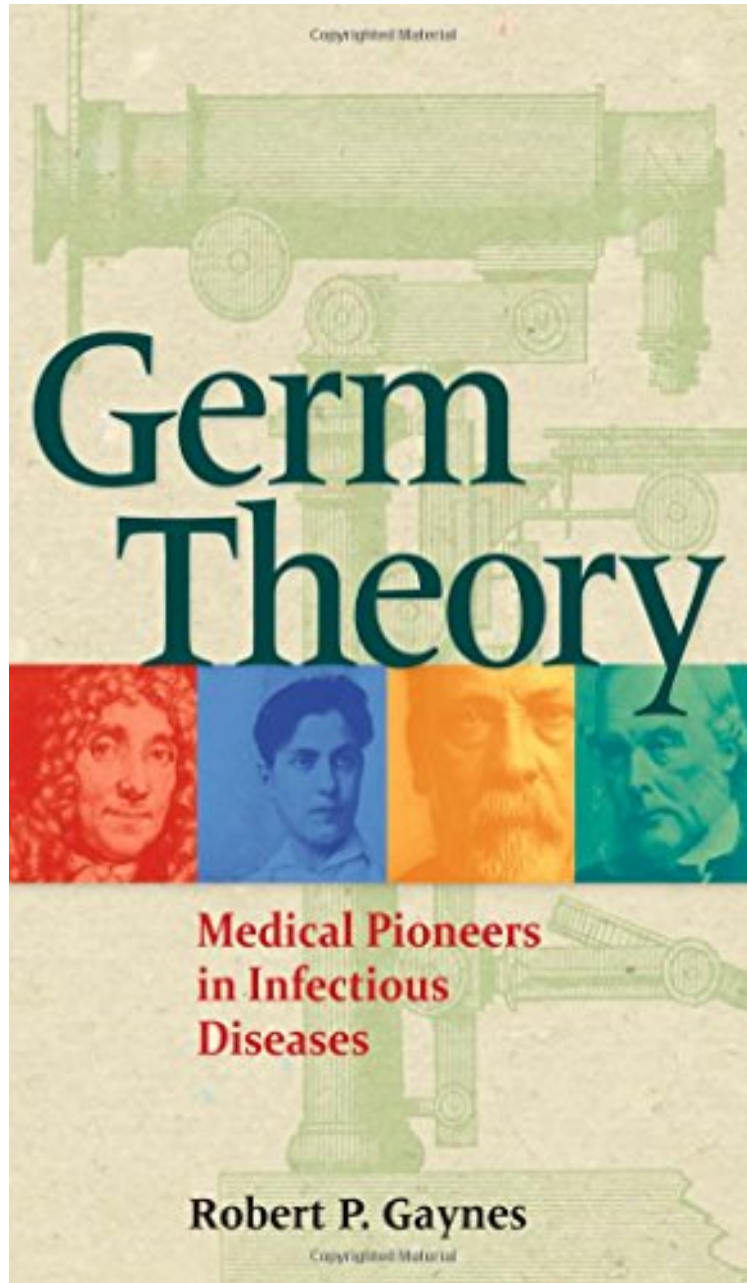


[Library ebook] Germ Theory: Medical Pioneers in Infectious Diseases

## Germ Theory: Medical Pioneers in Infectious Diseases

*Robert Gaynes*

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**Robert Gaynes : Germ Theory: Medical Pioneers in Infectious Diseases** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Germ Theory: Medical Pioneers in Infectious Diseases:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. a wonderful history of the discovery of germsBy S. BrownRobert Gaynes has written a wonderful, accessible history of germ theory. He does this by relating the lives and discoveries of 12 people who were instrumental in the development of the understanding of the role of germs in our health. To us, the notion that the health of large beings like us could be dramatically affected by microscopic entities seems obvious, but it was anything but, until relatively recently. As Gaynes informs us in a captivating way, the people that were responsible for the greatest advances in this development were brilliant but also very human. Progress was generally due to amazing insight, but at times it was also due to terribly hard work or luck (the chances that a mold would have anti-bacterial benefits are about 3 in 1,000). Gaynes does an excellent job of illustrating the context of each discovery by helping us understand what the general views were during each era and why each insight was so difficult to achieve. I have had no medical training and nearly no chemistry, but I had no trouble understanding. For those who have read Dunham's book *Journey Through Genius*, this book shares the same general structure. It is a superb effort and I highly recommend it to a general audience.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Highly readable, highly interestingBy Godfrey P. Oakley, Jr.As a non-infectious disease epidemiologist interested in the causes of birth defects, I had not paid much attention to the history of infectious diseases. I have read both *Germ Theory* and *Microbe Hunters* (yes, for the first time recently.) I have enjoyed them very much. The pace of discovery of important things for medicine is spellbinding. The role of clear thinking chemists is evident--Pasteur was a chemist. The early non-believers no matter how important the discovery or how solid the data continues to this day. These human themes also come through in Foege's *House on Fire*. *Microbe Hunters* seems very modern and of course *Germ Theory* is modern. I agree with one reviewer that both should be read by all medical students and perhaps would be a good graduation gift to high school students interested in science.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. As a Kindle Book...By toneyleeI agree with the other reviewers that this is a 5 star book. It is very informative, very interesting, and very well-written. As a Kindle book, it is clean, with few errors. But if I spend over \$20 for a Kindle edition of a book, I darned well expect it to have page numbers. It doesn't. I'd take a star off for the lack of page numbers, but, of course, that isn't the author's fault.

From Hippocrates to Lillian Waldthe stories of scientists whose work changed the way we think about and treat infection. Describes the genesis of the germ theory of disease by a dozen seminal thinkers such as Jenner, Lister, and Ehrlich. Presents the inside stories of these pioneers struggles to have their work accepted, which can inform strategies for tackling current crises in infectious diseases and motivate and support today's scientists. Relevant to anyone interested in microbiology, infectious disease, or how medical discoveries shape our modern understanding

*Germ Theory* is a delightful and fascinating read for everyone interested in the remarkable history of medicine's battle against communicable disease. I thoroughly enjoyed it and highly recommend it. Robert C. Moellering, Jr., MD, Shields Warren-Mallinckrodt Professor of Medical Research, Harvard Medical School