EBOLA: EPIDEMIOLOGY OF FEAR

EBOLA 2014 outbreak
On March 23rd of 2014 the World Health Organization declared a new outbreak of Ebola in Guinea. On August 8th, they considered the epidemic as a public health emergency of global concern.

Why were so many people affected in the latter Ebola outbreak?
- Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are very poor countries
- Previous outbreaks occurred in isolated rural areas, never in big cities
- Lack of adequate health infrastructure and medical staff
- Lack of preparation and social information
- Avian anti-epidemic prevention campaigns had difficulties being understood
- Culture burials that included physical contact with the dead
- High population flow

Consequences of the outbreak

Other current epidemics

Avian influenza
Virus that affects mainly the poultry, but also humans. It is transmitted by direct contact with an infected animal.
400 cases and 250 dead
Preventive measures:
- Import restriction of poultry meat and other products
- Quarantine of imported poultry
- Poultry slaughtering

CAUTION! Influenza A
Variant strain of seasonal flu.
>622,500 cases and 18,000 dead
Preventive measures:
- Non-certified masks 5 times more expensive
- Football matches without public
- Demonstrations, festivals and cinemas were banned

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
It is transmitted through the consumption of beef infected with the BSE agent.
200 cases and 90 dead
Preventive measures:
- Cattle slaughtering
- Global beef trade decline

Tuberculosis
Disease caused by a bacterium. It is transmitted through the respiratory tract.
9 million cases and 1.5 million dead

Malaria
Mainly affects tropical countries. It is transmitted through the bite of mosquitoes infected with the parasite. It is estimated that half the world’s population is at risk of contracting the disease.
198 million cases and 584,000 dead

EVD versus malaria

What is the cause of these unequal economic efforts?
Would a disease that affected the northern hemisphere be equally regarded?