



## The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science)

By John Waller

Download now

Read Online 

### The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science) By John Waller

From the time of Hippocrates to that of Louis Pasteur, the medical profession relied on plausible but almost wholly mistaken ideas about the causes of and best treatments for infectious illness. Bleeding, purging, and mysterious nostrums remained staple remedies, and surgeons, often wearing filthy butcher's aprons, blithely spread infection from patient to patient. Then between 1879 and 1900 came the germ revolution. After two decades of scientific virtuosity, outstanding feats of intellectual courage, bitter personal rivalries, and a large dose of good fortune, doctors came to realize infectious diseases are caused by microscopic organisms. The discovery of the germ led to safe surgery, large-scale vaccination programs, dramatic improvements in hygiene and sanitation, and the pasteurization of dairy products. Above all, it set the stage for the emergence of antibiotic medicine.

John Waller provides insight into twenty years in the history of medicine that profoundly changed the way we view disease. He shows how the germ revolution was made possible not only by the risk taking and raw ambition of several brilliant late-century pioneers, but also by the groundwork—including mistakes and near misses—of earlier generations of scientists. Rich in human drama, *The Discovery of the Germ* charts how, why, and by whom germ theory was transformed from a hotly disputed speculation to a central tenet of modern medicine. It examines the ideas and experiments of the giants of microbiology, Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch, as well as less well known figures such as Casimir-Joseph Davaine, Waldemar Haffkine, and Almroth Wright.

 [Download The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Trans ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Tra ...pdf](#)



# The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science)

By John Waller

## The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science) By John Waller

From the time of Hippocrates to that of Louis Pasteur, the medical profession relied on plausible but almost wholly mistaken ideas about the causes of and best treatments for infectious illness. Bleeding, purging, and mysterious nostrums remained staple remedies, and surgeons, often wearing filthy butcher's aprons, blithely spread infection from patient to patient. Then between 1879 and 1900 came the germ revolution. After two decades of scientific virtuosity, outstanding feats of intellectual courage, bitter personal rivalries, and a large dose of good fortune, doctors came to realize infectious diseases are caused by microscopic organisms. The discovery of the germ led to safe surgery, large-scale vaccination programs, dramatic improvements in hygiene and sanitation, and the pasteurization of dairy products. Above all, it set the stage for the emergence of antibiotic medicine.

John Waller provides insight into twenty years in the history of medicine that profoundly changed the way we view disease. He shows how the germ revolution was made possible not only by the risk taking and raw ambition of several brilliant late-century pioneers, but also by the groundwork—including mistakes and near misses—of earlier generations of scientists. Rich in human drama, *The Discovery of the Germ* charts how, why, and by whom germ theory was transformed from a hotly disputed speculation to a central tenet of modern medicine. It examines the ideas and experiments of the giants of microbiology, Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch, as well as less well known figures such as Casimir-Joseph Davaine, Waldemar Haffkine, and Almroth Wright.

## The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science) By John Waller Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #82275 in Books
- Published on: 2003-10-22
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.34" h x .65" w x 4.76" l, .54 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 200 pages

 [Download The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Trans ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Tra ...pdf](#)



## Download and Read Free Online **The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science)** By John Waller

---

### Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

*\*Starred Review\** Waller makes sighting the common germ seem as dramatic as man landing on the moon, and rightly so. Prior to 1879, doctors were hard put to ascertain just exactly how people contracted various diseases. Theories ran the gamut from the concept that certain individuals were predisposed to contract a specific disorder to the notion that body fluid imbalances triggered illness, and each physician had a favorite hypothesis. Meanwhile, even the idea that a doctor might fully examine a patient--nonpublic parts of female patients' bodies were off-limits to male practitioners--was viewed as radical. As late as the 1850s, the thought of a laboratory for the study of contagious disease had occurred to only a handful. In short, medical practice was an art unrelated to science. The wealthy supported pet doctors, who were reluctant to displease their patrons with unappealing diagnoses. The poor went to hospitals, the very names of which were equated with death. Then came such scientists as Robert Koch and Louis Pasteur, whose competition to prove emerging theories about the existence of germs catapulted medical knowledge into the twentieth century. Waller skillfully tells the tale of mankind surfacing to scientific and medical enlightenment after millennia spent in a cave: little book, big story. *Donna Chavez*

*Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved*

### Review

Waller skillfully tells the tale of mankind surfacing to scientific and medical enlightenment after millennia spent in a cave: little book, big story.

*(Booklist)*

Waller presents a new telling of an old tale.... The development of the germ theory was hardly linear; fields as diverse as agriculture, sericulture, or surgery contributed necessary pieces. Walter handles these diverse threads and weaves a coherent narrative out of them.... Highly recommended.

*(Choice)*

[A]n excellent read for a general audience and packs a lot of information on the beginnings of the microbiology of disease.

*(Science Books and Films)*

large in human drama...It is a history book that reads like a novel. Highly recommended for all academic libraries

*(Jitka Hurych E-Streams)*

This engaging book reads as a success story of scientific progress.

(Marjorie C. Malley *ISIS*)

#### About the Author

John Waller is a research fellow at University College London's Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine. He is the author of *Fabulous Science: Fact and Fiction in the History of Scientific Discovery*.

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Emilio Lutz:**

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or even goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They may be reading whatever they have because their hobby is actually reading a book. How about the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book once they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will want this *The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science)*.

##### **Catherine Stevenson:**

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled *The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science)* your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe not known for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a publication then become one web form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get prior to. The *The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science)* giving you yet another experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful data for your better life in this particular era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

##### **Ilene Bixler:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard that will question when you got scholars? We believe that that concern was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person just like reading or as examining become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important along with book as to be the point. Book is important thing to incorporate you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update about something by book. Many kinds of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them are these claims *The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science)*.

**Gerard Armstrong:**

Reading a guide make you to get more knowledge from the jawhorse. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is prepared or printed or created from each source this filled update of news. In this modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for you. From media social including newspaper, magazines, science publication, encyclopedia, reference book, fresh and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Do you want to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just in search of the *The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science)* when you necessary it?

**Download and Read Online *The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science)* By John Waller #1QNC5RL7OM3**

## **Read The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science) By John Waller for online ebook**

The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science) By John Waller Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science) By John Waller books to read online.

### **Online The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science) By John Waller ebook PDF download**

**The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science) By John Waller Doc**

**The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science) By John Waller Mobipocket**

**The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science) By John Waller EPub**

**1QNC5RL7OM3: The Discovery of the Germ: Twenty Years That Transformed the Way We Think About Disease (Revolutions in Science) By John Waller**