

Extract from McNeill, William H. *Plagues and Peoples*. Garden City, NY:  
Anchor/Doubleday, 1976.

"In 1854 a London doctor, John Snow, neatly demonstrated how cases of cholera that broke out in a district of central London could all be traced to a single contaminated source of drinking water. But Snow's argument was merely circumstantial [cites Frost's edition of *Snow on Cholera*, which contains both *MCC2* and *CMC*, but *MCC2* is implied]; and since contagionism had been so recently and so definitively discredited by Europe's most meticulous and celebrated medical experts, Snow's interpretation of his data commanded little attention. Then in the 1880s the microscope abruptly reversed the balance of medical opinion with the dramatic discovery of disease-causing 'germs'" (236).