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Review of "The Health of Nations: Infectious Disease, Environmental Change, and Their Effects on National Security and Development," by Andrew T. Price-Smith

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Andrew T. Price-Smith, *The Health of Nations: Infectious Disease, Environmental Change, and Their Effects on National Security and Development* (MIT Press 2002). ISBN 0-262-024977 [220 pp. \$22.95. Paperback, 5 Cambridge Center, Cambridge MA 02142-1493.]

Andrew T. Price-Smith, author of *The Health of Nations: Infectious Disease, Environmental Change, and Their Effects on National Security and Development*, provides a well documented and reasoned analysis of the need for world leaders, including the United States, to place the threat of infectious disease on the front burner of consideration when shaping both national and international policy. Professor Price-Smith has provided both empirical data and historical analysis to support the impassioned plea for this natural threat to be taken seriously. The book is geared toward the academic community and policy analysts; however, other professionals not involved in these arenas yet interested in this under-explored consideration will find the book easy to read and follow.

Professor Price-Smith's introduction begins by laying out the overall effects that infectious disease has had in various nations of the world. He discusses from a historic perspective how infectious disease shaped the development of nations and how various previously thought eradicated or controlled diseases have made a comeback and are re-emerging with even more dire consequences.¹ He begins the book with a detailed explanation describing the methodology used and the empirical data collected in his study.² Chapter Three lays out the most compelling arguments for why this emerging crisis needs to be considered in each nation's domestic and international policy formation. The author gives a detailed discussion as to the microeconomic and macroeconomic implications infectious disease can have on a nation.

Professor Smith-Price provides a compelling discussion on the economic effects HIV/AIDS has had throughout the world.³ He then provides an excellent analysis of how infectious disease threatens national security effecting military preparedness, international cooperation, power of the state, and environmental security, especially in the African nations.⁴ The final chapter discusses the correlation between environmental change and disease proliferation. This is the only drawback in the book due to the

1. See Andrew T. Price-Smith, *The Health of Nations: Infectious Disease, Environmental Change, and Their Effects on National Security and Development* 1-16 (MIT Press 2002)

2. *Id.* at 21-75.

3. *Id.* at 111-16.

4. *Id.* at 117-139.

relative lack of long term data to make any predictions. Professor Price-Smith provides anecdotal evidence connecting “global warming” to the proliferation of infectious disease around the world.⁵ His one caveat is that he briefly discusses how “global warming” has benefited mankind, but adds that the negative consequences outweigh any advantages.⁶

The Health of Nations: Infectious Disease, Environmental Change, and Their Effects on National Security and Development is a fascinating book that is a must read for any person interested in the economic and political implications of infectious disease. The author best summed the tenor of the book in the conclusion, writing, “[m]icrobial threats to human health do not respect international borders and are extremely difficult to monitor and contain. Infectious disease constitutes a truly global challenge, and such it must be met with international cooperation.”⁷

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5. *Id.* at 141-170.

6. *Id.* at 157.

7. *Id.* at 183.

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