

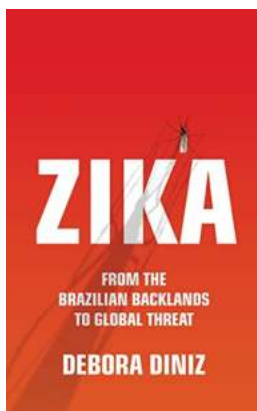
Zika From The Brazilian Backlands To Global Threat

The Zika virus, once considered a relatively mild illness, has evolved to become a global threat, spreading rapidly across continents. From its origins in the Brazilian backlands to the alarming increase in cases worldwide, the impact of Zika has been significant. This article explores the journey of Zika, its effects on individuals, families, communities, and the steps taken to combat its spread.

The Birth of Zika

Zika virus was first identified in the Zika Forest of Uganda in Africa in 1947. However, it was not until the outbreak in Brazil in 2015 that the world truly took notice. Researchers discovered the link between the Zika virus and birth defects, particularly microcephaly, whereby infants are born with underdeveloped brains and heads.

The Brazilian backlands, particularly the northeastern region, became the epicenter of the Zika outbreak. The warm climate, stagnant water bodies, and high population density created the perfect breeding ground for the Aedes mosquitoes, the primary carriers of the virus.



Zika: From the Brazilian Backlands to Global Threat by Thomas Mailund (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2241 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 168 pages



Rapid Spread and Global Concern

As the Zika virus spread throughout Brazil, it quickly crossed international borders, carried by infected travelers. The global concern escalated when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Zika a public health emergency in 2016. As the virus can also be transmitted sexually, it poses additional challenges to containment and prevention efforts.

Several countries in the Americas, including the United States, experienced significant outbreaks. The fear of the virus led to travel advisories, affecting tourism, and causing economic disruptions in affected regions.

With rapid urbanization and increased international travel, the Zika virus found new avenues for transmission. Mosquito control programs and public awareness campaigns became crucial in combating the spread, especially in regions with favorable vector habitats.

Devastating Impact on Lives

One of the most heartbreaking aspects of the Zika virus is its impact on families, particularly pregnant women. The virus can be passed from mother to fetus during pregnancy, causing severe birth defects and developmental problems. Many mothers faced the difficult decision of whether to continue their pregnancies knowing the potential risks.

Children born with microcephaly often require lifelong care and support due to their cognitive, physical, and sensory impairments. Families struggled to cope

with the emotional, financial, and societal challenges associated with raising a child with special needs.

Efforts Towards Prevention and Cure

Researchers and laboratories worldwide intensified their efforts to find a vaccine or treatment for Zika. The development of a vaccine faced significant challenges, but progress has been made to create potential candidates. However, more clinical trials and regulatory approvals are required for widespread implementation.

Prevention efforts primarily focus on reducing mosquito populations through the elimination of breeding grounds, including standing water sources, and the use of insecticides. Public health education campaigns emphasize the importance of using mosquito repellents, wearing protective clothing, and practicing safe sexual behaviors to prevent transmission.

The Zika virus journey from the Brazilian backlands to a global threat highlights the interconnectedness of our world. It serves as a reminder of the speed at which diseases can spread and the devastating impact they can have on individuals, families, and societies. While progress has been made in understanding and combating the virus, continued efforts are vital to prevent future outbreaks and protect vulnerable populations from the effects of the Zika virus.

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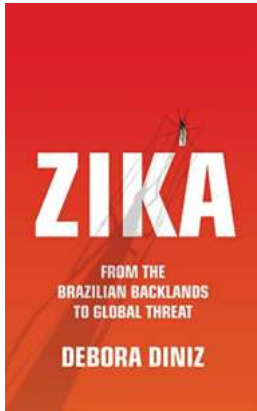
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Winner of the 2017 Jabuti Book Prize

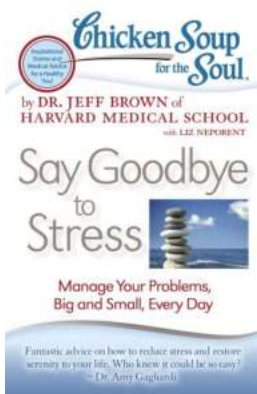
The Zika virus is devastating lives and communities. Children across the Americas are being born with severe disabilities because of it. Yet during the desolating outbreak, Brazil played host to both the Olympics and the FIFA World Cup, leading many to suspect that the true impact of the virus has been subject to a cover-up of international proportions.

Beginning in the northeast, where the devastation has been most felt, professor of bioethics and award-winning documentary filmmaker Debora Diniz travels across Brazil tracing the virus's origin and spread. Along the journey she meets a host of fearless families, doctors and scientists uncovering the virus's impact on local communities. In doing so Diniz paints a vivid picture of the Zika epidemic, exposing the Brazilian government's complicity in allowing the virus to spread while championing the efforts of local doctors and mothers who, working together, are raising awareness of the virus and fighting for the rights of children affected by Zika.



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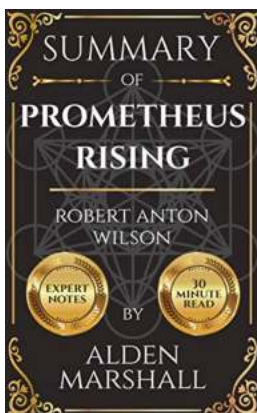
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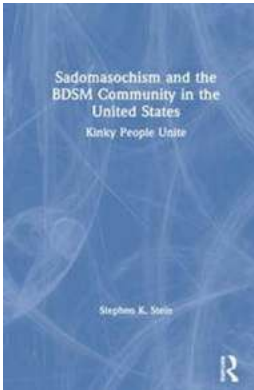
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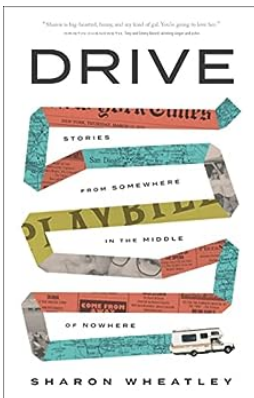
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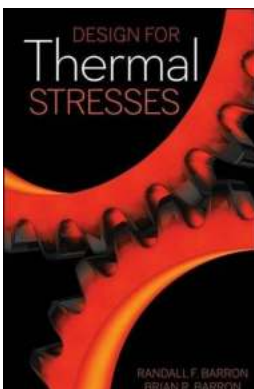
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