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300 years of immunization attempts – a sobering assessment

February 9, 2026 by [the editorial team](#) 4.6 minute read

Although medicine has relied on vaccination concepts for three centuries, a comprehensive account of the events has been lacking. Medical historian and educator Gerd Reuther has now presented his perspective on these events.

As expected, this is a complete reassessment of individuals and their activities, extensively documented with more than 600(!) references ([Reuther G: Risky Protection. 300 Years of Immunization Experiments](#). Engelsdorfer Verlag 2026). From the very first page, it becomes clear that this book is not a dry, academic account of history. The author poses questions that no one has asked before and whets the appetite for the answers. And these are presented chapter by chapter, with the familiar rug repeatedly pulled out from under the reader's feet: smallpox vaccinations never prevented epidemics, Jenner's "cowpox" was merely a figment of the imagination, and Louis Pasteur's rabies vaccination was a hoax.

Even the beginnings of vaccination in conventional medicine raise questions. Until 1721, the only protective measures against infectious diseases were flight or isolation of the sick. People with skin conditions were sent into quarantine or banished to leper colonies as "lepers." Vaccinations were not considered, especially not with the repulsive secretions of

contagious patients. Why should everyone risk infection with a disease whose risk practically disappeared with age? It was deliberate panic campaigns that, from the Counter-Reformation onward, made a promise of protection with a deadly risk socially acceptable to the population.

300 years of blind flying

Previous historical accounts often omit the fact that for a long time, vaccinations were not only carried out using secretions from sick people or animals, but that until the Second World War, no importance was placed on sterile solutions or sterile administration. No one knew whether the purported pathogens were actually present in the vaccine solution or what other germs were inadvertently introduced. The vaccine secretions were often transported for weeks without refrigeration, and at the point of administration, hundreds of people were vaccinated using the same lancet. Up to 10% of those vaccinated suffered from bacterial infections.

From the first inoculations with human smallpox pus to today's cocktails of bacteria from tanks used for Covid-19, vaccinations have been a shot in the dark. The message of highly purified pathogens or antigens in sterile solution with harmless additives as "adjuvants" has never been true. In every epidemic, the inflammatory secretions or lab-grown products have failed. Antibodies and inflammatory reactions have always been a consequence of administered foreign substances, but not an indication of an immunological learning effect.

Lasting immunity only existed after recovery from infection. New cases despite vaccinations were commonplace. The vaccination advocate Hans Werner Oidtmann had already exposed this in 1882: "The influence of superstition has been uninterrupted for three centuries; only from time to time do we see the vaccinationists struggling to cloak the vaccination cult in a scientific mantle, which, however, has always been so flimsy to this day that it would have been better left out."ⁱ

The promises of protection were tailored to the frequency of the vaccine-prescribed disease. If a disease was very rare, like measles, longer-lasting or even lifelong immunity was promised. For diseases with a higher risk of infection, "booster" doses had to be administered after a maximum of three years to maintain appearances. No one can explain why the same principle would work differently in terms of duration of protection from one pathogen to another. Every new attempt was a failure, which was always recast as a success with considerable effort. But how have vaccine lobbyists been able to feign successful disease prevention and even a reduction in disease for 300 years?

300 Years of Propaganda

This can only be explained – as with Covid-19 – by a global alliance of opinion leaders. From the outset, vaccinations were an instrument of power, a top priority for secular and religious figures. This is demonstrated by the smallpox deaths in ruling houses and the coercive

measures against the population. Genuine health protection is incompatible with death and coercion. The media of the time were brought into line as mouthpieces to cover up the failure of the promises of protection, the resulting health damage, and the deaths. And, of course, there were always influencers willing to be reduced to mere tools of the vaccine lobby.

A prerequisite for willingness to be vaccinated is an irrational panic about infectious diseases. This panic must be vigorously stoked so that a hollow promise finds acceptance. Those who are afraid don't question the basis of such promises. Therefore, even the three largest vaccination campaigns in history before Covid-19 were not against common diseases, but rather against diseases that particularly evoked fear: smallpox, rabies (hydrophobia), and polio. These fears were massively amplified by authorities, preachers, and newspapers. It was never diseases with high death tolls that prompted vaccinations.

Conclusion

Although the book doesn't yet address the "Covid vaccinations" because they are still a thing of the past, it becomes clear after reading it that what we experienced from 2020 onward was a time-lapse replay of all previous vaccination campaigns. By presenting historical evidence, the book provides immunity against the constantly recurring illusions surrounding vaccination. Highly recommended!

[Reuther G: Risky protection. 300 years of immunization attempts.](#)

Reference:

i. Oidtmann HW: History of Smallpox. A Cultural Struggle of Medicine. p. 16; Foessen; Frankfurt/Main 1882