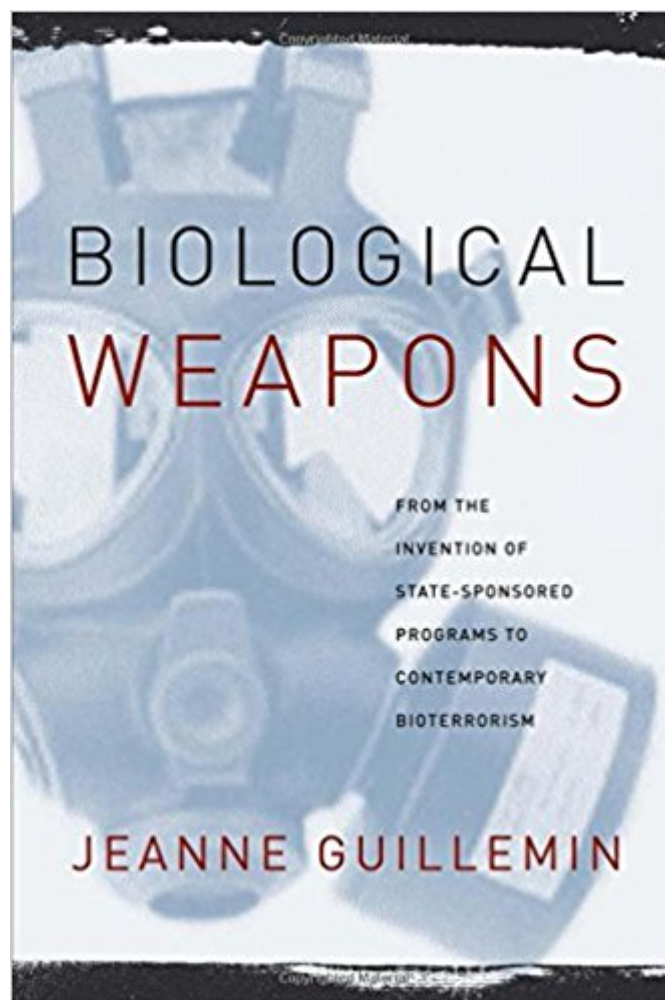




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# Biological Weapons: From The Invention Of State-Sponsored Programs To Contemporary Bioterrorism



## Synopsis

Until the events of September 11 and the anthrax attacks of 2001, biological weapons had never been a major public concern in the United States. Today, the possibility of their use by terrorists against Western states looms large as an international security concern. In *Biological Weapons*, Jeanne Guillemin provides a highly accessible and compelling account of the circumstances under which scientists, soldiers, and statesmen were able to mobilize resources for extensive biological weapons programs and also analyzes why such weapons, targeted against civilians, were never used in a major conflict. This book is essential for understanding the relevance of the historical restraints placed on the use of biological weapons for today's world. It serves as an excellent introduction to the problems biological weapons pose for contemporary policymakers and public officials, particularly in the United States. How can we best deter the use of such weapons? What are the resulting policies of the Department of Homeland Security? How can we constrain proliferation? Jeanne Guillemin wisely points out that these are vitally important questions for all Americans to consider and investigate— all the more so because the development of these weapons has been carried out under a veil of secrecy, with their frightening potential open to exploitation by the media and government. Public awareness through education can help calm fears in today's tension-filled climate and promote constructive political action to reduce the risks of a biological weapons catastrophe. *Biological Weapons* is required reading for every concerned citizen, government policymaker, public health official, and national security analyst who wants to understand this complex and timely issue.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Having published a similarly squared-away study of the 1979 anthrax outbreak in Sverdlovsk, Russia, in 1999, MIT security studies fellow Guillemin returns with a compact and balanced history of biological weaponry, beginning with the British, American and Japanese programs that predate WWII. British and American programs continued through much of the Cold War; seeking strategic effectiveness but succeeding only indifferently, they were phased out. But the Soviet programs flourished and, when abolished in the 1990s, they left behind much of the resources in expertise and in some cases actual stockpiles now available to terrorists. Not that bioterrorism is necessarily the menace that media sensationalism makes it out to be, provided that responsible decisions influenced by common sense are made to prepare for it. Guillemin outlines such common sense programs in valuable detail, although she appears to underestimate the extent to which some of them will require international controls over basic scientific research and the amount of resistance this could meet from governments and scientists. Admirably free of finger-pointing, shrillness and Luddite tendencies, the book ranks high as a historical introduction to the subject and a handbook on contemporary remedies; in the latter role, it is superior to Daniel Barenblatt's *A Plague Upon Humanity*. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This sane and sensible book ends by arguing for a more balanced approach. (Malcolm Dando Nature)The book ranks high as a historical introduction to the subject and a handbook on contemporary remedies. (Publishers Weekly)Guillemin's account of biological weapons is lucid and concise, providing an excellent guide through the evidence on the past and issues for the future. (Lawrence D. Freedman Foreign Affairs)Jeanne Guillemin presents a cogent history of biological warfare and its horrific implications (Karl Helicher ForeWord)Guillemin's book is an extremely valuable and insightful work on a topic of significant national and international concern. (Thomas May Journal of the American Medical Association)The scholarship and the clarity of the writing are remarkable...deserves to be read widely (Karl M. Johnson, M.D. New England Journal of Medicine)A clear, well-written general survey... it eschews the sensationalism and fear mongering which surrounds much of the current literature. (John Ellis van Courtland Moon Journal of Military History)Read it. (Alan D B Malcolm Biologist)There is no better source for an overview of the history of biological weapons research. (Susan Lindee Bulletin of the History of Medicine)

This book is a solid introduction to biological weapons. It is richly sourced and well researched. My only criticism is in the book's organization; it jumped around and sometimes trailed off. Definitely recommend for an overview of the field or a jumping point for further research.

A concise history of the development of biological weapons. Coming in as a somewhat short read at 200 pages, I'd recommend this as a primer for anyone who'd like an introduction to the subject.

I had to read this book for a class on Biopolitics.. But i loved reading every page of this book!!

Great product! My son loves it!! Fast shipment and overall great service.

Biological weapons and their potentials has received public attention relatively recently in this country, and for a basic primer on the topic, don't miss Jeanne Guillemin's *Biological Weapons*, designed to help readers understand the relevance of these weapons and their use. Chapters examine policies of use, deterrence, and proliferation, considering conflicts between media rights and secrecy in development, public awareness issues and rights, and preventative measures against attack.

Lots of policies and history. If you really want to learn about BT related diseases try looking for books by Ryan or Gerstein.

This book was a good review of the politics of Biological weapons control. The theme was that biological weapons can be controlled by agreements. However the book relates many examples of how international controls did not work, so it defeats its own premise. I did not find this book helpful for a scientific or political background on the issues.

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