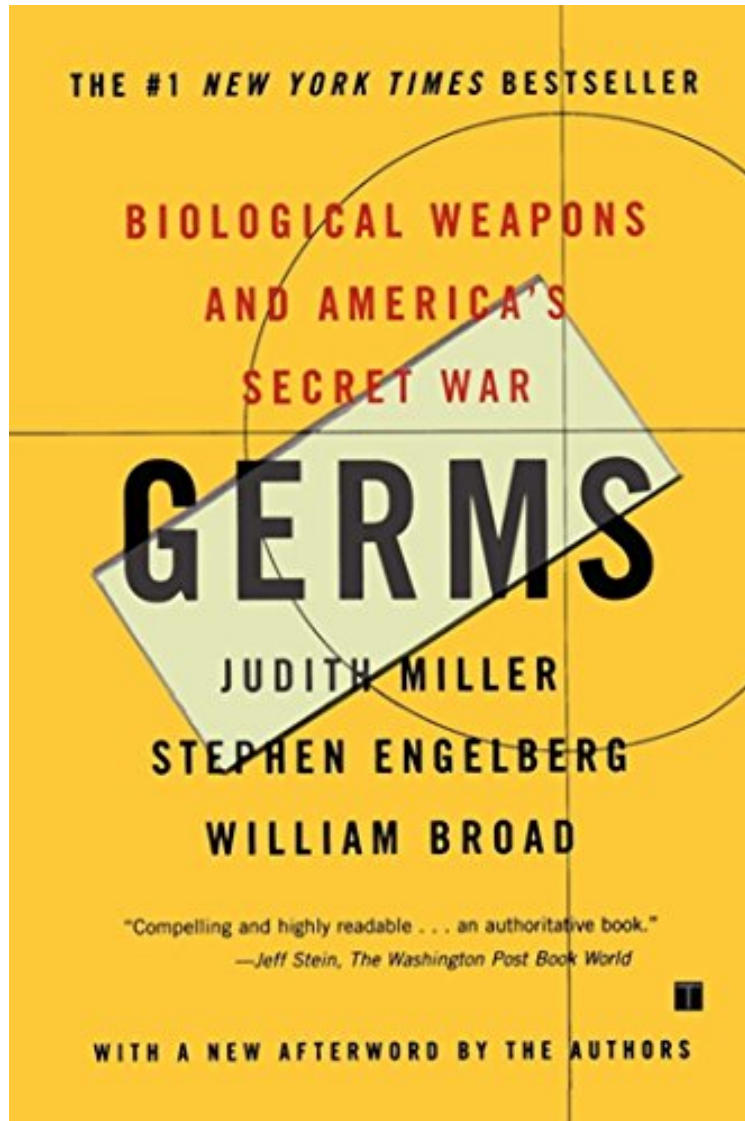


[Read now] Germs: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War (English Edition)

Germs: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War (English Edition)

Von Judith Miller, William J Broad, Stephen Engelberg
DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #1574017 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2012-02-01Erscheinungsdatum:
2012-02-01File Name: B006JDERQA | File size: 62.Mb

Von Judith Miller, William J Broad, Stephen Engelberg : Germs: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Germs: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Excellent Information/Great ResearchVon Ein KundeThis book explains the terrors of germ warfare, especially if such

bombs and devices get into the hands of terrorists and other crazies. The authors did excellent research and show how someone could build one of these bombs for the fraction of the expense of what a nuclear device would cost. Scary to say the least. Another new book that I just read and highly recommend as it explains very realistically the serious and imminent danger of nuclear terrorism is *THE CONSULTANT* by Alec Donzi. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Deadly Knowledge-Based Threat! Von Donald Mitchell After anthrax-laced letters began showing up in the offices of prominent news people and political figures in the United States (in 2001), I wondered what else could happen. *Germs* tells the story of the full threat from bioweapons, produced and delivered from major countries . . . rogue nations . . . and terrorist cells. The threat is greater than most of us have been led to believe exists. Although bioweapons have been banned by treaty since 1975, several countries have been busy as bees working covertly on this area. The former Soviet Union seems to have been in the lead, producing huge volumes of new microbes whose infectious efficacy was improved by bioengineering, processing to make the germs easier to disseminate, and experiments to create delivery systems of great efficiency. The book also details efforts by the United States, Iraq, and South Africa over these years. A major potential problem has been that there are a lot of unemployed scientists in this field from the former Soviet Union who are being recruited to start new bioweapons programs for other countries. Iran has been trying to do this. The book also describes attempts by terrorist groups to get involved. The infamous Osama bin Laden is described in the book as one terrorist leader who has been training his followers in chemical and bioweapons. After having fallen asleep in this area since the treaty was put in place, the United States began to scramble to catch-up in the 1990s, and left itself just about as vulnerable as when the decade started despite spending serious money. Identified weaknesses in the book included a poor ability to diagnose diseases caused by bioweapons, limited vaccines and medicines to counteract the diseases, a weak structure for coordinating the response, and limited tools to fight a contagious bioweapon (which conventional anthrax is not). On the other hand, bioweapons are attractive for terrorists. It doesn't take much money to build them. Off the shelf equipment can be used. They are easy to transport. Few people are needed to deliver them and start a contagion. All that is needed is the knowledge of what needs to be done. The book describes the efforts by terrorists in the past to use bioweapons. The most significant domestic event occurred in 1984 when followers of the Bhagwan Shree in Oregon deliberately spread salmonella in restaurant salad bars as part of an attempt to gain political control. In some ways the most chilling part of the book is the evaluation of how close Coalition Forces came to facing bioweapons in the Gulf War. Iraq had the bioweapons and the delivery systems to have created a major loss of life. Nuclear saber-rattling seemed to have been effective in deterring Saddam Hussein not to use his bioweapons. There may have been deals through back channels that we don't know about. Perhaps the decision not to oust him from power was part of some bioweapon blackmail. Who knows? It is well worth considering the implications of the fact that Iraq was willing to forego many billions of dollars in oil revenue since the Gulf War in order to protect its ability to develop and produce bioweapons. The book ends with many suggestions for how to limit our exposure to the full threat of bioweapons. If you add to these observations the experiences we have been having with anthrax-laced letters, you will see that an ounce of prevention is worth vastly more than a pound of cure after the fact. However, even the prevention is very expensive. But I don't think we can afford the alternative. After you read this book, I'm sure you will agree with me. I graded the book down one star for being overly bulky in telling its story, and mischaracterizing some details with which I am familiar. Will we use advanced science to unleash horrible epidemics on each other? What internal and external forces will be sufficient to avoid such a catastrophe? Use science to serve humanity . . . and to become more humane!

Kurzbeschreibung In the wake of the anthrax letters following the attacks on the World Trade Center, Americans have begun to grapple with two difficult truths: that there is no terrorist threat more horrifying -- and less understood -- than germ warfare, and that it would take very little to mount a devastating attack on American soil. In *Germs*, three veteran reporters draw on top sources inside and outside the U.S. government to lay bare Washington's secret strategies for combating this deadly threat. Featuring an inside look at how germ warfare has been waged throughout history and what form its future might take (and in whose hands), *Germs* reads like a gripping detective story told by fascinating key figures: American and Soviet medical specialists who once made germ weapons but now fight their spread, FBI agents who track Islamic radicals, the Iraqis who built Saddam Hussein's secret arsenal, spies who travel the world collecting lethal microbes, and scientists who see ominous developments on the horizon. With clear scientific explanations and harrowing insights, *Germs* is a masterfully written -- and timely -- work of investigative journalism. de Three reporters from The New York Times survey the recent history of biological weapons and sound an alarm about the coming threat of the "poor man's hydrogen bomb." *Germs* begins ominously enough, recounting the chilling attack by the followers of the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in 1984 on the Dalles, Oregon--no one died, but nearly 1,000 were infected with a strain of salmonella that the cult had legally obtained, then cultured and distributed. While the U.S. maintained an active "bugs and gas" program in the '50s and early '60s, bio-weapons were effectively pulled off this country's agenda in 1972 when countries around the world, led by the United States, forswore

development of such weapons at the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. The issue reemerged in the early '90s thanks to Saddam Hussein and revelations of the clandestine and massive buildup of bio-weapons in remote corners of the Soviet Union. The book's description of the Soviet program is horrific. At its peak the program employed thousands of scientists, developing bioengineered pathogens as well as producing hundreds of tons of plague, anthrax, and smallpox annually. The authors conclude that while a biological attack against the United States is not necessarily inevitable, the danger of bio-weapons is too real to be ignored. Well-researched and documented, this book will not disappoint readers looking for a reliable and sober resource on the topic. --Harry C. Edwards *Pressestimmen* Jeff Stein *The Washington Post Book World* Compelling and highly readable...an authoritative book. William Safire *The New York Times* The most important book of the year. David Perlman *San Francisco Chronicle* Engrossing, well-documented, and highly readable....Both a revelation and a history; [the] authors are both skilled reporters and tellers of vivid stories.