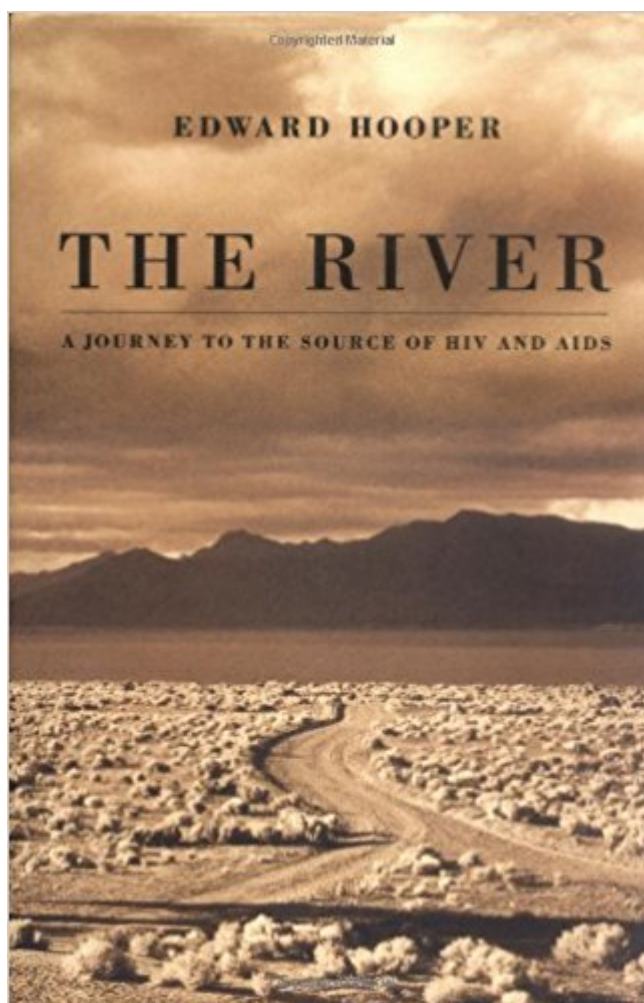


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# The River : A Journey To The Source Of HIV And AIDS



## Synopsis

While science has devoted much of its efforts to finding a cure for AIDS, the sources of this deadly epidemic remain largely unexamined. Distinguished science journalist Edward Hooper presents the meticulously researched -- and highly readable -- history of HIV and its possible origins. Pursuing leads across the U.S., the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa, Hooper pieces together the tantalizing clues offered by long-archived blood samples, early AIDS-like cases (such as the "Manchester sailor" case of 1959), immunodeficiency viruses (SIVs), and the medical interventions in Africa and elsewhere that may have played a role in SIVs' crossover into humans. Hooper examines over two dozen theories of origin, and eventually discards most of them. What remains is a remarkable and well-supported theory for the sudden appearance of AIDS, and the definitive story of its lethal spread. Drawing on more than 4,000 sources and 600 interviews, *The River* is a thorough and provocative investigation into the most terrible epidemic of the twentieth century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For all the devastation and suffering AIDS has caused worldwide, we have devoted surprisingly little attention to its beginnings. Former UN official and BBC correspondent Edward Hooper hopes to find the source of AIDS in *The River*, a stunningly comprehensive yet deeply engaging scientific history of the disease. Through more than 10 years of research comprising over 600 interviews and untold hours of library work, Hooper has uncovered a complex, interlocking set of stories--of scientific research, of medical assistance to the Third World, of political and economic exigencies that drive

the courses of our lives--and brought them together in over 1,000 pages of text, footnotes, references, and illustrations. His thesis, that HIV made the jump from simians to humans via the administration of oral polio vaccine in Africa in the 1950s, is still controversial, but his arguments are powerful, broad, and undeniable--all that is lacking is conclusive proof. Like a good scientist (and, sad to say, unlike any HIV researcher to date), he offers several easy tests of his hypothesis. His tales of brilliant epidemiological deductions, biochemical comparisons, and physiological insights ought to convince the medical establishment that the answer can and should be found, both to help us deal with the current crisis and to keep us from creating new ones of its ilk. In a litigation-weary world, though, it seems that it will take the kind of tireless, impartial research found in *The River* to show us--and our leaders--that blame should take a back seat to truth when extreme circumstances demand it. --Rob Lightner

For possibly thousands of years, the simian precursor to the AIDS virus existed among chimpanzees in central Africa. How did it jump species to humans? And why did it happen in the middle of the 20th century? Hooper's radical conclusion is that it was passed on as the result of well-meaning but misguided human intervention. He contends that experimental polio vaccines that were administered widely among populations near where AIDS emerged were manufactured from infected chimp kidneys. The author, a BBC correspondent in Africa, spent over a decade researching this book, in which he quotes from hundreds of interviews and cites thousands of articles from medical journals; his views cannot be easily dismissed. Aware that his theory is controversial, he calls for an independent council of scientists to investigate the matter. Whether that occurs or not, Hooper raises many issues that merit the attention of the global medical community. This very readable book is for all libraries. AGregg Sapp, Univ. of Miami Lib., Coral Gables Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The truth can come in many forms. This is the truth about HIV and how we got it started by trying to accomplish a good thing. The establishment that provided that link will probably never acknowledge their part in that - whether for the historical record or the financial record. It takes less energy and humanity to say something is not so rather than admitting that it was a human mistake made without intention but still made none the less. This is the ultimate cautionary tale.

An opus by Ed Hooper. He would have been short listed for a Nobel prize had he been part of establishment. HIV / AIDS was/is substantially iatrogenic after all. Essential reading for all students

of infectious disease. We will never know the whole truth, but Catherine Hogan et.al. confirm the suspicions of Ed Hooper and William Hamilton that this was a coverup of the greatest medical mishap of the 20th Century. Detailed, erudite, and restrained. The River inspired the Writing of *Monkey Business: a story of Soulmates and Primates*.

a recommended read the author has made a good argument for his research and from all the other research I have read about on the subject his still seems the most plausible. Anyone who reads this book will come off with a greater understanding of the path of HIV from its possible origin and initial spread.

Found a beautiful 1st edition, Anyone who is interested in the truth behind HIV and the AIDS epidemic should read this book.

Excellent book, very informative. Long time ago I saw a documentary about the source of AIDS and I wanted to have more information about it. This book is about a theory about the source of AIDS. A very well informed journalistic research.

If there was a Nobel Prize for Journalism, Hooper should get it. Step by step he takes you through his investigations and interviews, seeking to prove the link between the sudden appearance of HIV-1 and some shabbily-constructed mass trials of a polio vaccine in the 1950s. In a vanity contest with Sabin and Salk, the lesser-known Koprowski took various experimental shortcuts that seem reckless in hindsight. It's amazing to see the way Hooper cuts through the obfuscations and obstructions of the science establishment, and sifts facts from the few living people associated with the trials. With the casual racism of the day, these were mostly conducted in the Congo, or on handicapped children or newborns at prisons and hospitals in the US. A sneaking suspicion that 'Hooper may be right' builds into almost total conviction that this theory bears intensive investigation by the time you reach the halfway mark. Almost incredibly, the records of these 'trials' -- I put them in quote marks because they were not properly conducted, by any scientific standards of today, or of the time -- are either incomplete, or 'missing.' The book reflects no credit on the drug industry, doctors' codes of secrecy, or medical ethics. Quite probably, if Hooper has it right -- and it seems he does -- some of the living players ought to be facing a grand jury investigation, in view of the millions who have suffered in the resulting plague of AIDS. It's the science book of the year, unparalleled since Rhodes' "Making Of The Atomic Bomb."

The River is a fascinating, gripping, and extremely well-written investigation of a theory about the origin of AIDS. Mr. Hooper's book set off a storm of scientific debate, which can be tracked on line, including on Brian Martin's Suppression of Dissent website. I bought the book after viewing the excellent documentary, "The Origins of AIDS," in which many of the book's central characters, including Mr. Hooper, appear. The documentary can be viewed on YouTube and on Mr. Hooper's website (aidsorigins.com). I purchased the book in hardback. The paperback edition came out a year after the 1999 hardback edition and is somewhat more up to date on Mr. Hooper's research, so I believe it is better to buy the paperback edition. The problem with the book is that it is large and very heavy, making it a challenge to hold for long stretches. I very much hope Mr. Hooper's next book will be published in Kindle format. I'm only 700 pages into The River, but I'm certain that I'll finish it, and I'll certainly buy anything more that Mr. Hooper publishes on this topic.

An amazing insight into the beginning of the aids virus - a must read that dispels the myth of the aids origin. A journalist's incredible and fully documented journey spanning 17 years is filled with thousands of documents and supporting interviews.

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