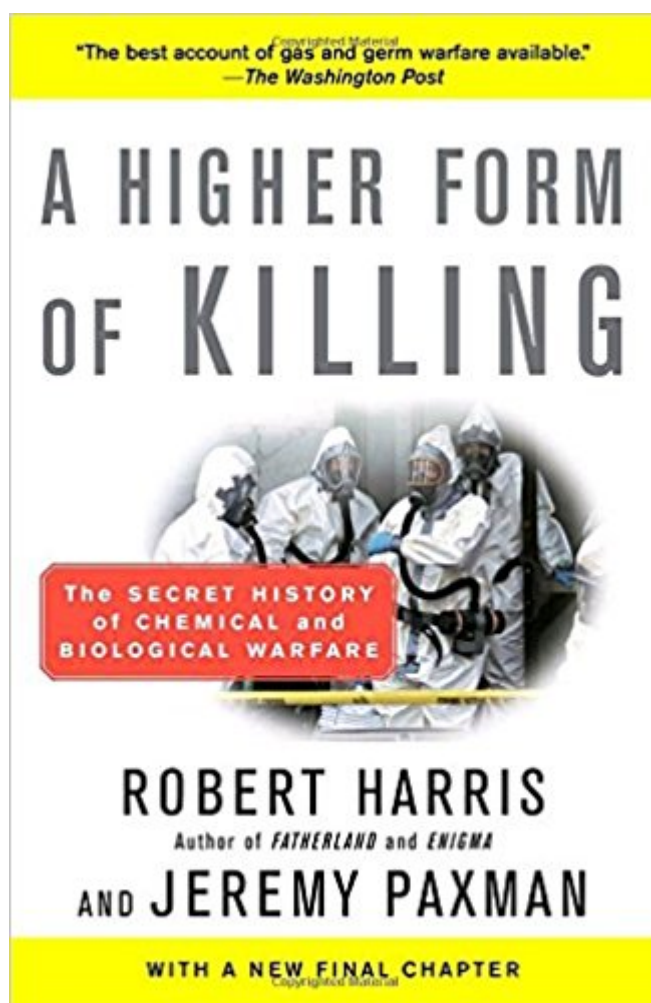


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A Higher Form Of Killing: The Secret History Of Chemical And Biological Warfare



Synopsis

A Higher Form of Killing opens with the first devastating battlefield use of lethal gas in World War I, and then investigates the stockpiling of biological weapons during World War II and in the decades afterward as well as the inhuman experiments conducted to test their effectiveness. This updated edition includes a new Introduction and a new final chapter exposing frightening developments in recent years, including the black market that emerged in chemical and biological weapons following the breakup of the Soviet Union, the acquisition of these weapons by various Third World states, the attempts of countries such as Iraq to build up arsenals, and--particularly and most recently--the use of these weapons in terrorist attacks.

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Customer Reviews

"The best account of gas and germ warfare available." --The Washington Post
"An absorbing and unsettling history, an exhaustive exploration of a little-known but potentially apocalyptic aspect of warfare, the whole thing carrying the punch of Armageddon. It reminds us that the world could end not with a nuclear bang but in whimpers of fevered agony."--Chicago Sun-Times
"Compelling . . . The authors make clear why governments have shrouded such weapon programs in even more secrecy than their nuclear work."--Financial Times

A Higher Form of Killing opens with the first devastating battlefield use of lethal gas in World War I, and then investigates the stockpiling of biological weapons during World War II and in the decades afterward as well as the inhuman experiments conducted to test their effectiveness. This updated

edition includes a new Introduction and a new final chapter exposing frightening developments in recent years, including the black market that emerged in chemical and biological weapons following the breakup of the Soviet Union, the acquisition of these weapons by various Third World states, the attempts of countries such as Iraq to build up arsenals, and--particularly and most recently--the use of these weapons in terrorist attacks.

If you are fascinated by gas, germ and nerve warfare then this is the book for you. It takes you from the days of using chlorine gas and phosgene in the battlefields of WWI to the WWII testing of VX nerve gas it shows how brutal war can be. I highly recommend it and this seller sent me an wonderful copy of this book which I never dreamed they would ever carry. Thanks to "Robert Harris" for selling books with great dust covers and unmarked copy. This is the second time I have ordered, and read, this book because it is absolutely fascinating to read. As an aside I want to mention that I loaned this book to a friend (I must have been out of my mind since I never usually get my loaned books back) and darnit I almost didn't get that book back and when I did it was a mess... broken spine, no dust cover, markings in my book. He didn't want to give it back because he loved the book so much. I can't say I blame him, but I have a policy to NEVER loan any book ever again! Robert Harris & Jeremy Paxman wrote this book and I am wondering if this is thee "Robert Harris" who wrote this book. It has been years since I first read this book and it is the best book around if you want to learn about the most retched forms of killing to this day. Thanks so much, Robert. Your book is one of the very best I have ever read and I am talking about the new books like "War of Nerves" as an example. I am going to search on to see if I can still find this book again. It's worth buying a few copies as gifts and then the reader can do whatever they want to their own books and not mine!

Why would anyone want to read about this subject? Why would anyone want to write about such a horrible subject? As a military veteran and someone with more than a few hours in a chemical warfare protective suit, I found this book captivating. I first read its original iteration in 1983, and then re-visited it when I found out it was updated following the Gulf War and as our country faces Nuclear, Biological and Chemical threats from terrorist and rogue nation-states in our midst. We might not like knowing stuff like this exists, and might not wish to be made aware that the threat exists, but it is much like the elephant in the room; we can ignore it but sooner or later it can rear its ugly head and we owe it to our nation to be prepared. Robert Harris does an admirable job of capturing an ugly topic and making it palatable enough to read and educate ourselves to the very real threat we face. From World War I to today, the problem exists and our military trains constantly

to deal with it. It is a very good book, written clearly and concisely and worth the time to read. Retired USAF Gulf War Veteran

An Almost Unbelievable account of the USA's misuse of its biological and chemical weapons research. This may have led to the creation of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. But after reading: the book from cover to cover, I now believe every word that is written in it. It is a must read for those who want to know why AIDS is so rampant in the world and America and its European allies are doing very little to combat it. See also: AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (or) Antipersonnel Intelligence Disease System, 2007; and, The Skin Color Syndrome Among African-American, 2003.

While I don't agree with the author's point that bioweapons are the wave of the future for terrorist, I did think the history of biological and chemical warfare research and employment was outstanding. If you are looking for one book to get a comprehensive history on this subject (at least as it pertains to the West), this is the book.

Informative review of the history of biological and chemical warfare during the 20th century. The book is from 2002, however, and therefore information about the development and use of such weapons during the "war on terror" is not included. I wish some of the chapters would have gone more in depth, particularly about the development of weapons by the middle east in the 1990s and the development overall in the U.S. But, there is good reference material on Porton Down, the [formerly] secret facility in the UK. It is generally a good read for 20th century weapons development but could have used more illustrations and/or photographs.

This read was interesting and timely, despite the scary topics. Although a lot of the material is historical, it brings in some of the newer (Post 95) information. The stories of the early days of Mustard gas, where soldiers would agree to be test subjects in exchange for a weekend Liberty pass, are most impressive to me.

Covers the use of gas during WWI and then developments after that to today. The historical info is the best part of it. Rather depressing but well written.

The book was written before the events of 9/11, however the topics are even more poignant today than they were when it was originally written. Not too technical a read and this book exposes a lot of

valuable information about the (expected) double-speak of governments regarding secret research projects. This book is a definite read for anyone interested in the history or possible future of biological and chemical weapons.

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