

## History of Pandemics and Social Change in Southeast Asia

This resource packet includes a selection of secondary and primary sources on the history of pandemics and social change in Southeast Asia. These resources were presented by University of Michigan [Center for Southeast Asian Studies \(CSEAS\)](#) as part of the 2020 World History & Literature Initiative: Pandemics & Power in World History and Literature.

### Secondary Sources:

- Andrew Latham, “How 3 Prior Pandemics Triggered Massive Societal Shifts”. *The Conversation*. October 1, 2020.  
<https://theconversation.com/how-3-prior-pandemics-triggered-massive-societal-shifts-146467>.
- Examining the Pandemic’s Disproportionate Impact on Black Americans. UM School of Public Health Population Health Podcast. Michigan Online. Podcast Audio. June 12, 2020.  
<https://online.umich.edu/collections/covid-19/short/disproportionate-impact-on-black-americans/>.
- Detroit Survey Shows Impact of COVID-19. Michigan Online. April 27, 2020.  
<https://online.umich.edu/collections/covid-19/short/detroit-survey-covid19/?playlist=race-class-equality>.
- “The Art History of Pandemics”. How to Talk About Art History Blog. July 22, 2020. Accessed March 9, 2021.  
<http://www.howtotalkaboutarthistory.com/art-history-101/the-art-history-of-pandemics/>.

### Primary Sources:

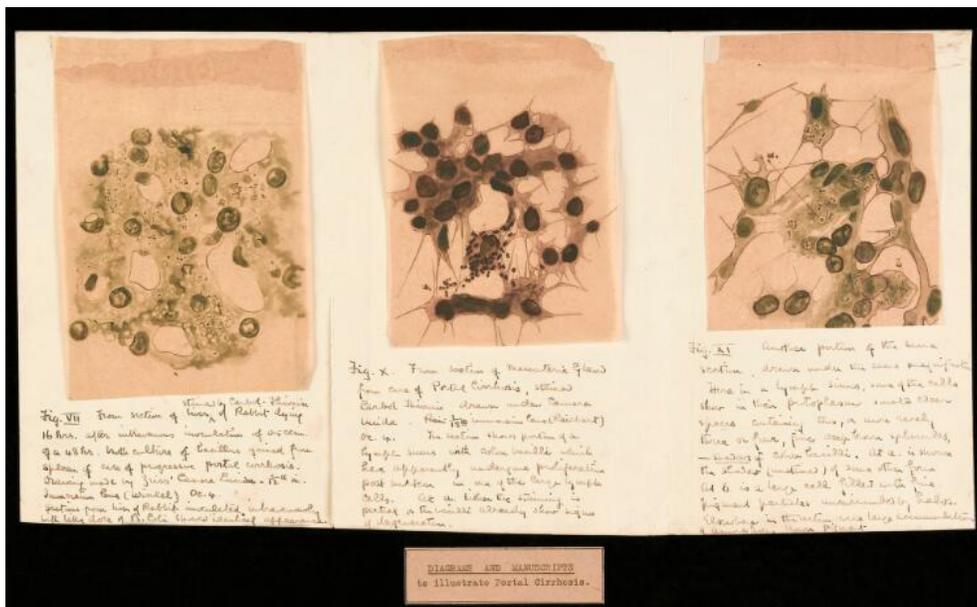
- Detroit Health Department. COVID-19 Dashboard.  
<https://codtableau.detroitmi.gov/t/DHD/views/CityofDetroit-PublicCOVIDDashboard/ZIPCodeCaseDashboard>.



Bruegel The Elder, Peter. The Triumph of Death. Oil on Panel. 1562-1563. Museo Del Prado (Madrid). <https://www.museodelprado.es/en/the-collection/art-work/the-triumph-of-death/>.



Yoshitoshi, Tsukoika. Untitled. Woodblock Print. 1889-1892. In Yoshitoshi, Tsukoika, Shinkei Sanjurokuten (1889-1892).



Drawing of the 1918 Influenza. Credit: [Wellcome Collection](#). Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0).

# History of pandemics and social change

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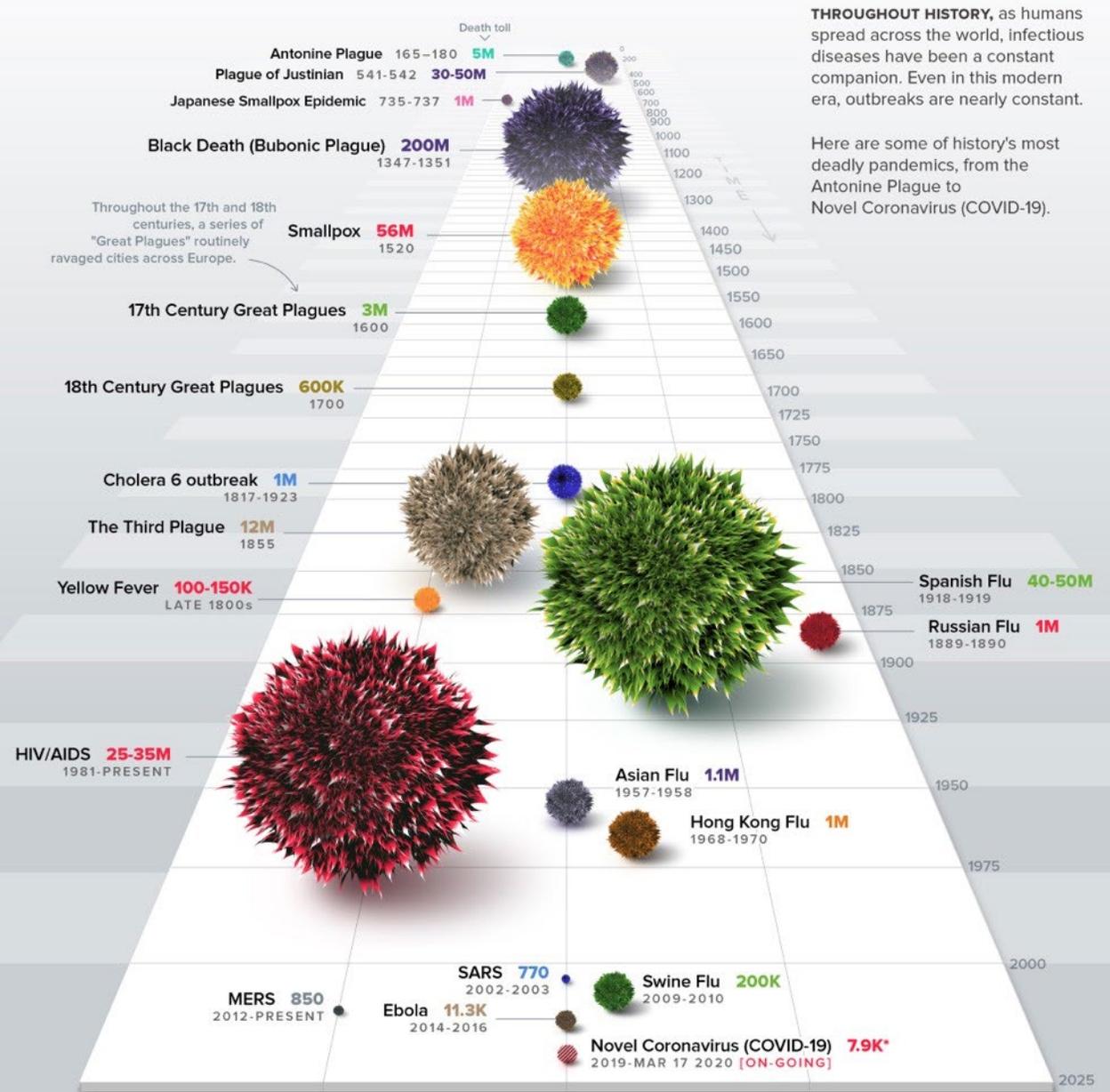
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# HISTORY OF PANDEMICS

PAN-DEM-IC (of a disease) prevalent over a whole country or the world.



THROUGHOUT HISTORY, as humans spread across the world, infectious diseases have been a constant companion. Even in this modern era, outbreaks are nearly constant.

Here are some of history's most deadly pandemics, from the Antonine Plague to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/history-of-pandemics-deadliest/>



“As the Indians did not know the remedy of the disease, they died in heaps, like bedbugs. In many places it happened that everyone in a house died, and as it was impossible to bury the great number of dead, they pulled down the houses over them, so that their homes became their tombs.”

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/how-smallpox-devastated-the-aztecs-and-helped-spain-conquer-an-american-civilization-500-years-ago>

# Consequences of Conquest of Aztecs

- Mass collapse of indigenous populations
- Initiated wave of conquests
- Established Spain as a major world power
- Cultural genocide of Mesoamerica



# Cholera - two centuries of pandemics

- Caused by *vibrio cholera* bacterium
- Exposure by contaminated water (feces)
- Violent vomiting and diarrhea causes massive dehydration and organ failure
- Easy to spread, easy to prevent

# Cholera – primarily a “political disease”



Dr Dominique Legros

<http://www.emro.who.int/pandemic-epidemic-diseases/news/saying-we-can-end-cholera-is-not-silly-at-all.html>

# CHOLERA.

## PREVENTION.

1. Let every person be washed perfectly clean, morning and evening.
2. Let every room be cleaned and swept every day, and well washed at least once a week.
3. Let no rubbish nor dirt lie about the door, nor near the house.
4. Let off all stagnant water.
5. Let the house be whitewashed with hot lime.
6. Beware of Drunkenness—nothing is so likely to bring on Disease.

If any one is seized with sickness, slight vomiting, and purging, a burning heat at the stomach, with cramp in various parts of the body, and a feeling of cold all over, it probably is the Cholera.

### Advice to Families.

1. Send off instantly for the Doctor.
2. Send to \_\_\_\_\_ for the Medicine for the Cholera, and give the Patient a table-spoonful of the Mixture, in hot water, as under, and fifteen drops of the Oil of Peppermint in hot brandy and water.
3. If he vomits, give him another dose of each, and so on, till it stays on his stomach.
4. Warm the bed and put him into it between the blankets: you must do all you can to get warmth into him.
5. Set some water on the fire, and as soon as possible dip some flannels in it scalding, wring them out and foment the parts where the pain is felt.
6. Fill two or three quart bottles with hot water and put them to the parts where the pain is felt, and to the hands and feet.
7. If no better, let some persons rub him with dry and hot flannels wherever he feels pain.
8. Take some common flour and flour of mustard, half and half, mix it with a little hot vinegar or water; then spread it a quarter of an inch thick on a cloth, about a foot square, and put it on his stomach, and other plasters on his hands and feet, and where he feels most pain.
9. While attending the sick, be sure not to let him breathe in your face.
10. When you leave him take care to wash your hands, face, and mouth, with clean water, mixed with vinegar.
11. Some Chloride of Lime in water, should be sprinkled about the room to prevent catching the disorder.

### The Medicine proper to be kept in every family is:—

- 1st. The Mixture, two ounces of Laudanum to fourteen ounces of Brandy, which makes a pint of the mixture. A table-spoonful mixed with as much hot water, is a dose.
- 2nd. An ounce of Oil of Peppermint, or Cajeput. Fifteen drops is a dose, in a wine-glass of brandy and water.
- 3rd. A bottle of Chloride of Lime. A wine-glassful put into four quarts of water makes the proper Mixture for sprinkling.

Be not thou far from me, O Lord; thou art my succour haste thee to help me.—PSALM 22.  
Consider and hear me, O Lord my God, lighten mine eyes that I sleep not in death.—PSALM 13.  
My God, haste thee to help me; forsake me not when my strength faileth me.—PSALM 71.

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# PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1848.

(11 & 12 Vict. c. 63.)

## NOTICE.

WHEREAS, in pursuance of the Public Health Act, 1848, the General Board of Health have directed *Robert Rawlinson* Esquire, one of the Superintending Inspectors appointed for the purposes of the said Act to visit *the Town and Township of Omskirk in the County of Lancaster*

and there to make public enquiry and examine witnesses with respect to the matters following; that is to say,

The Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water.

The State of the Burial Grounds.

The Number and Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants.

The Local Acts of Parliament (if any) for Paving, Lighting, Cleansing, Watching, Regulating, Supplying with Water, or improving, or having relation to the purposes of the said Act.

The natural Drainage Areas.

The existing \_\_\_\_\_ Parochial or other Local Boundaries.

The Boundaries which may be most advantageously adopted for the purposes of the said Act.

And other matters in respect whereof the General Board of Health is desirous of being informed for the purpose of enabling them to judge of the propriety of reporting to Her Majesty or making a provisional order with a view to the application of the said Act, or any part thereof to *the said Town and Township*.

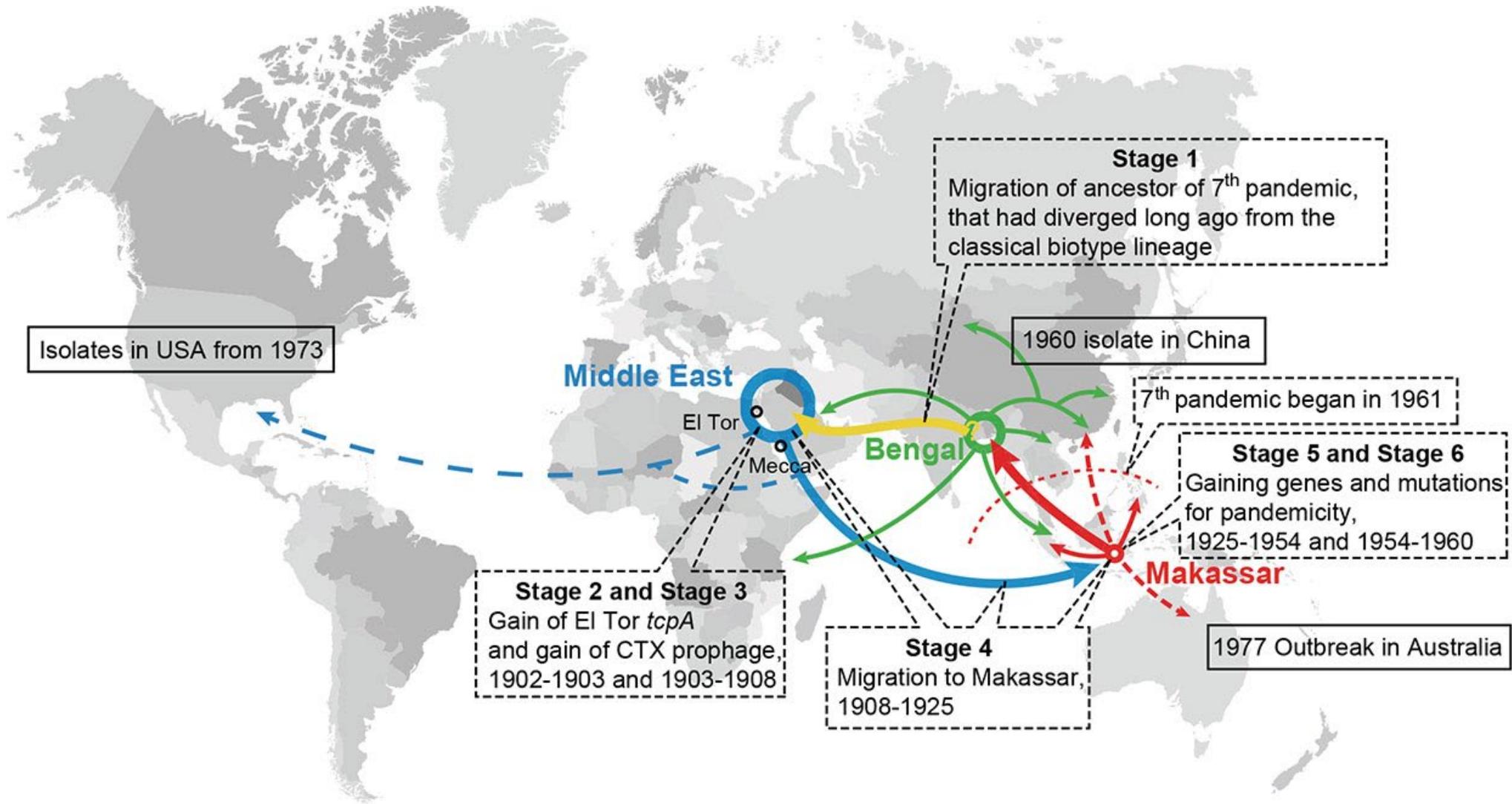
Now therefore, I the said *Robert Rawlinson* do hereby give notice, that on the *twenty-first* day of *November* now next, at *Eleven* o'clock in the *fore* noon, at *the Town Hall* I will proceed upon the said enquiry, and that I shall then and there be prepared to hear all persons desirous of being heard before me upon the subject of the said enquiry.

Dated this *twenty-ninth* day of *October* 184*7*.

*Robert Rawlinson*

[http://www.branchcollective.org/?ps\\_articles=pamelakgilbert-on-cholera-in-nineteenth-century-england](http://www.branchcollective.org/?ps_articles=pamelakgilbert-on-cholera-in-nineteenth-century-england)

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/victorianbritain/healthy/source6.htm>





A woman in Haiti collects water in a bucket during the 2010 cholera outbreak. KENA BETANCUR/REUTERS/NEWSCOM

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/11/how-today-s-cholera-pandemic-was-born>

# Cholera to COVID19 – Global divide

- Availability of PPE for health and essential workers
- Outsourcing of COVID vaccine trials to low income countries (India, Pakistan)
- Low income countries/stateless populations ignored

COVID as a vehicle for social  
change?

By Richard A. Ooppel Jr., Robert Gebeloff, K.K. Rebecca Lal, Will Wright and Mitch Smith July 5, 2020

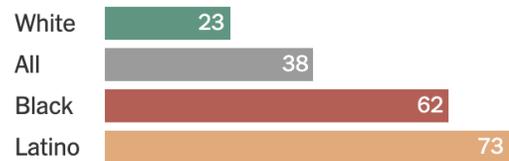
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## The New York Times

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### Coronavirus cases per 10,000 people



Healthcare workers at Brooklyn's Kings County Hospital show their solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement during the coronavirus pandemic, New York, June 4, 2020. © 2020 AP

Photo/Mark Lennihan



A pro-democracy protester displays a sign during a demonstration Thursday in the central business district of Bangkok.  
*Gemunu Amarasinghe/AP*

## Thailand protests: Thousands rally for third straight day despite government ban

17 October



Pro-democracy protesters flash a three-finger salute, inspired by the Hunger Games films

EPA



This Week in Asia / Politics

## Philippine police investigate 23 for coronavirus 'fake news', cyber libel

- The revelation comes amid a diplomatic row between Manila and Taipei over a Filipino domestic helper accused of 'cyber libel' for criticising President Duterte over his handling of the virus
- A group of academics want a section punishing fake news about the virus to be removed from the emergency bill signed by Duterte in March



**Raissa Robles**

Published: 12:00pm, 1 May, 2020 ▾

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# Jail time, up to ₱1-M fine await peddlers of fake COVID-19 news

By [Xave Gregorio, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Mar 25, 2020 8:55:02 AM



# Geographic distribution of 14-day cumulative number of reported COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population, worldwide, as of 3 December 2020

