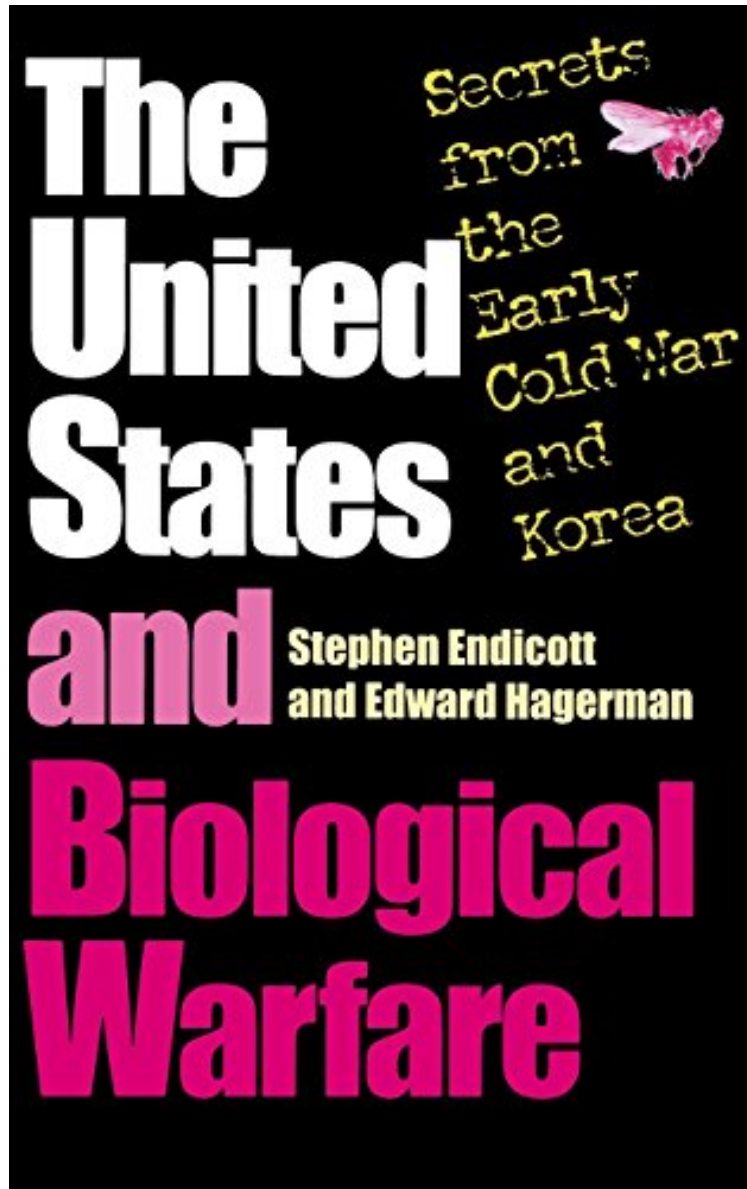


(Free) The United States and Biological Warfare: Secrets from the Early Cold War and Korea

The United States and Biological Warfare: Secrets from the Early Cold War and Korea

Stephen Endicott, Edward Hagerman

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#1947545 in Books Stephen Endicott 1998-11-22 1998-11-22 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.00 x 6.121, 1.25 #File Name: 0253334721304 pages The United States And Biological Warfare | File size: 70.Mb

Stephen Endicott, Edward Hagerman : The United States and Biological Warfare: Secrets from the Early Cold War and Korea before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The United States and Biological Warfare: Secrets from the Early Cold War and Korea:

10 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Circumstantial but plausible
By R. L. HuffIt's inevitable that a book laying out these kinds of charges should provoke partisan polemics. In making their case, however, the authors do not make conspiracy claims but lay out their position in deductive reasoning from available evidence and statements. Such a case can be labelled circumstantial; but it's relevant to note that many people sit in prison on evidence as plausibly circumstantial as that charged here. The underlying theme is, would the US be morally capable of engaging in this behavior? And the reasonable answer must be "yes." Given the total war mentality of the period, the braggadoccio surrounding atomic weaponry, the cheapness with which Asian life was held by the US (all of its direct engagements in cold war theaters were on the Pacific rim), the moral burden rather lays with those who would discredit the possibility. If the "reds" can be counted on to make lying propaganda, we've seen this puts them in good company. Added evidence for such attitude is the ongoing legal controversy of using *American* soldiers as unwitting guinea pigs in chemical-warfare experiments at the same time. Why wouldn't toxic levels be increased when experimenting upon enemy forces in the battlefield? The authors have not taken anyone's side at face value. When the reservoirs at Chosen were bombed to flood North Korean rice fields, producing hunger to facilitate surrender, it was a fact regardless of politics. In contrast covert operations are murky by nature. Interested parties can continue to stonewall their existence, resting on classified material unlikely to ever be sanitized and used against them. For that reason, surfacing evidence deserves respect and independent scrutiny rather than dismissal. In my view Endicott and Hagerman have fulfilled that obligation.
16 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Detailed proof of US war crimes in Korea
By William PodmoreThis fascinating and deeply researched book examines whether the USA used biological weapons when it attacked Korea. It shows that the US Government, in collaboration with the British and Canadian Governments, spent \$500,000,000 between 1951 and 1953 developing such weapons, based on those used by the Japanese Army in its attack on China. In February 1952, the Joint Chiefs of Staff called for 'a strong offensive biological warfare capability without delay' and for developing 'all effective means of waging war without regard for precedents as to their use.' The biological weapons were incorporated into the Strategic Air Command's strategic plans for general war. The US state has never ratified the 1925 Geneva Protocol banning biological weapons. The US state fought its war against Korea with no regard for legal constraints. It threatened to use nuclear weapons. It used chemical weapons - 70,000 gallons of napalm a day in 1951, and phosphorus bombs - despite having ratified the Protocol against chemical weapons. The USAF bombed civilians mercilessly: as General Curtis LeMay boasted, 'We burned down just about every city in North and South Korea both ... We killed over a million Koreans and drove several million more from their homes.' The authors examine the evidence of germ-bearing insects, feathers and other carriers found after USAF bombing raids and look at the consequent outbreaks of unusual illnesses. Many captured US pilots confessed to dropping bombs containing these materials. They later retracted their confessions, claiming that their captors had 'brainwashed' them. A US Army study found no evidence of this. The pilots retracted under threat of death: the US Attorney General said that American POWs who collaborated with the enemy might face charges of treason. The authors write, 'we are led to the conclusion that the United States took the final step and secretly experimented with biological weapons in the Korean War.' Read the book and decide for yourself.
6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Must read book on how U.S. conducted the germ war in Korea
By Dr. HistoryThe book used multiple sources
1) original studies and reports from China and Korea, including medical studies, photos, reports of the germ war activities, the symptoms the bio analysis, etc, etc;
2) confessions of U.S. pilots (including officers), which provided great detail of the U.S. germ war program, with names, places, dates, types of bio-agents, policies, delivery methods, etc etc. The book proved that the US POWs provided the information without being physically abused (in any case, the Chinese could have not made up those details);
3) recently declassified US documents and germ war programs, including the use of bio weapon in Korea. The picture was: 1), 2) and 3) matched exactly. And then it analyzed the recantation of the POWs who made the confessions after they returned to the US, and found that (1) they were made under threats of severe punishment; (2) the contents of recantations were inconsistent with the declassified US documents. The book is well researched. Read it for a correct understanding of history.

[The United States and Biological Warfare] is a major contribution to our understanding of the past involvement by the US and Japanese governments with BW, with important, crucial implications for the future.... Pieces of this story, including the Korean War allegations, have been told before, but never so authoritatively, and with such a convincing foundation in historical research.... This is a brave and significant scholarly contribution on a matter of great importance to the future of humanity.
Richard Falk, Albert G. Milbank Professor of International Law and Practice, Princeton University
The United States and Biological Warfare argues persuasively that the United States experimented with and deployed biological weapons during the Korean War. Endicott and Hagerman explore the political and moral dimensions of this issue, asking what restraints were applied or forgotten in those years of ideological and political passion and military crisis. For the first time, there is hard evidence that the United States lied both to Congress and the American public in saying that the American biological warfare program was purely defensive and for retaliation only. The truth is that a large and sophisticated biological weapons system was developed as an offensive weapon of opportunity in the post-World War II years. From newly declassified American, Canadian,

and British documents, and with the cooperation of the Chinese Central Archives in giving the authors the first access by foreigners to relevant classified documents, Endicott and Hagerman have been able to tell the previously hidden story of the extension of the limits of modern war to include the use of medical science, the most morally laden of sciences with respect to the sanctity of human life. They show how the germ warfare program developed collaboratively by Great Britain, Canada, and the United States during the Second World War, together with information gathered from the Japanese at the end

.com An airplane flies over enemy territory, dropping a shiny cylindrical object near a town. When the townspeople go to investigate, they find flies, spiders, and feathers scattered among bomb fragments in the snow. Biological testing reveals that all the items are contaminated with the anthrax bacillus. The Iran-Iraq war? International terrorism? Or the United States in northeastern China, 1952? The term "biological warfare" brings to mind images of ruthless dictators, delusional terrorists, and cartoonish movie villains. The assertions made by Stephen Endicott and Edward Hagerman, that the United States engaged in germ warfare against China and North Korea in the 1950s, are therefore both shocking and disturbing. *The United States and Biological Warfare* is an important yet flawed history of the American program, from its origin in 1941 as the Bacteriological Warfare Committee (quickly and obfuscatingly renamed the WBC) to its abrupt closure in the 1960s. The main focus of the book, however, is the United States' activities in Korea and China during the Korean War--where, Endicott and Hagerman claim, the U.S. launched a number of biological attacks to spread anthrax, cholera, and smallpox viruses, as well as other disease-causing agents. This book is bound to draw criticism from many sides; despite their thorough research, the authors have yet to find a proper "smoking gun." Some of the science is muddled, as well--though it is at times difficult to tell if the confusion began in the military documents or with the authors. The circumstantial evidence and overall argument, however, are quite compelling. What is even more disturbing than these activities (including the fact that scientists who were active in Japan's biological warfare program in World War II were granted immunity for their war crimes in return for sharing their knowledge) is the wartime mentality that causes countries to contemplate and even commit atrocities in the name of national security. A chilling read. From Publishers Weekly If nothing else, Canadian historian Endicott and American historian Hagerman will make thoughtful readers see the irony in the U.S. government's ongoing showdown with Iraq over biological weapons. This history of the U.S. biological weapons program alleges that the U.S. actually deployed biological weapons during the Korean War. The authors marshal an impressive array of evidence that the military and executive branch lied to Congress and the public about the development of biological weapons. At the end of WWII, the American military enlisted the aid of top Japanese biological warfare officers; when the Korean War broke out, the U.S. embarked on an ambitious program to produce offensive biological weapons, despite Pentagon protestations that the research was geared toward defensive weaponry. During the war, Chinese officials learned of mysterious outbreaks of disease after some U.S. raids and began to suspect that biological weapons were being used. The authors were the first foreigners allowed to inspect Chinese archival documents dealing with the possible American use of biological weapons. They rely heavily on these sources, as well as on Canadian, British and American documents. The research is bolstered by endnotes and an array of photographs (not seen by PW). Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sAn exposé of a little-known and shameful episode in American military history. Much has been made of the fact that the Japanese military during WWII resorted to the use of biological and chemical weapons, in violation of international law. Asian history specialist Endicott and military historian Hagerman, both professors at York University (Canada), together reveal that immediately after WWII, the US army picked up where the Japanese military left off, using testing facilities in Yokohama and Kyoto to find ways of turning plague, cholera, anthrax, undulant fever, encephalitis, salmonella, meningitis, typhus, and tularemia against the newfound Communist enemy. Lt. General Yujiro Wakamatsu, commander of the notorious Unit 100, which tested biological weapons on Chinese prisoners during WWII, found work as a research scientist in the principal American laboratory; so did many other Japanese scientists granted immunity for their wartime crimes. In 1952, the Chinese premier Zhou Enlai accused the US of conducting biological warfare in Korea of dropping bombs, for instance, "containing live insects of various descriptions and rotten fish, decaying pork, frogs, and rodents." Drawing on recently declassified documents, the authors lend credence to Zhou's charge, which the US denied at the time. (Among other things cited here is an approving letter of 1953 from President Harry S. Truman suggesting "that had the war in the Pacific not ended by mid-August 1945, [Truman] would have used biological as well as chemical weapons.") A number of villains turn up in Endicott and Hagerman's fast-paced narrative, among them key figures in American defense, pharmaceutical, medical, and intelligence circles; sadly, there are no heroes to match them. A convincing and shockingly relevant, case study of official and technological immorality. (62 bw photos, 7 maps) -- Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.