



# **Pox: An American History (Penguin History of American Life)**

*Michael Willrich*

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# Pox: An American History (Penguin History of American Life)

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**Pox: An American History (Penguin History of American Life) Michael Willrich**

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At the turn of the last century, a smallpox epidemic swept the United States from coast to coast. In this gripping account, award-winning historian Michael Willrich chronicles the government's fight against the outbreak and the ensuing clash of modern medicine, civil liberties, and state power. Pox introduces readers to memorable characters on both sides of the debate—from the doctors and club-wielding police charged with enforcing the law to vaccinate every citizen to the anti-vaccinationists, who stood up for their individual freedoms but were often dismissed as misguided cranks. Riveting and thoroughly researched, Pox delivers a masterful examination of progressive-era history that resonates powerfully today.

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