



# A History of Public Health

By George Rosen



## A History of Public Health By George Rosen

Since publication in 1958, George Rosen's classic book has been regarded as the essential international history of public health. Describing the development of public health in classical Greece, imperial Rome, England, Europe, the United States, and elsewhere, Rosen illuminates the lives and contributions of the field's great figures. He considers such community health problems as infectious disease, water supply and sewage disposal, maternal and child health, nutrition, and occupational disease and injury. And he assesses the public health landscape of health education, public health administration, epidemiological theory, communicable disease control, medical care, statistics, public policy, and medical geography.

Rosen, writing in the 1950s, may have had good reason to believe that infectious diseases would soon be conquered. But as Dr. Pascal James Imperato writes in the new foreword to this edition, infectious disease remains a grave threat. Globalization, antibiotic resistance, and the emergence of new pathogens and the reemergence of old ones, have returned public health efforts to the basics: preventing and controlling chronic and communicable diseases and shoring up public health infrastructures that provide potable water, sewage disposal, sanitary environments, and safe food and drug supplies to populations around the globe.

A revised introduction by Elizabeth Fee frames the book within the context of the historiography of public health past, present, and future, and an updated bibliography by Edward T. Morman includes significant books on public health history published between 1958 and 2014. For seasoned professionals as well as students, *A History of Public Health* is visionary and essential reading.

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Rosen, professor of health education at Columbia University's School of Health and Administrative Medicine and editor of the *American Journal of Public Health*, first offered this volume in 1958. His text covers the evolution of public health in ancient Greece and Rome, Europe, and the United States and profiles individuals who influenced the field. This edition includes a new introduction covering today's health problems along with a new bibliography and a biographical essay on Rosen. For academic and public libraries.

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Review

George Rosen's *History of Public Health* is a classic.

(*New England Journal of Medicine*)

George Rosen's history of public health, which follows international development from their Graeco-Roman origins up to the 1950s, has not yet been superseded as a comprehensive introductory survey of the subject... This will be an invaluable resource for all students of the subject, facilitating access to the relevant literature on a wide range of subjects, from specific diseases, through the experience of individual countries, to such areas of public health concern as education, statistics, mental health, and nursing.

(*Medical History*)

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(*Medical History*)

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