

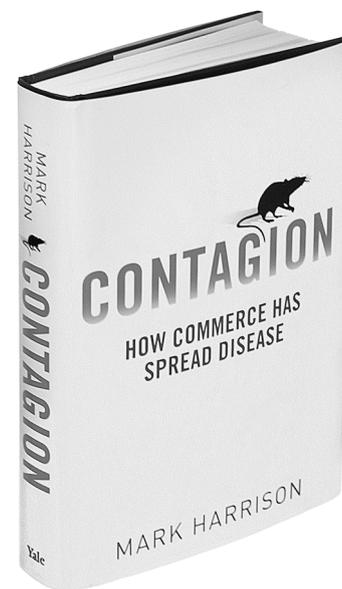
## Tekst 9

**No bugs on board**

*Contagion: How commerce has spread disease*  
by Mark Harrison, Yale University Press, £25/\$38

Reviewed by David Cohen

- 1 ANYONE who has travelled through an airport has surely noticed the rather long list of items that are prohibited on board a plane. But along with the more understandably forbidden articles, such as guns, knives, grenades and canisters of petrol, there is often a list of seemingly innocuous cargo: fresh foodstuffs. In Australia, even muddy shoes are frowned upon. It may seem a bit excessive, but these prohibitions are the climax of a long historical trend and are motivated, as Mark Harrison reveals in *Contagion*, by a mixture of public-health, food-safety and protectionist trading policies.
- 2 Harrison's erudite study of the impact of global commerce and travel on the spread of disease charts how the responses of governments and traders to outbreaks evolved, from the Black Death some 650 years ago, to the recent outbreaks of SARS and avian flu. As Australia's muddy-shoe ban intimates, disease vectors are a serious concern. Viruses and bacteria that travel in soil or food can have a disastrous impact on crops and livestock, and the spread of human diseases such as yellow fever and malaria can be devastating for public health. A particularly deadly strain of malaria was exported from Africa to the rest of the world by the slave trade, for example.
- 3 It was as a consequence of the Black Death that "quarantine" came into vogue as the preferred means of disease control. Simultaneously it became a potent weapon of economic warfare. Harrison goes to great pains to point out that throughout history, governments have needed little encouragement to adopt quarantine and import bans as weapons of foreign policy and economic advantage, often with tragic consequences for the "victim" states where the infections originated.
- 4 *Contagion* is a thorough, well-researched and thoughtful tome, and Harrison includes some interesting asides about the history of medicine. But be warned, his writing style is academic in nature and dry in tone. Not as infectious as one might have hoped.



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- 1p 40 Which of the following is in line with paragraph 1?
- A Bans on the import of fresh produce by air are also prompted by economic motives.
  - B *Contagion* has extended the list of items that could pose a health threat if transported by air.
  - C Harrison exaggerates the size of the problem by including the example of muddy shoes.
  - D Most people acknowledge the risk involved in taking food items in their cabin baggage.
- 2p 41 Geef van elk van de onderstaande onderwerpen aan of dit wel of niet genoemd wordt in alinea 2.
- 1 The role of authorities in the battle against foreign diseases.
  - 2 Strategies to avoid health hazards posed by insect-borne diseases.
  - 3 Consequences of international trade and tourism for people's health.
  - 4 The history of migrant diseases and attempts at curing them.
- Noteer het nummer van elk onderwerp, gevolgd door "wel" of "niet".
- 1p 42 Which of the following were motives for imposing quarantine according to paragraph 3?
- A curbing transmission of disease and pursuing military strategy
  - B influencing foreign policy and facilitating vaccination
  - C preventing outbreaks of epidemics and protecting domestic markets
  - D promoting economic development and stimulating research on communicable diseases
- 1p 43 Which of the following string of adjectives applies to *Contagion*, according to paragraph 4?
- A catching – superficial – theoretical
  - B comprehensive – hypothetical – fascinating
  - C gripping – scholarly – sharp
  - D intellectual – reflective – dull