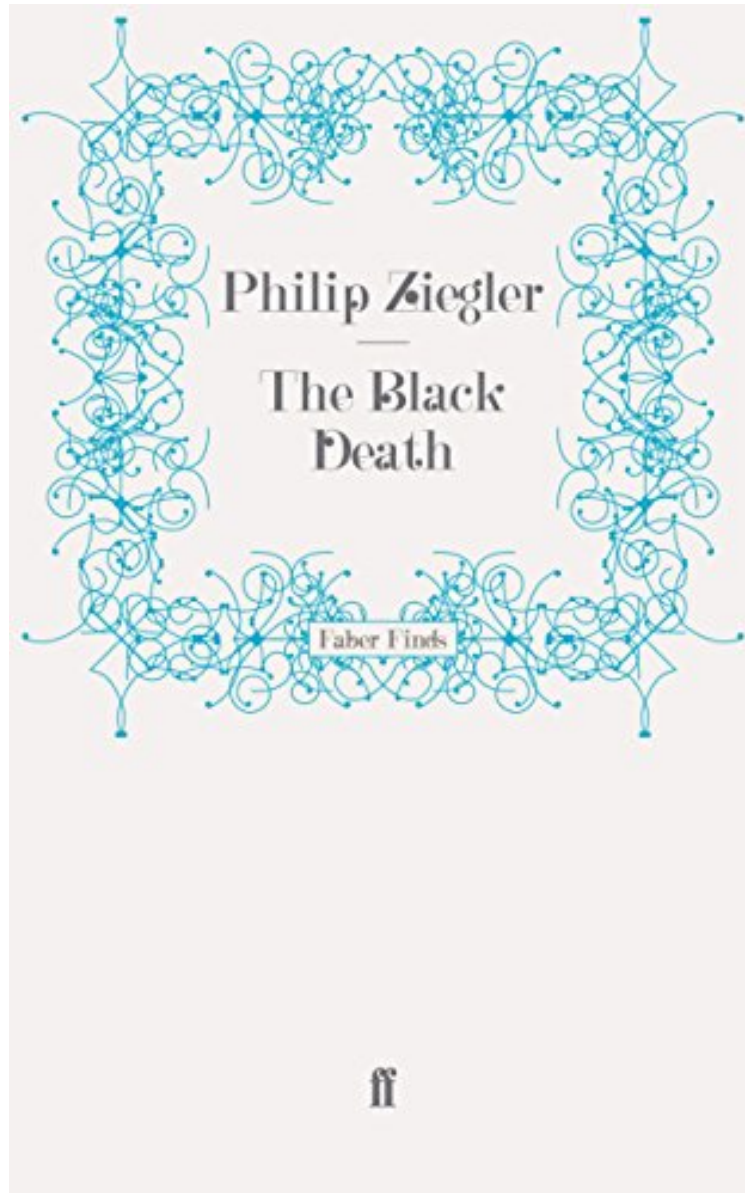


[Download pdf] The Black Death (English Edition)

## The Black Death (English Edition)

*Von Philip Ziegler*

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**Von Philip Ziegler : The Black Death (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Black Death (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. solid academic analysisVon Benjamin GoodThe Black Death is a fairly academic book that seeks to give a comprehensive

overview of the plague that ravaged Europe around 1348 (the book only briefly refers to other epidemics that also occurred during the rest of the 14th century). Zeigler points out in his 1997 preface (the book originally being written in 1969) that the book contains "virtually no original research." His goal was to organize, analyze, and present all the various research work, studies, and articles on the Black Death into one complete volume, since apparently there existed no such work at the time. For the general reader (meaning somebody who, like me, is not a historian or researching to Black Death; presumably such people already know of this book and would not be interested in my review of it), the book is a bit on the dry academic side, but it is still a quite enjoyable read. Zeigler starts with the origins of the disease, and traces it through Italy, France, Spain, England, and the rest of Europe. There is a heavy emphasis on England, which gets about as much space in the book as the rest of Europe combined, apparently because there is much more surviving evidence and information about the plague from England than anywhere else. The result is that the middle of the book seems to bog down in monotonous details about number of deaths in individual towns, counties, etc. that are probably of little interest to most readers. But there is much more to enjoy. In my case, I know little about the Middle Ages beyond what I learned in grade school; thus I greatly enjoyed the sections on things such as the state of medical knowledge, the Flagellants, the persecution of the Jews, hygiene conditions in London, and other asides that were relevant to the situation at hand. The last 50 or so pages are also quite interesting, in which Zeigler discusses debate among historians over such issues as the total population of Europe at the time, the death toll from the plague, and the social, economic, agriculture, artistic, and religious effects of the plague, especially in the 50 years afterwards. Again, for some readers, it may seem a dry listing of numbers and facts. But it also shows exactly how historians work to piece together a complete picture of history based on the limited evidence available, and how such evidence can be interpreted in different ways. Zeigler does not put forth any new theories himself, but is willing to give cite the ideas of opposed historians in an effort to show a balanced picture and possibly draw some conclusions from them. In some cases where it is simply impossible for us to truly ever know the real answer (such as exactly what portion of the population died in the plague) Zeigler is willing to hazard some guesses, but also to admit that we really don't know. There is one major flaw: a 30-page chapter in the book in which Zeigler invents a fictional historical village and narrates the arrival of the plague. In his preface, Zeigler says that he received a lot of criticism for this chapter from those who claimed it had no place in scholarly writing. Zeigler defends the chapter, saying that "statistics and facts alone, however striking, could no convey the horror that afflicted Europe in the mid-fourteenth century." I agree with him on this point, and I thought the chapter was a good idea, until I actually read it. In my opinion, his fictional writing is so bland and devoid of emotion, that he failed in his attempt to give life to the horrors of the plague and their effect on the average man. Overall though, I definitely recommend this book to anybody with an interest in European history.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A comprehensive, thorough study Von Ein Kunde For anyone interested in the life and politics of the 14th. Century, Philip Ziegler's book is essential reading. Its construction takes the reader from the very origins of the Great Plague and its sweep across Europe in 1348. Medical knowledge and remedies of the period are described, the ghastly flagellants and persecution of the Jews, all remedies designed to avert the inevitable. Ziegler details the arrival of the disease in the West of England and its deadly and remorseless progress throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. His research is prodigious and local to the areas discussed and occasionally interspersed with literature from the age, some of which is extraordinarily moving. The information gleaned from his research is fairly presented; where a margin for error is possible, it is noted with the relevant explanation. The social and economic consequences of The Great Plague are still a matter of dispute amongst historians. Ziegler tackles this thorny discussion. Firstly the roots of the Peasant's Revolt of 1381 are given an airing, then the conclusions drawn from the highly elective statistics drawn from different parts of the country from various historians. For the reader, this is vexatious, when it is clear to anyone else not engaged in "scoring points" local outcomes were the result of "horses for courses". The single common factor is scarcity of labour raising wages to an unprecedented degree and enabling a mobility of labour hitherto unavailable in a quasi-feudal society. More striking for this reader perhaps, is the fact given the circumstances, it took nearly 600 years for the demands of the Peasants' Revolt to be met in full. As to whether the plagues of 1348 and 1361 and subsequent outbreaks 1368-9, 1371, 1375, 1390 and 1405 created a watershed in British history, is surely a superfluous question by any historian, but one apparently constantly raised. From a population believed to be between 3.7 and 4.6 million of which it's estimated up to 50%, 20-30% of those in the first two plagues died, it would be a miracle if life, political or otherwise, remained the same. Given those remaining were walking, talking human beings, they doubtless had other pressing concerns, enhanced or exacerbated by the dearth of population. Politics never die with people. As Ziegler avers the vacuum left in education provided scope for new ideas and doctrines; written vernacular English was one eventual outcome; the legal redistribution of land was a major issue; old skills were forever lost and new ones invented. The hierarchy of the established church did not emerge with much credit. Taking care of themselves and their possessions during the crisis did not endear them to the population at large. Post plague, being the major landowners, attempting to reimpose pre-plague wages and feudal conditions more strictly than any other freeholders probably laid the first paving slabs on the path to majority acceptance of Henry VIII's Reformation. In England, anti-clericalism manifested itself in Wyclif and Lollardy. A crisis of faith with social repercussions, comparisons of which are drawn with the social climate after the

Great War of 1914-18. There is obviously a case to be made for the fact that whilst times and circumstances change, people don't. Philip Ziegler has written a seminal, thought provoking work and at the same time treated his fellow historians equitably and courteously. A real achievement. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Definitive History of the Black Death! Von Ein Kunde This book was actually one of the sources I used for a history paper which I submitted to my grade eleven history teacher. I was amazed at how Mr. Ziegler presents his material. The book is very well written and keeps you in line with all events described. The Black Death truly was the worst natural and man-made disaster in history. Claiming approx. a third of Europe, it led to great changes in Europe itself and left a mark in the people themselves. Ziegler also describes the Black Death from country to country, and the bulk of the book is devoted to England. I have noticed that almost all historians of Medieval Europe have used Ziegler's book (first published in 1969), and I can now see why! If there is one book on the Black Death that you want to read, let it be this one!

Kurzbeschreibung Between 1347 and 1350, the Black Death killed at least one third of Europe's population. Philip Ziegler's classic account traces the course of the virulent epidemic through Europe and its dramatic effect on the lives of those whom it afflicted. First published nearly forty years ago, it remains definitive. 'The clarity and restraint on every page produce a most potent cumulative effect.' Michael Foot Kurzbeschreibung Between 1347 and 1350, the Black Death killed at least one third of Europe's population. Philip Ziegler's classic account traces the course of the virulent epidemic through Europe and its dramatic effect on the lives of those whom it afflicted. First published nearly forty years ago, it remains definitive. 'The clarity and restraint on every page produce a most potent cumulative effect.' Michael Foot Synopsis A series of natural disasters in the Orient during the 14th century caused the most devastating period of death and destruction in European history. One third of the people in Europe were killed over a period of just three years, and there was social and economic upheaval on an unparalleled scale. Philip Zeigler's overview of this crucial event synthesizes the records of contemporary chroniclers and the work of later historians in one volume. This illustrated narrative presents the full horror and destruction the disease had, and how much it contributed to the disintegration of an age.