



THE GREAT PANDEMIC OF HISTORY



The Plague of Athens



The Black Death

In 430 BC, the city-state of Athens was thriving when the pandemic hit. Thucydides, author of *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, caught it and described his symptoms. We call it a 'plague', but nobody actually knows what the virus was.



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Forty years ago, a mysterious virus emerged in the gay community in the United States. Identified in 1983 by the Institut Pasteur, HIV/AIDS has killed millions of people around the world, and continues to do so...



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In the 19th century, parts of Asia were devastated by a disease which then entered Europe through Russia. Nobody, from the poorest to the most well-off, was immune to its ravages.



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In the 14th century, the bubonic plague from Asia travelled along the Silk Road and reached the Mediterranean. Within five years, it killed between more than a third of the European population.



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We still don't know where the Spanish Flu came from, but it became a pandemic when it reached Europe in 1918. Some estimates put the death toll at more than 50 million people worldwide.



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