

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910449967403321
Autore	Briggs Charles L. <1953->
Titolo	Stories in the time of cholera [[electronic resource]] : racial profiling during a medical nightmare // Charles L. Briggs with Clara Mantini-Briggs
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, Calif., : University of California Press, c2003
ISBN	1-59734-921-6 9786612358043 1-282-35804-9 1-4175-0814-0 0-520-93852-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (457 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	Mantini-BriggsClara <1956->
Disciplina	614.5/14/0987
Soggetti	Cholera - Venezuela - Epidemiology Cholera - Social aspects - Venezuela Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: Death in the delta -- 1. preparing for a bacterial invasion: Cholera and Inequality in Venezuela -- 2. Epidemic at the Door: Cholera Prevention in the Bureaucratic Imaginary of Delta Amacuro -- 3. Stories of an Epidemic Foretold: Cholera Reaches Mariusa -- 4. Fighting Death in a Regional Clinic: Cholera Arrives in Pedernales -- 5. Turning Chaos into Control: Initial Responses by Regional Institutions -- 6. Containing an Indigenous Invasion: Quarantine in Barrancas -- 7. Exile and Internment: -- 8. Medicine, Magic, and Military Might: Cholera Control on La Tortuga -- 9. Culture Equals Cholera: Official Explanations for the Epidemic -- 10. Challenging the Logic of Culture: Resisting Official Explanations for the Epidemic -- 11. Local Numbers and Global Power: The Role of Statistics -- 12. Sanitation and Global Citizenship: International Institutions and the Latin American Epidemic -- 13. Virulent Aftermath: The Consequences of the Epidemic -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index

Cholera, although it can kill an adult through dehydration in half a day, is easily treated. Yet in 1992-93, some five hundred people died from cholera in the Orinoco Delta of eastern Venezuela. In some communities, a third of the adults died in a single night, as anthropologist Charles Briggs and Clara Mantini-Briggs, a Venezuelan public health physician, reveal in their frontline report. Why, they ask in this moving and thought-provoking account, did so many die near the end of the twentieth century from a bacterial infection associated with the premodern past? It was evident that the number of deaths resulted not only from inadequacies in medical services but also from the failure of public health officials to inform residents that cholera was likely to arrive. Less evident were the ways that scientists, officials, and politicians connected representations of infectious diseases with images of social inequality. In Venezuela, cholera was racialized as officials used anthropological notions of "culture" in deflecting blame away from their institutions and onto the victims themselves. The disease, the space of the Orinoco Delta, and the "indigenous ethnic group" who suffered cholera all came to seem somehow synonymous. One of the major threats to people's health worldwide is this deadly cycle of passing the blame. Carefully documenting how stigma, stories, and statistics circulate across borders, this first-rate ethnography demonstrates that the process undermines all the efforts of physicians and public health officials and at the same time contributes catastrophically to epidemics not only of cholera but also of tuberculosis, malaria, AIDS, and other killers. The authors have harnessed their own outrage over what took place during the epidemic and its aftermath in order to make clear the political and human stakes involved in the circulation of narratives, resources, and germs.
