent and control pandemics.

Insurance: The insurance industry must adapt to the increasing risks associated with extreme weather events, pandemics, and large-scale conflicts.

Disaster Preparedness: Governments and organizations must invest in disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies to minimize the impact of future catastrophes.

Food Security: The impact of famines highlights the need for sustainable agricultural practices and resilient food supply chains.

Conflict Resolution: Understanding the devastating consequences of wars and genocides is crucial for promoting peace and preventing future conflicts.

Conclusion

Studying the "20 deadliest events in human history" provides invaluable lessons for the future. By analyzing the causes and consequences of these events, we can gain crucial insights into the vulnerabilities of human societies and develop more effective strategies for mitigating future risks. Investment in preparedness, prevention, and international cooperation is essential for building a more resilient and secure world.

FAQs

1. What are the most common causes of these deadly events? Disease, famine, conflict, and natural disasters are recurring themes.
2. How have these events shaped human civilization? They have led to significant shifts in population demographics, political structures, religious beliefs, and technological

advancements.

3. What can be done to prevent future catastrophes? Strengthening public health systems, investing in disaster preparedness, addressing climate change, and promoting peace and conflict resolution are crucial.
4. How accurate are the death tolls for historical events? Death tolls are often estimates due to incomplete data. However, they provide a general understanding of the scale of these events.
5. What is the role of technology in mitigating future risks? Technology plays a vital role in disease surveillance, early warning systems, and disaster response.
6. How important is international cooperation in managing global crises? International cooperation is essential for effectively addressing pandemics, conflicts, and other global challenges.
7. What role does climate change play in future catastrophic events? Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, potentially leading to more frequent and severe famines and displacement.
8. What ethical considerations arise when studying these events? Ethical considerations include respectful remembrance of victims, avoiding insensitive comparisons, and accurately representing historical events.
9. How can individuals contribute to preventing future catastrophes? Individuals can support organizations working on disease prevention, disaster relief, and promoting peace, as well as advocating for policies that address these issues.

Related Articles:

1. The Black Death: A Deep Dive into the Pandemic that Changed the World: A detailed analysis of the Black Death, its causes, spread, and long-term impacts.
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20 deadliest events in human history: Atrocities: The 100 Deadliest Episodes in Human History Matthew White, 2011-11-07 "An amusing (really) account of the murderous ways of despots, slave traders, blundering royals, gladiators and assorted hordes."—New York Times Evangelists of human progress meet their opposite in Matthew White's epic examination of history's one hundred most violent events, or, in White's piquant phrasing, "the numbers that people want to argue about." Reaching back to the Second Persian War in 480 BCE and moving chronologically through history, White surrounds hard facts (time and place) and succinct takeaways (who usually gets the blame?) with lively military, social, and political histories.

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20 deadliest events in human history: Atrocitology Matthew White, 2011-10-31 Which wars killed the most people? Was the twentieth century the most violent in history? Are religions, tyrants or ideologies responsible for the greatest bloodshed? In this remarkable and original book, 'atrocitologist' Matthew White assesses man's inhumanity to man over several thousand years. From the Punic Wars between Rome and Carthage to the cataclysmic events of World War II, *Atrocitology* spans centuries and civilisations as it measures the hundred most violent episodes in history. Relying on statistical analysis rather than grand theories, White offers three big lessons: chaos is more deadly than tyranny, the world is much more disorganised than we realise, and more civilians than soldiers are killed in wars—in fact, the army is usually the safest place to be during wartime. Our understanding of history's worst atrocities is patchy and skewed. This book sets the record straight, charting those events with the largest man-made death tolls without fear or favour.

20 deadliest events in human history: The Mosquito Timothy C. Winegard, 2019-08-06 **The instant New York Times bestseller.** *An international bestseller.* Finalist for the Lane Anderson

Award Finalist for the RBC Taylor Award “Hugely impressive, a major work.”—NPR A pioneering and groundbreaking work of narrative nonfiction that offers a dramatic new perspective on the history of humankind, showing how through millennia, the mosquito has been the single most powerful force in determining humanity’s fate Why was gin and tonic the cocktail of choice for British colonists in India and Africa? What does Starbucks have to thank for its global domination? What has protected the lives of popes for millennia? Why did Scotland surrender its sovereignty to England? What was George Washington's secret weapon during the American Revolution? The answer to all these questions, and many more, is the mosquito. Across our planet since the dawn of humankind, this nefarious pest, roughly the size and weight of a grape seed, has been at the frontlines of history as the grim reaper, the harvester of human populations, and the ultimate agent of historical change. As the mosquito transformed the landscapes of civilization, humans were unwittingly required to respond to its piercing impact and universal projection of power. The mosquito has determined the fates of empires and nations, razed and crippled economies, and decided the outcome of pivotal wars, killing nearly half of humanity along the way. She (only females bite) has dispatched an estimated 52 billion people from a total of 108 billion throughout our relatively brief existence. As the greatest purveyor of extermination we have ever known, she has played a greater role in shaping our human story than any other living thing with which we share our global village. Imagine for a moment a world without deadly mosquitoes, or any mosquitoes, for that matter? Our history and the world we know, or think we know, would be completely unrecognizable. Driven by surprising insights and fast-paced storytelling, *The Mosquito* is the extraordinary untold story of the mosquito’s reign through human history and her indelible impact on our modern world order.

20 deadliest events in human history: *Heat Wave* Eric Klinenberg, 2015-05-06 The “compelling” story behind the 1995 Chicago weather disaster that killed hundreds—and what it revealed about our broken society (Boston Globe). On July 13, 1995, Chicagoans awoke to a blistering day in which the temperature would reach 106 degrees. The heat index—how the temperature actually feels on the body—would hit 126. When the heat wave broke a week later, city streets had buckled; records for electrical use were shattered; and power grids had failed, leaving residents without electricity for up to two days. By July 20, over seven hundred people had perished—twenty times the number of those struck down by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Heat waves kill more Americans than all other natural disasters combined. Until now, no one could explain either the overwhelming number or the heartbreaking manner of the deaths resulting from the 1995 Chicago heat wave. Meteorologists and medical scientists have been unable to account for the scale of the trauma, and political officials have puzzled over the sources of the city’s vulnerability. In *Heat Wave*, Eric Klinenberg takes us inside the anatomy of the metropolis to conduct what he calls a “social autopsy,” examining the social, political, and institutional organs of the city that made this urban disaster so much worse than it ought to have been. He investigates why some neighborhoods experienced greater mortality than others, how city government responded, and how journalists, scientists, and public officials reported and explained these events. Through years of fieldwork, interviews, and research, he uncovers the surprising and unsettling forms of social breakdown that contributed to this human catastrophe as hundreds died alone behind locked doors and sealed windows, out of contact with friends, family, community groups, and public agencies. As this incisive and gripping account demonstrates, the widening cracks in the social foundations of American cities made visible by the 1995 heat wave remain in play in America’s cities today—and we ignore them at our peril. Includes photos and a new preface on meeting the challenges of climate change in urban centers “Heat Wave is not so much a book about weather, as it is about the calamitous consequences of forgetting our fellow citizens. . . . A provocative, fascinating book, one that applies to much more than weather disasters.” —Chicago Sun-Times “It’s hard to put down *Heat Wave* without believing you’ve just read a tale of slow murder by public policy.” —Salon “A classic. I can’t recommend it enough.” —Chris Hayes

20 deadliest events in human history: *The Threat of Pandemic Influenza* Institute of

Medicine, Board on Global Health, Forum on Microbial Threats, 2005-04-09 Public health officials and organizations around the world remain on high alert because of increasing concerns about the prospect of an influenza pandemic, which many experts believe to be inevitable. Moreover, recent problems with the availability and strain-specificity of vaccine for annual flu epidemics in some countries and the rise of pandemic strains of avian flu in disparate geographic regions have alarmed experts about the world's ability to prevent or contain a human pandemic. The workshop summary, *The Threat of Pandemic Influenza: Are We Ready?* addresses these urgent concerns. The report describes what steps the United States and other countries have taken thus far to prepare for the next outbreak of killer flu. It also looks at gaps in readiness, including hospitals' inability to absorb a surge of patients and many nations' incapacity to monitor and detect flu outbreaks. The report points to the need for international agreements to share flu vaccine and antiviral stockpiles to ensure that the 88 percent of nations that cannot manufacture or stockpile these products have access to them. It chronicles the toll of the H5N1 strain of avian flu currently circulating among poultry in many parts of Asia, which now accounts for the culling of millions of birds and the death of at least 50 persons. And it compares the costs of preparations with the costs of illness and death that could arise during an outbreak.

20 deadliest events in human history: Stalin's Genocides Norman M. Naimark, 2010-07-19 The chilling story of Stalin's crimes against humanity Between the early 1930s and his death in 1953, Joseph Stalin had more than a million of his own citizens executed. Millions more fell victim to forced labor, deportation, famine, bloody massacres, and detention and interrogation by Stalin's henchmen. *Stalin's Genocides* is the chilling story of these crimes. The book puts forward the important argument that brutal mass killings under Stalin in the 1930s were indeed acts of genocide and that the Soviet dictator himself was behind them. Norman Naimark, one of our most respected authorities on the Soviet era, challenges the widely held notion that Stalin's crimes do not constitute genocide, which the United Nations defines as the premeditated killing of a group of people because of their race, religion, or inherent national qualities. In this gripping book, Naimark explains how Stalin became a pitiless mass killer. He looks at the most consequential and harrowing episodes of Stalin's systematic destruction of his own populace—the liquidation and repression of the so-called kulaks, the Ukrainian famine, the purge of nationalities, and the Great Terror—and examines them in light of other genocides in history. In addition, Naimark compares Stalin's crimes with those of the most notorious genocidal killer of them all, Adolf Hitler.

20 deadliest events in human history: *Isaac's Storm* Erik Larson, 2000-07-11 From the bestselling author of *The Devil in the White City*, here is the true story of the deadliest hurricane in history. National Bestseller September 8, 1900, began innocently in the seaside town of Galveston, Texas. Even Isaac Cline, resident meteorologist for the U.S. Weather Bureau failed to grasp the true meaning of the strange deep-sea swells and peculiar winds that greeted the city that morning. Mere hours later, Galveston found itself submerged in a monster hurricane that completely destroyed the town and killed over six thousand people in what remains the greatest natural disaster in American history--and Isaac Cline found himself the victim of a devastating personal tragedy. Using Cline's own telegrams, letters, and reports, the testimony of scores of survivors, and our latest understanding of the science of hurricanes, Erik Larson builds a chronicle of one man's heroic struggle and fatal miscalculation in the face of a storm of unimaginable magnitude. Riveting, powerful, and unbearably suspenseful, *Isaac's Storm* is the story of what can happen when human arrogance meets the great uncontrollable force of nature.

20 deadliest events in human history: *Disease Control Priorities, Third Edition (Volume 6)* King K. Holmes, Stefano Bertozzi, Barry R. Bloom, Prabhat Jha, 2017-11-06 Infectious diseases are the leading cause of death globally, particularly among children and young adults. The spread of new pathogens and the threat of antimicrobial resistance pose particular challenges in combating these diseases. *Major Infectious Diseases* identifies feasible, cost-effective packages of interventions and strategies across delivery platforms to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, malaria, adult febrile illness, viral hepatitis, and neglected tropical diseases.

The volume emphasizes the need to effectively address emerging antimicrobial resistance, strengthen health systems, and increase access to care. The attainable goals are to reduce incidence, develop innovative approaches, and optimize existing tools in resource-constrained settings.

20 deadliest events in human history: The Nature of Disaster in China Chris Courtney, 2018-02-15 In 1931, China suffered a catastrophic flood that claimed millions of lives. This was neither a natural nor human-made disaster. Rather, it was created by an interaction between the environment and society. Regular inundation had long been an integral feature of the ecology and culture of the middle Yangzi, yet by the modern era floods had become humanitarian catastrophes. Courtney describes how the ecological and economic effects of the 1931 flood pulse caused widespread famine and epidemics. He takes readers into the inundated streets of Wuhan, describing the terrifying and disorientating sensory environment. He explains why locals believed that an angry Dragon King was causing the flood, and explores how Japanese invasion and war with the Communists inhibited both official relief efforts and refugee coping strategies. This innovative study offers the first in-depth analysis of the 1931 flood, and charts the evolution of one of China's most persistent environmental problems.

20 deadliest events in human history: The End of October Lawrence Wright, 2021-04-27 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Looming Tower*—a riveting thriller and “all-too-convincing chronicle of science, espionage, action and speculation” (*The Wall Street Journal*). At an internment camp in Indonesia, forty-seven people are pronounced dead with acute hemorrhagic fever. When epidemiologist Henry Parsons travels there on behalf of the World Health Organization to investigate, what he finds will have staggering repercussions. Halfway across the globe, the deputy director of U.S. Homeland Security scrambles to mount a response to the rapidly spreading pandemic leapfrogging around the world, which she believes may be the result of an act of biowarfare. And a rogue experimenter in man-made diseases is preparing his own terrifying solution. As already-fraying global relations begin to snap, the virus slashes across the United States, dismantling institutions and decimating the population. With his own wife and children facing diminishing odds of survival, Henry travels from Indonesia to Saudi Arabia to his home base at the CDC in Atlanta, searching for a cure and for the origins of this seemingly unknowable disease. *The End of October* is a one-of-a-kind thriller steeped in real-life political and scientific implications, filled with the insight that has been the hallmark of Wright’s acclaimed nonfiction and the full-tilt narrative suspense that only the best fiction can offer.

20 deadliest events in human history: The Great Influenza John M. Barry, 2005-10-04 #1 New York Times bestseller “Barry will teach you almost everything you need to know about one of the deadliest outbreaks in human history.”—Bill Gates Monumental... an authoritative and disturbing morality tale.—Chicago Tribune The strongest weapon against pandemic is the truth. Read why in the definitive account of the 1918 Flu Epidemic. Magisterial in its breadth of perspective and depth of research, *The Great Influenza* provides us with a precise and sobering model as we confront the epidemics looming on our own horizon. As Barry concludes, The final lesson of 1918, a simple one yet one most difficult to execute, is that...those in authority must retain the public's trust. The way to do that is to distort nothing, to put the best face on nothing, to try to manipulate no one. Lincoln said that first, and best. A leader must make whatever horror exists concrete. Only then will people be able to break it apart. At the height of World War I, history’s most lethal influenza virus erupted in an army camp in Kansas, moved east with American troops, then exploded, killing as many as 100 million people worldwide. It killed more people in twenty-four months than AIDS killed in twenty-four years, more in a year than the Black Death killed in a century. But this was not the Middle Ages, and 1918 marked the first collision of science and epidemic disease.

20 deadliest events in human history: Power Kills R. J. Rummel, 2002-11-01 This volume, newly published in paperback, is part of a comprehensive effort by R. J. Rummel to understand and place in historical perspective the entire subject of genocide and mass murder, or what he calls democide. It is the fifth in a series of volumes in which he offers a detailed analysis of the

120,000,000 people killed as a result of government action or direct intervention. In *Power Kills*, Rummel offers a realistic and practical solution to war, democide, and other collective violence. As he states it, The solution...is to foster democratic freedom and to democratize coercive power and force. That is, mass killing and mass murder carried out by government is a result of indiscriminate, irresponsible Power at the center. Rummel observes that well-established democracies do not make war on and rarely commit lesser violence against each other. The more democratic two nations are, the less likely is war or smaller-scale violence between them. The more democratic a nation is, the less severe its overall foreign violence, the less likely it will have domestic collective violence, and the less its democide. Rummel argues that the evidence supports overwhelmingly the most important fact of our time: democracy is a method of nonviolence.

20 deadliest events in human history: America's Forgotten Pandemic Alfred W. Crosby, 2003-07-21 Between August 1918 and March 1919 the Spanish influenza spread worldwide, claiming over 25 million lives - more people than perished in the fighting of the First World War. It proved fatal to at least a half-million Americans. Yet, the Spanish flu pandemic is largely forgotten today. In this vivid narrative, Alfred W. Crosby recounts the course of the pandemic during the panic-stricken months of 1918 and 1919, measures its impact on American society, and probes the curious loss of national memory of this cataclysmic event. This 2003 edition includes a preface discussing the then recent outbreaks of diseases, including the Asian flu and the SARS epidemic.

20 deadliest events in human history: Encyclopedia of Disaster Relief K. Bradley Penuel, Matt Statler, 2010-12-29 This encyclopedia covers response to disasters around the world, from governments to NGOs, from charities to politics, from refugees to health, and from economics to international relations, covering issues in both historical and contemporary context. The volumes include information relevant to students of sociology, national security, economics, health sciences, political science, emergency preparedness, history, agriculture, and many other subjects. The goal is to help readers appreciate the importance of the effects, responsibilities, and ethics of disaster relief, and to initiate educational discussion brought forth by the specific cultural, scientific, and topical articles contained within the work. Including 425 signed entries in a two-volume set presented in A-to-Z format, and drawing contributors from varied academic disciplines, this encyclopedia also features a preface by Thomas H. Kean and Lee H. Hamilton of the 9/11 Commission. This reference resource examines disaster response and relief in a manner that is authoritative yet accessible, jargon-free, and balanced to help readers better understand issues from varied perspectives. Key Themes - Geography - Government and International Agencies - History - Human-induced Disasters - Infrastructure - Local Response - Major Disasters (Relief Case Studies) - Medicine and Psychology - Methods and Practices - Mitigation - Natural Disasters (Overviews) - Politics and Funding - Preparedness - Recovery - Response - Science and Prediction - Sociology - U.S. Geographical Response

20 deadliest events in human history: *The World Until Yesterday* Jared Diamond, 2012-12-31 The bestselling author of *Collapse* and *Guns, Germs and Steel* surveys the history of human societies to answer the question: What can we learn from traditional societies that can make the world a better place for all of us? "As he did in his Pulitzer Prize-winning *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Jared Diamond continues to make us think with his mesmerizing and absorbing new book. Bookpage Most of us take for granted the features of our modern society, from air travel and telecommunications to literacy and obesity. Yet for nearly all of its six million years of existence, human society had none of these things. While the gulf that divides us from our primitive ancestors may seem unbridgeably wide, we can glimpse much of our former lifestyle in those largely traditional societies still or recently in existence. Societies like those of the New Guinea Highlanders remind us that it was only yesterday—in evolutionary time—when everything changed and that we moderns still possess bodies and social practices often better adapted to traditional than to modern conditions. *The World Until Yesterday* provides a mesmerizing firsthand picture of the human past as it had been for millions of years—a past that has mostly vanished—and considers what the differences between that past and our present mean for our lives today. This is Jared Diamond's most personal book to date, as he

draws extensively from his decades of field work in the Pacific islands, as well as evidence from Inuit, Amazonian Indians, Kalahari San people, and others. Diamond doesn't romanticize traditional societies—after all, we are shocked by some of their practices—but he finds that their solutions to universal human problems such as child rearing, elder care, dispute resolution, risk, and physical fitness have much to teach us. Provocative, enlightening, and entertaining, *The World Until Yesterday* is an essential and fascinating read.

20 deadliest events in human history: Heinrich Himmler Peter Longerich, 2012 A biography of Henrich Himmler, interweaving both his personal life and his political career as a Nazi dictator.

20 deadliest events in human history: The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina , 2006 The objective of this report is to identify and establish a roadmap on how to do that, and lay the groundwork for transforming how this Nation- from every level of government to the private sector to individual citizens and communities - pursues a real and lasting vision of preparedness. To get there will require significant change to the status quo, to include adjustments to policy, structure, and mindset--P. 2.

20 deadliest events in human history: *Leaves of Grass* Walt Whitman, 1872

20 deadliest events in human history: Saving Lives, Buying Time Institute of Medicine, Board on Global Health, Committee on the Economics of Antimalarial Drugs, 2004-09-09 For more than 50 years, low-cost antimalarial drugs silently saved millions of lives and cured billions of debilitating infections. Today, however, these drugs no longer work against the deadliest form of malaria that exists throughout the world. Malaria deaths in sub-Saharan Africa—currently just over one million per year—are rising because of increased resistance to the old, inexpensive drugs. Although effective new drugs called artemisinins are available, they are unaffordable for the majority of the affected population, even at a cost of one dollar per course. *Saving Lives, Buying Time: Economics of Malaria Drugs in an Age of Resistance* examines the history of malaria treatments, provides an overview of the current drug crisis, and offers recommendations on maximizing access to and effectiveness of antimalarial drugs. The book finds that most people in endemic countries will not have access to currently effective combination treatments, which should include an artemisinin, without financing from the global community. Without funding for effective treatment, malaria mortality could double over the next 10 to 20 years and transmission will intensify.

20 deadliest events in human history: *Flu* Gina Kolata, 2011-04-01 Veteran journalist Gina Kolata's *Flu: The Story of the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and the Search for the Virus That Caused It* presents a fascinating look at true story of the world's deadliest disease. In 1918, the Great Flu Epidemic felled the young and healthy virtually overnight. An estimated forty million people died as the epidemic raged. Children were left orphaned and families were devastated. As many American soldiers were killed by the 1918 flu as were killed in battle during World War I. And no area of the globe was safe. Eskimos living in remote outposts in the frozen tundra were sickened and killed by the flu in such numbers that entire villages were wiped out. Scientists have recently rediscovered shards of the flu virus frozen in Alaska and preserved in scraps of tissue in a government warehouse. Gina Kolata, an acclaimed reporter for *The New York Times*, unravels the mystery of this lethal virus with the high drama of a great adventure story. Delving into the history of the flu and previous epidemics, detailing the science and the latest understanding of this mortal disease, Kolata addresses the prospects for a great epidemic recurring, and, most important, what can be done to prevent it.

20 deadliest events in human history: *Independent Thinking* Ian Gilbert, 2013-12-12 Think for yourself before someone does it for you. The first in a new series by and for people who know how important it is to think for yourself. Written by Independent Thinking founder Ian Gilbert, this book is an invaluable collection of reflections, ideas and insights on the nature of learning, thinking, creativity and, drawing on Ian's experience in three continents, the role education has in changing not only people's lives but also entire societies. Combining articles published in the UK, Middle East

and South America plus examples of his controversial online postings and Tweets with new observations and insights and at least 100 Twittered Thunks or Twunks this book is the informed ramblings of a passionate educationalist who has made a significant difference to classrooms for over 20 years and has earned the right to speak his mind.

20 deadliest events in human history: Encyclopaedia Britannica Hugh Chisholm, 1910 This eleventh edition was developed during the encyclopaedia's transition from a British to an American publication. Some of its articles were written by the best-known scholars of the time and it is considered to be a landmark encyclopaedia for scholarship and literary style.

20 deadliest events in human history: Soldiers Lost at Sea James E. Wise, Scott Baron, 2004 Heroism, tragedy, devotion to duty, and scandal are just a few of the ingredients that make up this dramatic account of troopship losses in wartime. International in scope, the book offers a compilation of stories about historic troopship disasters caused by torpedoes, aerial attacks, mines, surface fire, foul weather, friendly fire, and poor planning by military decision makers ... Board of inquiry hearings, action reports, survivor debriefings, and personal correspondence collected from archives in Germany, Italy, Russia, Australia, Britain, and the United States help tell the stories of the fifty vessels described in the book. An introductory chapter provides an overview of troopship evolution and losses at sea, beginning with the age of galley warfare. The first to provide a sweeping survey of the subject, this book pays long overdue tribute to the soldiers who lost their lives in vast oceans far from home--Dust jkt.

20 deadliest events in human history: CDC Yellow Book 2018: Health Information for International Travel Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC, 2017-04-17 THE ESSENTIAL WORK IN TRAVEL MEDICINE -- NOW COMPLETELY UPDATED FOR 2018 As unprecedented numbers of travelers cross international borders each day, the need for up-to-date, practical information about the health challenges posed by travel has never been greater. For both international travelers and the health professionals who care for them, the CDC Yellow Book 2018: Health Information for International Travel is the definitive guide to staying safe and healthy anywhere in the world. The fully revised and updated 2018 edition codifies the U.S. government's most current health guidelines and information for international travelers, including pretravel vaccine recommendations, destination-specific health advice, and easy-to-reference maps, tables, and charts. The 2018 Yellow Book also addresses the needs of specific types of travelers, with dedicated sections on: · Precautions for pregnant travelers, immunocompromised travelers, and travelers with disabilities · Special considerations for newly arrived adoptees, immigrants, and refugees · Practical tips for last-minute or resource-limited travelers · Advice for air crews, humanitarian workers, missionaries, and others who provide care and support overseas Authored by a team of the world's most esteemed travel medicine experts, the Yellow Book is an essential resource for travelers -- and the clinicians overseeing their care -- at home and abroad.

20 deadliest events in human history: Death in Yellowstone Lee H. Whittlesey, 2014-01-07 The chilling tome that launched an entire genre of books about the often gruesome but always tragic ways people have died in our national parks, this updated edition of the classic includes calamities in Yellowstone from the past sixteen years, including the infamous grizzly bear attacks in the summer of 2011 as well as a fatal hot springs accident in 2000. In these accounts, written with sensitivity as cautionary tales about what to do and what not to do in one of our wildest national parks, Whittlesey recounts deaths ranging from tragedy to folly—from being caught in a freak avalanche to the goring of a photographer who just got a little too close to a bison. Armchair travelers and park visitors alike will be fascinated by this important book detailing the dangers awaiting in our first national park.

20 deadliest events in human history: Natural Hazards Edward A. Keller, Duane E. DeVecchio, 2016-07-07 Natural Hazards: Earth Processes as Hazards, Disasters and Catastrophes, Fourth Edition, is an introductory-level survey intended for university and college courses that are concerned with earth processes that have direct, and often sudden and violent, impacts on human society. The text integrates principles of geology, hydrology, meteorology, climatology, oceanography, soil science, ecology and solar system astronomy. The book is designed for a course

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Thomas Helling, 2022-03-01 A startling narrative revealing the impressive medical and surgical advances that quickly developed as solutions to the horrors unleashed by World War I. The Great War of 1914-1918 burst on the European scene with a brutality to mankind not yet witnessed by the civilized world. Modern warfare was no longer the stuff of chivalry and honor; it was a mutilative, deadly, and humbling exercise to wipe out the very presence of humanity. Suddenly, thousands upon thousands of maimed, beaten, and bleeding men surged into aid stations and hospitals with injuries unimaginable in their scope and destruction. Doctors scrambled to find some way to salvage not only life but limb. The Great War and the Birth of Modern Medicine provides a startling and graphic account of the efforts of teams of doctors and researchers to quickly develop medical and surgical solutions. Those problems of gas gangrene, hemorrhagic shock, gas poisoning, brain trauma, facial disfigurement, broken bones, and broken spirits flooded hospital beds, stressing caregivers and prompting medical innovations that would last far beyond the Armistice of 1918 and would eventually provide the backbone of modern medical therapy. Thomas Helling's description of events that shaped refinements of medical care is a riveting account of the ingenuity and resourcefulness of men and women to deter the total destruction of the human body and human mind. His tales of surgical daring, industrial collaboration, scientific discovery, and utter compassion provide an understanding of the horror that laid a foundation for the medical wonders of today. The marvels of resuscitation, blood transfusion, brain surgery, X-rays, and bone setting all had their beginnings on the battlefields of France. The influenza contagion in 1918 was an ominous forerunner of the frightening pandemic of 2020-2021. For anyone curious about the true terrors of war and the miracles of modern medicine, this is a must read.

20 deadliest events in human history: *Underground* Haruki Murakami, 2001-04-10 In this haunting work of journalistic investigation, Haruki Murakami tells the story of the horrific terrorist attack on Japanese soil that shook the entire world. On a clear spring day in 1995, five members of a religious cult unleashed poison gas on the Tokyo subway system. In attempt to discover why, Haruki Murakami talks to the people who lived through the catastrophe, and in so doing lays bare the Japanese psyche. As he discerns the fundamental issues that led to the attack, Murakami paints a clear vision of an event that could occur anytime, anywhere.

20 deadliest events in human history: WN 62 Hein Severloh, 2011

20 deadliest events in human history: *Columbine* Dave Cullen, 2009-04-06 Ten years in the works, a masterpiece of reportage, this is the definitive account of the Columbine massacre, its aftermath, and its significance, from the acclaimed journalist who followed the story from the outset. The tragedies keep coming. As we reel from the latest horror . . . So begins a new epilogue,

illustrating how Columbine became the template for nearly two decades of spectacle murders. It is a false script, seized upon by a generation of new killers. In the wake of Newtown, Aurora, and Virginia Tech, the imperative to understand the crime that sparked this plague grows more urgent every year. What really happened April 20, 1999? The horror left an indelible stamp on the American psyche, but most of what we know is wrong. It wasn't about jocks, Goths, or the Trench Coat Mafia. Dave Cullen was one of the first reporters on scene, and spent ten years on this book—widely recognized as the definitive account. With a keen investigative eye and psychological acumen, he draws on mountains of evidence, insight from the world's leading forensic psychologists, and the killers' own words and drawings—several reproduced in a new appendix. Cullen paints raw portraits of two polar opposite killers. They contrast starkly with the flashes of resilience and redemption among the survivors. Expanded with a New Epilogue

20 deadliest events in human history: The Social Roots of Risk Kathleen Tierney, 2014-07-23 “This book about risk and disaster—and how they get amplified—is fascinating and hugely important as we face an ever-more-turbulent world.” —Rebecca Solnit, award-winning author of *A Field Guide to Getting Lost* The first decade of the twenty-first century saw a remarkable number of large-scale disasters. Earthquakes in Haiti and Sumatra underscored the serious economic consequences that catastrophic events can have on developing countries, while 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina showed that first world nations remain vulnerable. *The Social Roots of Risk* argues against the widespread notion that cataclysmic occurrences are singular events, driven by forces beyond our control. Instead, Kathleen Tierney contends that disasters of all types—be they natural, technological, or economic—are rooted in common social and institutional sources. Put another way, risks and disasters are produced by the social order itself—by governing bodies, organizations, and groups that push for economic growth, oppose risk-reducing regulation, and escape responsibility for tremendous losses when they occur. Considering a wide range of historical and looming events—from a potential mega-earthquake in Tokyo that would cause devastation far greater than what we saw in 2011, to BP's accident history prior to the 2010 blowout—Tierney illustrates trends in our behavior, connecting what seem like one-off events to illuminate historical patterns. Like risk, human resilience also emerges from the social order, and this book makes a powerful case that we already have a significant capacity to reduce the losses that disasters produce. A provocative rethinking of the way that we approach and remedy disasters, *The Social Roots of Risk* leaves readers with a better understanding of how our own actions make us vulnerable to the next big crisis—and what we can do to prevent it. “Brilliant . . . Drawing on a trove of timely case studies, Tierney analyses how factors such as speculative finance and rampant development allow natural and economic blips to tip more easily into catastrophe.” —Nature

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20 deadliest events in human history: Railroad Wrecks Edgar A. Haine, 1993 This book recounts the most serious railroad accidents worldwide from 1853 to the present time. Relevant specifics of these disasters have been researched and summary narratives written. The central purpose of this volume is to record the horrendous details surrounding railroad calamities and, more importantly, to investigate, analyze, and derive beneficial knowledge about wreck causes and deduce corrective courses of action, setting forth successful principles of accident prevention that might be useful and applicable in rail operations everywhere. The ultimate purpose therefore has been to determine universal railroad safety doctrines, the application of which will lessen the frequency and severity of future rail accidents and thereby reduce death tolls, passenger and employee injuries, and the attendant financial and material losses. Covered herein in concise form are the accounts of 70 major rail disasters in the United States and 111 train catastrophes in various foreign countries. Included for quick reference are two tabulations showing pertinent particulars for all the railroad disasters treated in this volume. The reader, if he peruses this long list of wreck narratives, will acquire a unique understanding of the widespread incident of rail accidents and, perhaps, arrive at a personal judgment on how to best further the noble cause of accident

prevention. Certainly, he will gain an eye-opening view of the dreadful scope of the long-term operational misfortunes that have plagued the mighty Iron Horse. More than one hundred photographs taken at the scenes of the accidents illustrate this volume. A substantial introduction elucidates the history of railroading in relation to death-dealing mishaps, operating safeguards, railroad personnel, the human factor, the grade crossing dilemma, rail unions and worker discipline, safety research efforts, code of railroad working rules, alcohol and drug problems, the Harriman safety awards, the legendary rail cabooses, and accident prevention guidelines. The eleven-part appendix includes a historical/statistical review of safety on the United States railroads and reports on the horrendous Louisville & Nashville Railroad hazardous materials spillage at Crestview, Florida, on 8 April 1970. Also summarized are the rail accident prevention philosophies practiced on four foreign railway systems.--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

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20 deadliest events in human history: The Oklahoma City Bombing Diane Andrews Henningfeld, 2012-02-17 The Oklahoma City bombing was a heart-breaking, American safety-shattering event. This fascinating volume explores the historical and cultural events leading up to and following the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995. This book addresses issues surrounding the bombing, such as the identity of John Doe No. 2, the media's possible misrepresentation of the militia movement's involvement, and whether Timothy McVeigh's confession was voluntary. Personal narratives are included from people impacted by the bombing, including a secretary trapped in the wreckage, a search-and-rescue worker, and a high school student who lost her father.

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