

GSC 598: WEEK 2 OCTOBER 2020

# Biosecurity: A Multi-Dimensional Challenge of Escalating Complexity and Urgency

#### **Dr. George Poste**

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History of Biosecurity Threats: Pandemic and Plagues

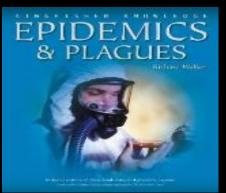


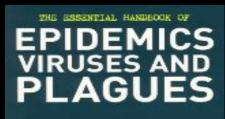
# The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

- pestilence
- war
- famine
- death

Albrecht Dürer, 1498

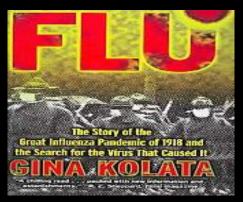
## Infectious Diseases: A Powerful Force in Human Evolution

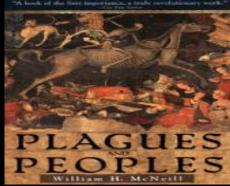


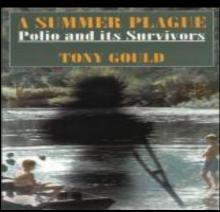


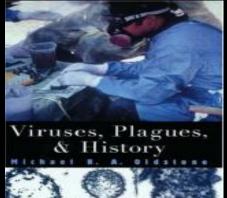


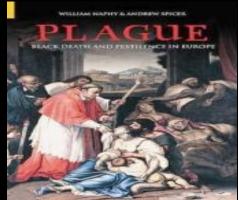
DR PETER MOORE



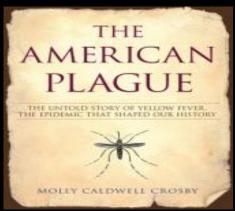


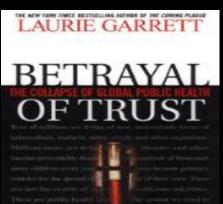


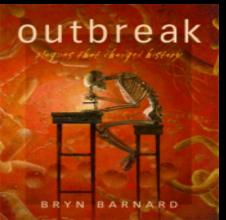


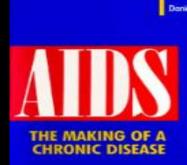


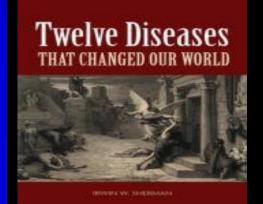
**Bizobeth Fee** 











#### History of Biosecurity Threats: Pandemics and Plagues

- multi-millennial history of major societal dislocations
- large scale disruptions, often over extended periods
- sadly, a consistent theme of neglect and threats ignored
  - reactive versus proactive preparedness
  - proliferation of public fear, distrust, scapegoating and social divisions
  - triggers for major cultural change
  - economic/shifts in geopolitical power and political and military ascendancy

#### History of Biosecurity Threats: Pandemics and Plagues

- 7 historical eras (soft boundaries and overlap)
- before 1800 AD
- 1800-1900 AD
- 1900 AD onwards
- 1950's onwards
- 1980's onwards
- 2000's onwards
- **2020:** the COVID-19 reset

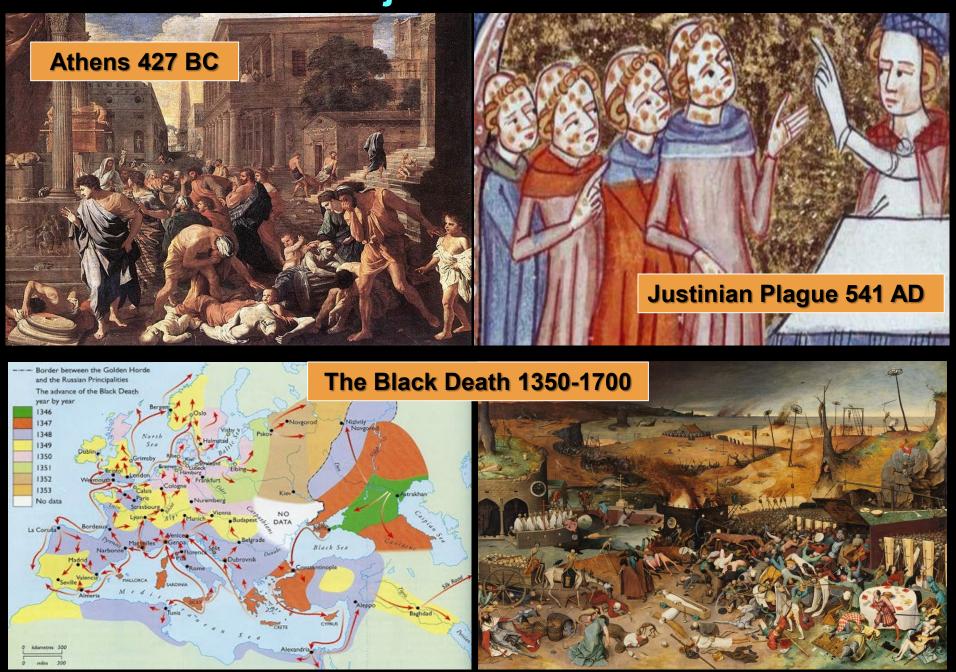
exploration, war and conflict

industrialization urbanization

trade,
globalization
and new
connectivities

scientific progress, new technologies, new risks

#### **Major Pandemics**



### History of Biosecurity Threats: Pandemics and Plagues Before 1800 AD

- omnipresent threat and average human life span limited to 30 years
- pestilence in livestock and crops drove repeated cycles of famine and civil unrest
- lack of understanding of disease causation
- little or no environmental or personal hygiene
- pervasive sense of helplessness against backdrop of illiteracy and misplaced faith in religious institutions for solutions

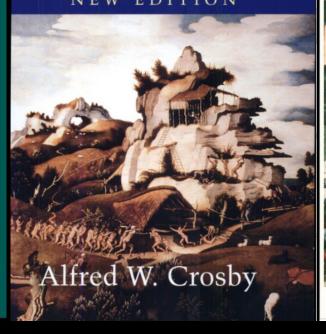
#### Global Exploration and the Dissemination of Infectious Diseases

With a new introduction by Gerald N. Grob Rats, Lice and History Hans Zinsser

# ECOLOGICAL IMPERIALISM

The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900–1900

NEW EDITION



### **Epidemics and Society**

FROM THE BLACK DEATH TO THE PRESENT

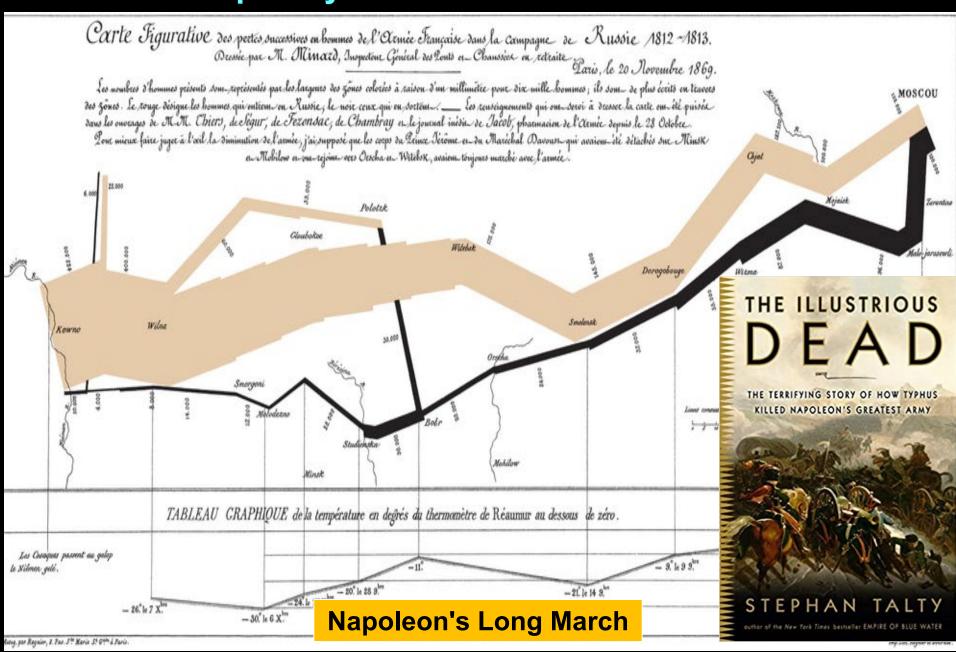


FRANK M. SNOWDEN

### History of Biosecurity Threats: Pandemics and Plagues Before 1800 AD

- global exploration by Western European nations for new land, resources and trade
- the new world' encounters the infectious diseases of the 'old world'
  - particular devastation in S. and N. America
  - decimation of Polynesia (measles)
- "payback": syphilis comes to Europe from Amerindians
- expanded encounters of Europeans with insect borne infectious diseases in tropical and semitropical climates
  - Yellow Fever, Dengue, typhus, malaria

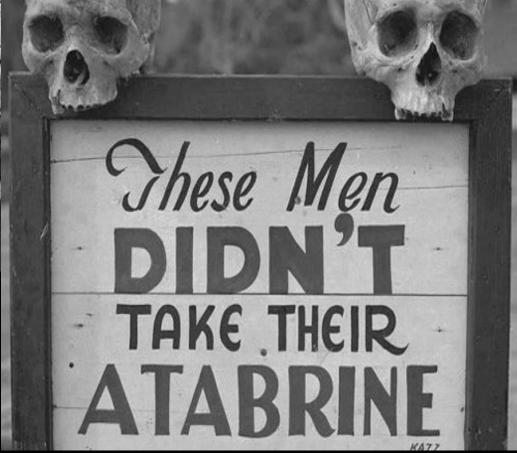
## Military Medicine: The Toll From Infectious Diseases Frequently Exceeds Combat Casualties



#### Military Medicine: The Toll From Infectious Diseases Frequently Exceeds Combat Casualties



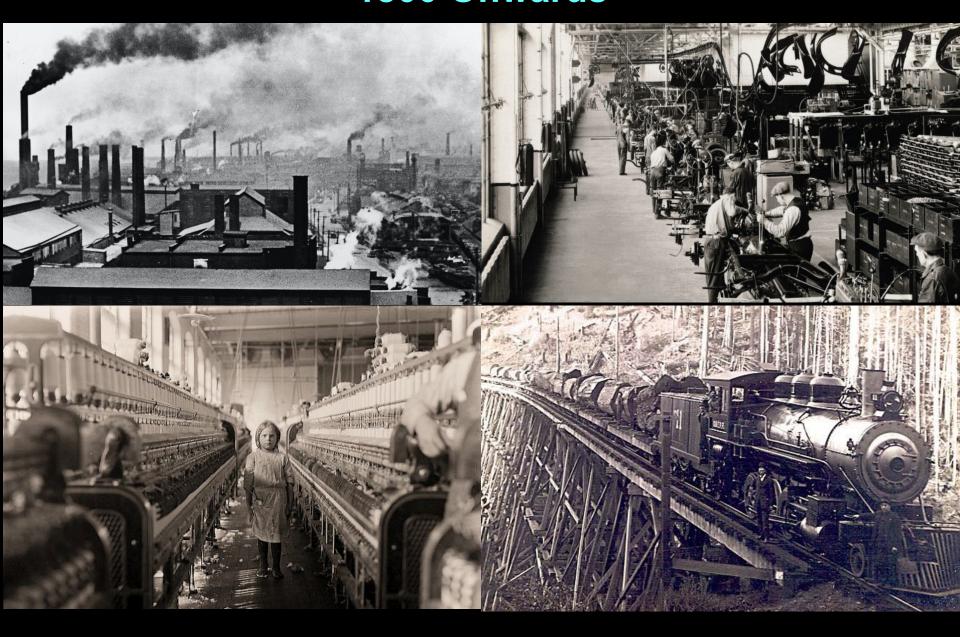
Malaria and the Pacific Campaigns WWII



#### Military Medicine: Force Protection and Projection

- long history of military campaigns in spreading disease
- expanded imperial military campaigns to capture global resources and markets for industrialization
- adverse impact of disease on military capabilities
- emergence of military medicine as a powerful intellectual resource in identification and control of infectious and parasitic diseases
  - Yellow Fever and construction of the Panama Canal
  - Malaria control programs WWII
  - WWII and the quest for antibiotics and vaccines

# Industrialization and the Agrarian to Urban Migration 1800 Onwards



#### **Urban Slums and Spread of Infectious Disease**



**Unsanitary and Unsafe Food** 





**Unregulated Quack Therapies** 



# CATARRH, AND THROAT TROUBLES.

CURE NERVOUSNESS, HEADACHE, and SLEEPLESSNESS.

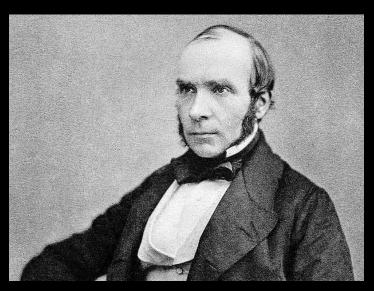
Price 50c. a box at Druggists or by mail. Send for Pamphlet. ALLEN COCAINE MFG. CO., 1254 Broadway, N. Y.

### History of Biosecurity Threats: Pandemics and Plagues 1800 Onwards

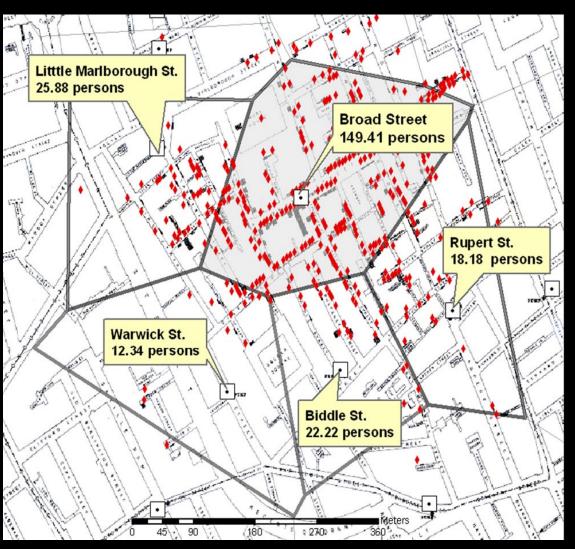
- rapid industrialization, urbanization and urban slums
  - epicenters for infectious diseases
- birth of large-scale public health programs and sanitation engineering
  - workforce health to sustain the industrial economic engine
- creation of International Sanitary Conventions (1851-1938)
   as precursors to WHO/FAO
- validation of the 'germ theory' of disease (1850-1885)
  - R. Koch, L. Pasteur

# The Foundation of Epidemiological Testing and Contact Tracing

Dr. John Snow, 1855



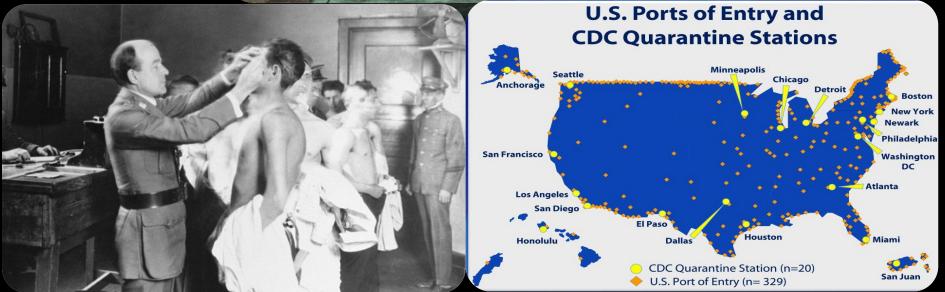
cholera deaths 1,000 population



## Evolution of Public Health as a Key Element of National Policy and Comprehensive Legal Controls







# Quarantine and Lockdowns: the Cordon Sanitaire: The Most Used Tool in Infection Control

#### London 1665



#### RULES and ORDERS

To be observed by all Justices of Peace, Mayors, Bayliffs, and other Officers, for prevention of the spreading of the Insection of the PLAGUE.

#### Published by His Majesties special Command.

6. That Fires in moveable Bans, or otherwife, be made in all necessary publique Dectings in Churches, &c. and convenient fumes to correct the Air be burnt thereon.

7. That care be taken that no untoholfom Peats, Ainking Fifth, Flesh, musty Cozn, oz any other untoholfome food be exposed to fale in any whops oz Parkets.

8. That no Stoine, Dogs, Cats, or tame Pigeons be permitted to pals up and down in Streets, or from house to house, in places Infected.

9. That the Laws against Inn Bates be forthwith put in Arict execution, and that no more Alehouses be Licensed then are absolutely necessary in each City or place, especially during the continuance of this present Contagion.

10. That each City and Lown forthwith probibe some convenient place remote from the same, where a pear-house, buts, or Sheds may be Erected, to be in readiness in case any Insection should break out; which is it shall happen to do. That able and faithful searchers and Craminers be forthwith provided and Sworn to Search all suspected bodies, so the usual signs of the plague, viz. Swellings or Allings under the Ears or Arm-pits, or upon the Groynes; Blains, Carbuncles, or little Spots, either on the Breas or dark, commonly called Tokens.

In Abat if any Poule be Infected, the first person or persons be forthwith removed to the said Peth house, Sheds, or Duts, so, the presentation of the rest of the Kamily: And that such house (though none be dead therein) be shut up so, fourty days, and habe a Red Cross, and Lord have mercy upon us, in Capital Letters affired on the door, and Clarbers appointed, as well to find them neressaries, as to keep them from condersing with the sound.

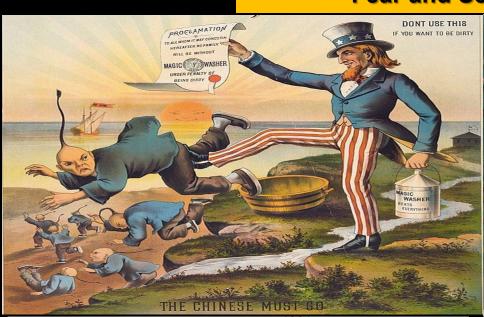
That at the opening of each Infected house ( after the expiration of the fair fourth hang ) a White Cross he affire





#### **Epidemics Amplify Social Divisions**

#### Fear and Scapegoating





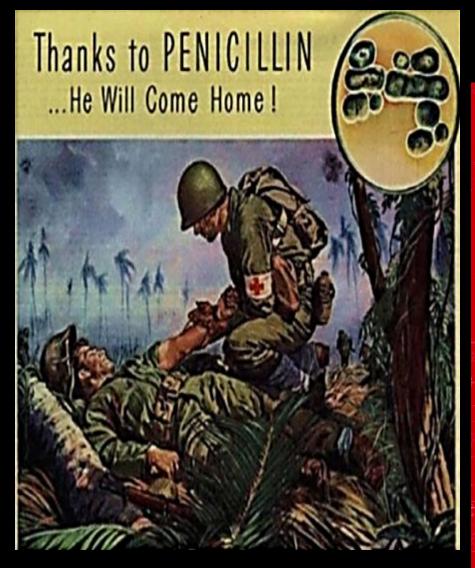




### History of Biosecurity Threats: Pandemics and Plagues 1900's Onwards

- continued national and international investment in public health programs
  - infection control, sanitation, housing, nutrition and education
- 1917-1919 global influenza pandemic
- use of chemical and biological weapons in World Wars I and II (later lecture)

### Post-World War II: A New Era of 'Wonder Drugs'





### History of Biosecurity Threats: Pandemics and Plagues 1980's Onwards



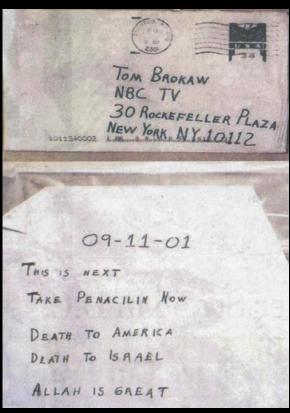
 success of global vaccination campaign to eradicate smallpox

 major progress in prevention of poliovirus and multiple childhood infectious diseases (G20 countries)

- emergence of HIV/AIDS
  - extensive mortality in Africa and Asia

# Amerithrax: October 2001 Assessing New Risks From Bioterrorism







### History of Biosecurity Threats: Pandemics and Plagues 2000 Onwards

- 9/11/2001 attack on USA and formation of US Department of Homeland Security
- increased concern about potential use of biological agents by terrorist groups, substate actors and nation states
- expanded 'homeland security' strategic requirements added to mission of multiple USG agencies, notably DOD and the Intelligence Community (IC)











# Dual-Use Applications of Synthetic Biology and the Expanded Threat Spectrum



Statement for the Record

Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence



James R. Clapper

Director of National Intelligence

February 9, 2016



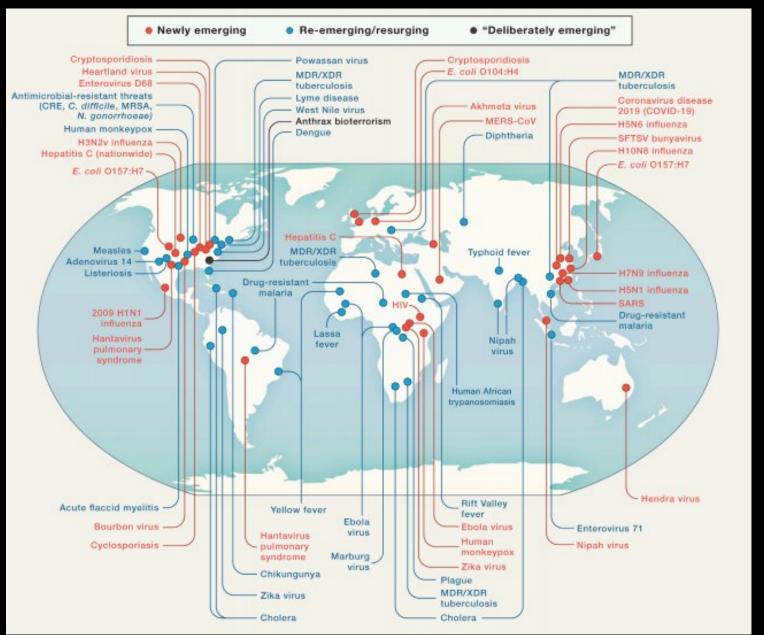
Technology Diffusion,
Automation,
Simplification and Cost
Reduction



New Oversight
Mechanisms and
International
Harmonization

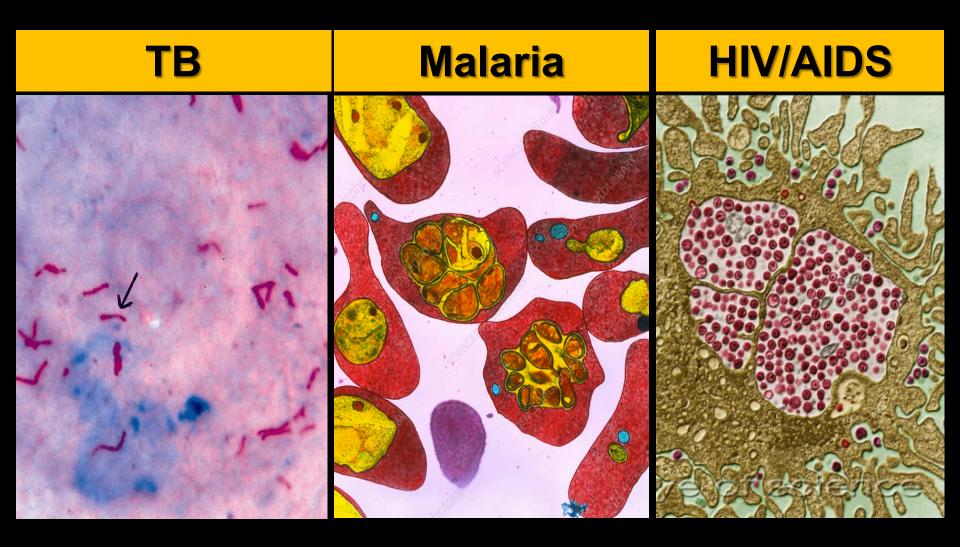
- beneficent and maleficent applications of same knowledge
- potential to cause profound societal disruptions based on deliberate misuse, error or accident

#### **Recent Emerging Infection Diseases**



Cell 182, D. Morens, A. Fauci (2020), 1082 https://www.cell.com/cell/pdf/S0092-8674(20)31012-6.pdf

#### The Big Three Still Undefeated



# The Evolution of Global Public Health Aspirations: Alma-Ata (1978) to Astana (2018)







Global Health Security Agenda

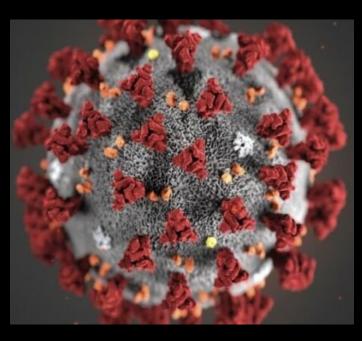
- prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease
- safeguard economies
- end the cycle of panic and neglect
- need for sustained investment commitment
- essential public health capacities represent recurring cost

## Global Public Health: A Failing Score Card: COVID-19 and Stark US Deficiencies Revealed



How Will Decades of Neglect Be Reversed?

#### 2020 SARS-CoV-2: The Great Reset



- lessons learned?
- what will the 'new normal' look like?
- what will be the recovery time for different countries/sectors?
- new geopolitical instabilities?
- implications of a new cold war for technological/military dominance (US vs PRC)?
- discussion topics for weeks 4 to 7