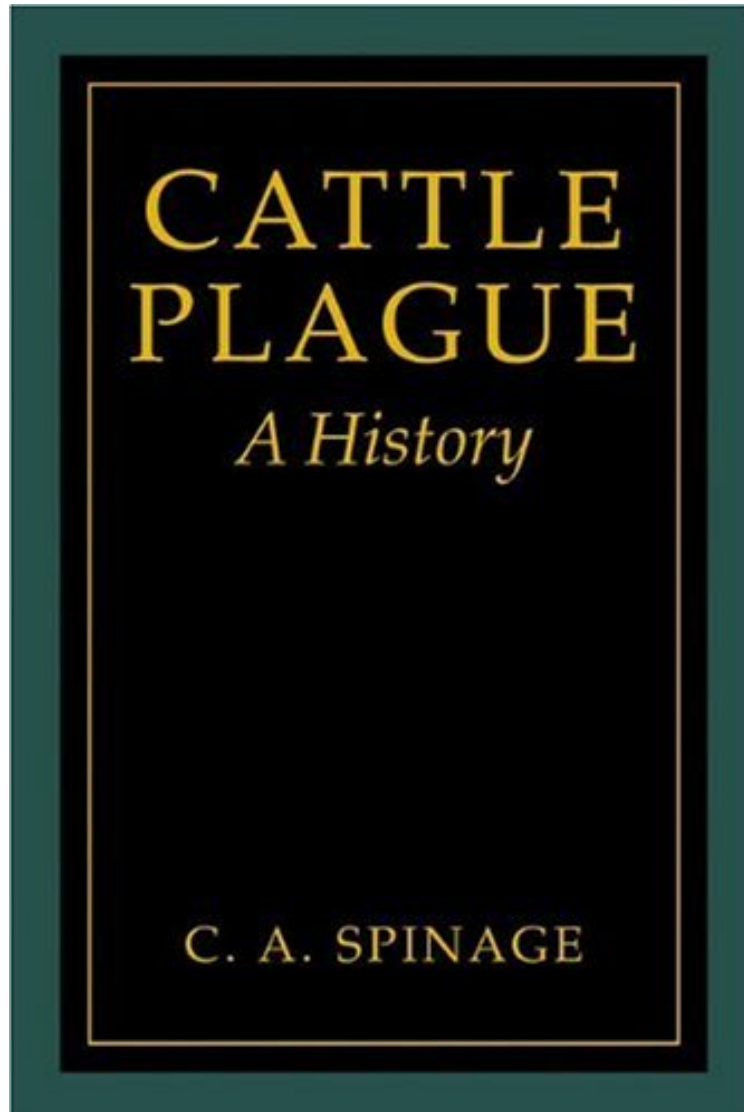


[Download free ebook] Cattle Plague: A History

Cattle Plague: A History

C.A. Spinage

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C.A. Spinage : Cattle Plague: A History before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cattle Plague: A History:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Specialized But Hardly Narrow Study By Chimonsoho Both price and content will restrict the audience for this book. That is a shame, because it is a superb study of its subject, one which deserves greater attention. Also known as rinderpest, CP is a longstanding scourge of bovine populations and the peoples who depend on them. It is a highly contagious disease of the lungs, so much that when epizootics occur, major government and private efforts to contain it are initiated, with variable success rates. Spinage is a veteran researcher on

African mammal species. This expertise appears to good advantage in his fine account of the continent's great rinderpest outbreak of the 1890s, which weakened African societies and states just as Europe's colonial onslaught reached its peak. The necessary details of epizootiology are formidable and may deter many general readers, but Spinage is a writer skilled enough to render them as accessibly as possible. "CPAH" contrasts nicely with a classic environmental history of sleeping sickness, J. Ford, "Role of the Trypanosomiases in African Ecology," also comprehensive but perhaps still more forbidding. The whole work is well-written and, with generous coverage of global historical developments as context, there's lots to learn here beyond disease history. Hidden behind a veneer of academic specialization is a book with much to offer a wide readership. ****1/2 stars. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Review taken from Australian Veterinary History Record By A Customer This book is most undoubtedly the most exhaustive historical and contemporary account of cattle plague written to date. It provides an epidemiological account of this historic disease from the earliest possible times to the situation as it occurs today. The book deserves a place in any collection or library concerned with infectious diseases and should be read by all those interested in history and how livestock and livestock diseases have shaped our society. Review by Martyn Jeggo

Cattle Plague: A History is the most comprehensive general study of the history of cattle plague or rinderpest yet attempted, of which there has not been a book in English since 1866. With its stranglehold on the economy of Europe until the later 19th century, rinderpest has been the most neglected study in history. The most virulent and dreaded animal disease to affect Europe and Asia from ancient times with up to 95 percent mortality of affected cattle; in the 18th century it is estimated to have carried off more than 200 million head of cattle in Europe, exclusive of Siberia and Tartary. Germany alone lost 28 million between 1711 and 1865, 3 in every 4 animals dying. Following its introduction into Britain in 1745, the losses in 1745-57 were estimated at in excess of half a million head. Its introduction in 1865 with a dozen oxen led to the death, including those which were slaughtered, of 278,943 animals, some estimates putting the loss as high as 420,000, representing 7 per cent of the national herd; according to some affecting livestock farming and the meat trade for the next 25 years. It was responsible for a major panzootic in Africa at the turn of the 19th century, devastating domestic and wild animals alike and affecting the ecology of Africa to the present. Confined today to one known remaining focus in Africa, the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations hopes to eradicate this disease entirely by 2010, which if successful will be the first animal disease to be eradicated from the world (and the second disease after smallpox) and would be one of the greatest achievements ever in veterinary science. Cattle Plague: A History is divided into five sections, dealing with the nature of the virus, followed by a chronological history of its occurrence in Europe from the Roman Empire to the final 20th century outbreaks; then administrative control measures through legislation, the principal players from the 18th century, followed by an analysis of some effects, political, economic and social. Then follows attempts at cure from earliest times encompassing superstition and witchcraft, largely Roman methods persisting until the 19th century; the search for a cure through inoculation and the final breakthrough in Africa at the end of the 19th century. The last section covers the disease in Asia and Africa. Appendices cover regulations now in force to control the disease as well as historical instructions, decrees and statutes dating from 1745-1878.

About the Author C.A. Spinage, is a retired African wildlife ecologist with a particular interest in rinderpest in Africa. He is a one-time lecturer at the College of African Wildlife Management, Tanzania, and was a senior professional grade employee of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, responsible for advising governments at the highest level on wild life management in several African countries. He is now retired and spends his time researching and writing; Cattle Plague: A History being the result of some eight years' fulltime work and over thirty years' interest.