The History Central Asia Volume

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this set includes all four volumes of the critically acclaimed history of central asia series the epic plains and arid deserts of central asia have witnessed some of the greatest migrations as well as many of the most transformative developments in the history of civilization christoph baumer s ambitious four volume treatment of the region charts the 3000 year drama of scythians and sarmatians soviets and transcontinental silk roads trade routes and the transmission of ideas across the steppes and the breathless and brutal conquests of alexander the great and chinghiz khan masterfully interweaving the stories of individuals and peoples the author s engaging prose is richly augmented throughout by colour photographs taken on his own travels this set includes the age of the steppe warriors volume 1 the age of the silk roads volume 2 the age of islam and the mongols volume 3 and the age of decline and revival volume 4

this major six volume project co published with macmillan covers the historical experience of the peoples and societies of the caribbean region from the earliest times to the present day the sixth volume brings this series to an end as it takes in the whole of the modern period from colonial conquest and domination to decolonization the cold war from start to finish the disintegration of the soviet union and the renewed instability in certain areas not only did the colonial regimes lay a new patina over the region but nationalism remoulded all old identities into a series of new ones that process of the twentieth century was perhaps the most transformative of all after the colonial subjugation of the nineteenth while it has been the basis of remarkable stability in vast stretches of the region it has been a fertile source of tension and even wars in other parts the impact and the results of such changes have been astonishingly variable despite the proximity of these states to each other and their being subject to or driven by virtually the same compulsions

a comprehensive analysis of the earliest buddhist art of china bactria and the southern silk road in central asia from ca 1st 4th century a d elucidating the inter relationships history religious elements sources dating and chronology

volume two of marylin rhie s widely acclaimed and formative multi volume work presents a comprehensive scholarly and detailed study of the buddhist art of china and central asia from 316 439 a d during the formative early periods of buddhism in the eastern chin and sixteen kingdoms period using texts translated from the chinese together with stylistic and technical analyses the chronology and sources of the art

are more clearly defined than in previous studies for the regions of south and north china other than kansu and the important sites of tumshuk kucha and karashahr on the northern silk route in eastern central asia furthermore by incorporating extensive religious and historical materials this work not only contributes to clarifying the regional characteristics of the art but also offers new insights into the broader interregional relationships of this politically fragmented period

this book third in a series on the early buddhist art of china and central asia centers on buddhist art from the western ch in 385 431 a d in eastern kansu northwest china primarily from the cave temples of ping ling ssu and mai chi shan a detailed chronological and iconographic study of sculptures and wall paintings in cave 169 at ping ling ssu particularly yields a chronological framework for unlocking the difficult issues of dating early fifth century chinese buddhist art and offers some new insights into textual sources in the lotus hua yen and amitabha sutras further this study introduces the iconographpy of the five buddhas and its relation to the art of gandhara and the famous five colossal t an yao caves at yün kang

volume 1 of this unesco multi volume series traces the history of man in this vast region from the palaeolithic beginnings to circa 700 bc when the foundations of the achaemenian empire were laid the earliest history of man is evidenced and the food producing areas of turkmenistan tajikistan and the indus valley explored the bronze age and the first signs of urbanization from the indus to the oxus are described as is the development of the nomadic pastoral tribes such as the aryans whose history can be seen in proper perspective through archaeological evidence now available a comprehensive first instalment for any enthusiast interested in the history and development of asia

presenting new studies on the chronology and iconography of buddhist art during the western ch in 385 431 a d in northwest china including ping ling ssu and mai chi shan this book addresses issues of dating textual sources the five buddhas and relation with gandhara

this book contains the treatment of one of the most important and the largest of the angiosperm families of central asian region leguminosae with the exception of complex genera astragalus and oxytropis

this volume focuses on the family gramineae which represents one of the largest and economically most important families of flowering plants it constitutes a vast herbaria collection of 74 genera and 354 species of this family and covers 18 more species of grasses the disintegration of the soviet union in 1991 rapidly and irrevocably transformed central asia s political landscape this region of five sovereign states with a population of some fifty million people quickly became a major focus of interest and influence for competing poles of power the eminent contributors to this volume offer a four part analysis of the region s new importance in world affairs rajan menon examines the place of central asia in a global perspective eugene rumer considers the perspective of the post 9 11 united states dmitri trenin looks at the region from the standpoint of traditional hegemon russia huasheng zhao provides the view from economic superpower in the making china

this volume provides a taxonomic account of horsetails club mosses conifers joint firs and several small families of monocotyledons standing at the beginning of the engler system from typhaceae to butomaceae as well as a supplementary bibliographic list of works on the flora of central asia

the eleventh volume of the illustrated lists of vascular plants of central asia within the people s republics of china and mongolia continues the description of flowering plants and covers families amaranthaceae aizoaceae portulacaceae and caryophyllaceae keys are provided for the identification of genera and species and references to nomencla

an english translation of the series prepared by the komarov botanical institute covers altai khangai kentei ranges in the north greater khingan range in the east pamir in the west the great wall of china in the southeast and the himalayas in the south this volume of the illustrated synopsis of vascular plants of central asia provides a det

this book pertains solely to the family chenopodiaceae which plays a leading role in the formation of the vegetal cover of the deserts of central asia and represents one of the most abundant constituents of its flora it is intended for botanists geographers and soil scientists

this volume represents the third in the series of illustrated lists of the plants of central asia it presents a taxonomic account of the families of sedges araceae duckweed and rushes in the vegetation of central asia

this book provides a taxonomic account of one of the largest genera of leguminosae and the largest in the central asian flora genus oxytropis dc the genus is represented by 153 species of which 62 are endemic to the region and 78 are endemic to the central asian territory

between the ninth and the fifteenth centuries central asia was a major political economic and cultural hub on the eurasian continent in the first half of the thirteenth century it was also the pre eminent centre of power in the largest land based empire the world has ever seen this third volume of christoph baumer s extensively praised and lavishly illustrated new history of the region is above all a story of invasion when tumultuous and often brutal conquest profoundly shaped the later history of the globe the author explores the rise of islam and the remarkable victories of the arab armies which inspired by their vital austere and egalitarian desert faith established important new dynasties like the seljuks karakhanids and ghaznavids a golden age of artistic literary and scientific innovation came to a sudden end when between 1219 and 1260 genghiz khan and his successors overran the chorasmian abbasid lands dr baumer shows that the mongol conquests while shattering to their enemies nevertheless resulted in much greater mercantile and cultural contact between central asia and western europe

this volume is the first comprehensive scholarly analysis of the strategic reconfiguration of central asia as russia has become more disengaged from the nations in the region and as these nations have developed new relations to the south east and west the international implications are enormous because of the rich energy sources oil and natural gas located in the caspian sea area the authors assess a variety of internal security policy challenges confronting these states for example the potential for conflict arising from such factors as a mixed ethnic population resource scarcity particularly in relation to water management and an islamic revival they also examine the security policy content of relations between the central asian states and regional and international powers specifically the stakes interests and policies of russia china iran turkey and the united states these internal challenges and the evolution of relations with external powers may result in new cooperative relationships but they may also lead to destabilizing rivalry and interstate enmity in central asia it is important to identify new patterns of relevance for future security cooperation in the region but the potential for a new security system or for new institutions to manage security in the region remains uncertain these issues are explored by a team of prominent specialists from western europe the united states russia and china

stretching from the ancient chinese capital of xian across the expanses of central asia to rome the silk road was for 1 500 years a vibrant network of arteries that carried the lifeblood of nations

across the world along a multitude of routes everything was exchanged exotic goods art knowledge religion philosophy disease and war from the east came silk precious stones tea jade paper porcelain spices and cotton from the west horses weapons wool and linen aromatics entertainers and exotic animals from its earliest beginnings in the days of alexander the great and the han dynasty the silk road expanded and evolved reaching its peak during the tang dynasty and the byzantine empire and gradually withering away with the decline of the mongol empire in this beautifully illustrated book which covers the central asian section of the silk road from lake issyk kul through tashkent samarkand bukhara the kyzyl kum desert khiva and merv to herat kabul and iran jonathan tucker uses travellers anecdotes and a wealth of literary and historical sources to celebrate the cultural heritage of the countries that lie along the silk road and illuminate the lives of those who once travelled through the very heart of the world

with renewed american involvement in afghanistan pakistan s growing fragility and china s rise in power in the post soviet space central asia south asia relations have become central to understanding the future of the eurasian continent mapping central asia identifies the trends attitudes and ideas that are key to structuring the central asia south asia axis in the coming decade structured in three parts the book skillfully guides us through the importance of the historical links between the indian sub continent and central asia the regional and global context in which the developing of closer relations between india and central asia has presented itself since the collapse of the soviet union the precise domains of indo central asian cooperation and studies three conflict zones that frame indo central asian relations the kashmir question the situation in afghanistan and fear of destabilization in xinjiang the international line up of established scholars convincingly demonstrate the fundamental necessity to define the indian approach on these issues and provide cutting edge insights on the tools needed to understand the solutions for the decade to come

the book traces the conceptual lens of historical cultural survivals from the late 19th century theories of e b tylor james frazer and others in debate with monotheistic degenerationists and protestant anti catholic polemicists back to its origins in jewish christian and muslim traditions as well as later more secularized forms in the german enlightenment and romanticist movements these historical sources particularly the dual faith tradition of russian orthodoxy significantly shaped both tsarist and later soviet ethnography of muslim central asia helping guide and justify their respective

religious missionary social legal political and other imperial agendas they continue impacting post soviet historiography in complex and debated ways drawing from european central asian middle eastern and world history the fields of ethnography and anthropology as well as christian and islamic studies the volume contributes to scholarship on syncretism and conversion definitions of islam history as identity and heritage and more it is situated within a broader global historical frame addressing debates over pre islamic survivals among turkish and iranian as well as egyptian north african berber black african and south asian muslim peoples while critiquing the legacy of the geertzian cultural turn within western post colonialist scholarship in relation to diverging trends of historiography in the post world war two era

a detailed examination of the hugely significant relationship between china and the nations of central asian and eastern europe including russia from a chinese perspective written by leading academics and researchers from cass the chief editor is the influential wu enyuan director of the institute of russian eastern european central asian studies chinese academy of social sciences the expert coverage and analysis enables the reader to fully understand china s relations and policies towards these vital partners and neighbours

central asia and xinjiang the far northwestern province of china are of increasing international importance this book provides a comprehensive overview of the region s significance historically of the contemporary international forces which affect the region and of current political economic and cultural developments

this book looks at how china and india s growing interests in central asia disrupt the traditional russia u s great game at the heart of the old continent in the years to come both asian powers are looking to redeploy their rivalry on the central asian and afghan theatres on a geopolitical but also political and economic level

focusing on soviet culture and its social ramifications both during the soviet period and in the post soviet era this book addresses important themes associated with sovietisation and socialisation in the central asian states of kazakhstan kyrgyzstan tajikistan turkmenistan and uzbekistan the book contains contributions from scholars in a variety of disciplines and looks at topics that have been somewhat marginalised in contemporary studies of central asia including education anthropology music literature and poetry film history and state identity construction and social transformation it examines how the soviet legacy affected the development of the

republics in central asia and how it continues to affect the society culture and polity of the region although each state in central asia has increasingly developed its own way the book shows that the states have in varying degrees retained the influence of the soviet past or else are busily establishing new political identities in reaction to their soviet legacy and in doing so laying claim to re defining and reinventing pre soviet and soviet images and narratives throwing new light and presenting alternate points of view on the question of the soviet legacy in the soviet central asian successor states the book is of interest to academics in the field of russian and central asian studies

this atlas brings together a wealth of information related to living and nonliving natural resources in the five countries of central asia kazakhstan kyrgyz republic tajikistan turkmenistan and uzbekistan it contains an array of maps based on geographic information systems and remote sensing images numerous photographs tabulations of important data and extensive descriptive text that together illustrate and describe the region s bountiful natural resources its diversity of peoples and their progress toward sustainable development highlights include geographic and climatic features environmental economic and social profiles energy minerals and water resources ecoregions and ecosystems major fauna and flora agriculture and fisheries peoples and cultural traditions and economic and social statistics

this volume contributes new insights to the scientific debate on post socialist urbanities based on ethnographic research in cities of central asia the caucasus and russia its contributions scrutinise the social production of diverse public parochial and private spaces in conjunction with patterns of everyday encounter identification consumption and narration the analyses extend from the transnational entanglements between a dushanbe bazaar and hyper modern dubai to the micro level hierarchies in a flat sharing community in astana they explore competing notions of urban belonging and aesthetics in yerevan local perception of central asian muslims in kazan and saint petersburg and more providing a rich tapestry of academic study taken together the case studies address cities as gateways to new worlds both local and global discuss ambitions of states at taming urban landscapes and illustrate current trends of economic religious and other lifestyles in urban central asia and beyond this book was originally published as a special issue of central asian survey

greater central asia encompasses a vast area that includes deserts natural grasslands steppes shrublands and alpine regions many of these land types are degraded and productivity is falling at a time when human populations and livestock inventories are on the rise ecosystem stability and biodiversity are under threat and there is an urgent need to develop more sustainable land management regimes this book uses an integrated regional approach to provide a comprehensive exploration of sustainable land development in central asia an interdisciplinary team of experts analyses the economic ecological sociological technological and political factors surrounding sustainable land and water management in the region sharing potential problems and solutions as international concern about desertification grows the book concludes by asking how the region is likely to develop in the future this book will be of value to scholars students policy makers and ngos with an interest in sustainable development in central asia

this volume describes the unique development of central asia as defined by its landlocked geography particular attention is paid to the achievements and challenges of the region s post soviet economic and political transformation as well as to its relationship with the participants in the new great game russia china and the west located as it is in the geographical centre of booming asia and with the opportunity to become a key logistics bridge connecting the world s largest economies central asia is well placed for rapid development however the region faces a range of complex problems that are explained and analysed in the volume the eurasian powers that encircle central asia look certain to become the engines of global economic growth but how will this affect the region will central asia join the powerful locomotive of history or will it remain on the sidelines

this handbook style edited volume discusses historical but predominantly current political economic and societal trends in central asia comprising kazakhstan uzbekistan kyrgyzstan tajikistan and turkmenistan the five countries exhibit many cultural and historical commonalities and face similar internal and external challenges despite different transformation paths and frequent intra regional tensions a common regional identity has emerged in the countries since gaining their independence in 1991 besides covering their political systems a variety of topics such as human rights media terrorism and civil society are addressed as well bilateral relations with seven external actors are examined lastly the authors explore the opportunities and limitations of institutionalized regional cooperation in various fields of action

a c s peacock is lecturer in middle eastern history at the university of st andrews and holds a phd in oriental studies from pembroke college cambridge he is the author of early seljug history a new

interpretation 2010 and is the co editor of the seljuks of anatolia court and society in the medieval middle east i b tauris 2012 and ferdowsi the mongols and the history of iran art literature and culture from early islam to qajar persia i b tauris 2013 d g tor is assistant professor of medieval middle eastern history at the university of notre dame and holds a phd in history and middle eastern studies from harvard university she is the author of the great selkuq sultanate and the formation of islamic civilization a thematic history forthcoming and violent order religious warfare chivalry and the ayyar phenomenon in the medieval islamic world 2007

this volume emerged out of a search for scholarship that has studied connectivity between south and central asia from a variety of perspectives geographically and culturally the vision that india has had of the region she referred to as central asia is of a space extending across china westward upto the aral sea and including within it balkh bukhara and samarkand the indian fascination with the region extends to various levels as this is the region out of which invading tribes entered india across whose silk routes trade flourished and also the region where indian culture and religion spread keeping this in mind the volume begins with an overview of positions from which the region has been traditionally situated from the indian perspective as also reflections on the current scenario in terms of the geopolitical transformations of recent times it then moves on to examine the history of the political cultural and economic connections between the two regions from comparative perspectives written by specialists from uzbekistan the articles reflect on connections that had ancient roots and shared historical experiences the first set of articles focus on the historical linkages between the two regions another set looks at similar developments in the region in terms of transformations in the socio political life of the people as also in the economy encounters and the necessity of security cooperation between the two regions is the focus of a third set of articles the second part of the volume looks into certain issues that are significant in both south and central asia written with uzbek insight they reflect on soviet and post soviet state policies on a range of issues from gender and maternity policies ethnic policies and social stratification information policy and policies related to global organizations that have comparable relevance in the indian context

in origins of agriculture in western central asia archaeologist david r harris addresses questions of when how and why agriculture and settled village life began east of the caspian sea the book describes and assesses evidence from archaeological investigations in

turkmenistan and adjacent parts of iran uzbekistan and afghanistan in relation to present and past environmental conditions and genetic and archaeological data on the ancestry of the crops and domestic animals of the neolithic period it includes accounts of previous research on the prehistoric archaeology of the region and reports the results of a recent environmental archaeological project undertaken by british russian and turkmen archaeologists in turkmenistan principally at the early neolithic site of jeitun djeitun on the southern edge of the karakum desert this project has demonstrated unequivocally that agropastoralists who cultivated barley and wheat raised goats and sheep hunted wild animals made stone tools and pottery and lived in small mudbrick settlements were present in southern turkmenistan by 7 000 years ago c 6 000 bce calibrated where they came into contact with hunter gatherers of the keltiminar culture it is possible that barley and goats were domesticated locally but the available archaeological and genetic evidence leads to the conclusion that all or most of the elements of the neolithic jeitun culture spread to the region from farther west by a process of demic or cultural diffusion that broadly parallels the spread of neolithic agropastoralism from southwest asia into europe by synthesizing for the first time what is currently known about the origins of agriculture in a large part of central asia between the more fully investigated regions of southwest asia and china this book makes a unique contribution to the worldwide literature on transitions from hunting and gathering to agriculture

following the dissolution of the soviet union in the 1990s new states most of them muslim emerged in central asia and the caucasus these new states proved to be both oil rich and central in the strip of conflict and instability that stretches from central europe to the far east this volume draws attention to previously neglected issues which could result in conflict the water problem and negotiation in central asia the issues of southern azerbaijan ajaria and javakheti the many problems of multi ethnic daghestan two attempts at unity in the northern caucasus the book also re examines some of the established truths regarding the states around the caspian sea and re evaluates the validity of the term caspian region and the question of who should be included in this new region the general belief that the caspian region will be a geopolitical centre of the 21st century the axiom that the dissolution of the ussr has reopened the great game moreover the caspian region thoughtfully re examines the questions of democracy of fundamentalist islam and of the complex ambivalent relationship between islam and nationalism in the region

from 1200 bce to 900 ce the world witnessed the rise of powerful new

states and empires as well as networks of cross cultural exchange and conquest considering the formation and expansion of these large scale entities this fourth volume of the cambridge world history series outlines key economic political social cultural and intellectual developments that occurred across the globe in this period leading scholars examine critical transformations in science and technology economic systems attitudes towards gender and family social hierarchies education art and slavery the second part of the volume focuses on broader processes of change within western and central eurasia the mediterranean south asia africa east asia europe the americas and oceania as well as offering regional studies highlighting specific topics from trade along the silk roads and across the sahara to chaco culture in the us southwest to confucianism and the state in east asia

the grove encyclopedia of islamic art and architecture is the most comprehensive reference work in this complex and diverse area of art history built on the acclaimed scholarship of the grove dictionary of art this work offers over 1 600 up to date entries on islamic art and architecture ranging from the middle east to central and south asia africa and europe and spans over a thousand years of history recent changes in islamic art in areas such as afghanistan iran and iraq are elucidated here by distinguished scholars entries provide in depth art historical and cultural information about dynasties art forms artists architecture rulers monuments archaeological sites and stylistic developments in addition over 500 illustrations of sculpture mosaic painting ceramics architecture metalwork and calligraphy illuminate the rich artistic tradition of the islamic world with the fundamental understanding that islamic art is not limited to a particular region or to a defined period of time the grove encyclopedia of islamic art and architecture offers pathways into islamic culture through its art

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The Black Death's Grim Toll: How Many Lives Did the Plague Truly Claim?

Imagine a world consumed by a relentless killer, a shadow that swept across continents leaving devastation in its wake. This isn't a fictional horror story; it's the chilling reality of the Black Death, the bubonic plague pandemic that ravaged Eurasia and North Africa in the mid-14th century. But how many perished? The exact number remains frustratingly elusive, shrouded in the mists of time and the chaotic nature of medieval record-keeping. Let's delve into this haunting question, exploring the available evidence and the complexities involved in estimating such a staggering loss of life.

The Challenges of Counting the Dead: A Medieval Puzzle

Pinpointing the exact death toll of the Black Death is a monumental task. Medieval record-keeping was far from uniform. Many regions lacked centralized systems for recording births and deaths, and those that did often lacked the consistency or detail we expect today. Local chronicles, church registers, and tax records offer glimpses into the devastation, but these sources are often incomplete, fragmented, or subject to bias. For example, a village register might record only the deaths of parishioners, omitting the fate of travelers or the marginalized populations living on its fringes. Further complicating matters is the identification of the disease itself. While we now understand the Black Death to have been primarily caused by Yersinia pestis, contemporaneous accounts often conflated it with other diseases, making differentiation difficult. This leads to inaccuracies in historical interpretations, especially regarding the scale of the pandemic's impact.

The Estimates: A Range of Catastrophe

Given the challenges mentioned above, the mortality figures are estimates, ranging widely depending on the methodology and data used. A frequently cited figure is 30-60% of Europe's population perished between 1346 and 1353. This translates to roughly 25-50 million

deaths, a truly staggering number considering the significantly smaller population of Europe at the time (estimated between 75 and 100 million). However, some scholars argue that these figures are too conservative. They point to evidence suggesting higher mortality rates in specific regions, such as Florence, where chroniclers described bodies piling up in the streets. Others contend that the impact extended beyond Europe, significantly affecting North Africa and parts of Asia, potentially pushing the total number of deaths much higher. Estimates exceeding 75 million are not uncommon in some academic discussions, though they are also debated extensively.

The Ripple Effect: Beyond the Immediate Deaths

The impact of the Black Death extended far beyond the immediate mortality. The pandemic devastated the labor force, causing widespread economic disruption. The loss of skilled artisans, farmers, and laborers led to shortages, inflation, and social upheaval. The social and political consequences were profound, shaping the course of European history in the centuries that followed. For example, the significant reduction in the peasant population led to an increase in their bargaining power, contributing to the decline of feudalism. Furthermore, the psychological impact of the plague was immense. The widespread fear and despair fueled religious fervor and persecution, while the constant threat of death profoundly altered social attitudes towards mortality and the afterlife. The experience left an indelible mark on the collective psyche of Europe, influencing art, literature, and even religious practices.

Regional Variations: A Patchwork of Devastation

The impact of the plague wasn't uniform across Europe. Some regions experienced far higher mortality rates than others. Coastal cities, with their bustling ports and trade routes, often suffered disproportionately due to the rapid spread of the disease. Conversely, more isolated rural areas, while not immune, sometimes faced less severe outbreaks. The availability of resources, sanitation practices (or lack thereof), and the density of population all played significant roles in determining the severity of the plague's impact on particular regions.

Conclusion: A Legacy of Uncertainty and Impact

Determining the precise number of people who died from the Black Death remains a formidable challenge. The scarcity of reliable data, the complexity of identifying plague-related deaths amongst other causes, and the sheer scale of the disaster contribute to the wide range of estimates. Yet, the uncertainty about the exact numbers doesn't diminish the immense impact of the Black Death. Its legacy extends beyond the staggering death toll to include profound social, economic, and political transformations that reshaped the course of history. The Black Death serves as a sobering reminder of the devastating potential of pandemics and the importance of preparedness and public health measures.

Expert FAQs:

1. Were there different forms of the plague, and did they have differing mortality rates? Yes, bubonic plague, septicemic plague, and pneumonic plague all resulted from Yersinia pestis infection, but they presented different symptoms and mortality rates. Pneumonic plague, spread through the air, was particularly lethal. 2. How did the Black Death spread so rapidly? The combination of rampant trade routes (especially along the Silk Road), the dense populations of medieval cities, and a lack of understanding of disease transmission facilitated rapid spread. Rat fleas carrying the bacteria were a primary vector. 3. What were the long-term demographic consequences of the Black Death? Beyond immediate deaths, the plague led to long-term demographic shifts, including population decline, altered age structures, and labor shortages, impacting social and economic structures for centuries, 4. How did the Black Death influence advancements in medicine and public health? While not directly leading to immediate breakthroughs, the horrific experience fostered a gradual shift towards improved sanitation and quarantine measures, although understanding of disease transmission remained rudimentary for centuries. 5. Are there any contemporary parallels to the Black Death's impact that we can learn from? The COVID-19 pandemic offers stark parallels, highlighting the potential for rapid global spread, the importance of public health responses, and the profound social and economic consequences of widespread infectious disease.

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