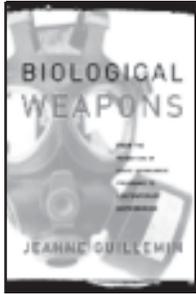




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By Mr. Reid Kirby



*Biological Weapons: From the Invention of State-Sponsored Programs to Contemporary Bioterrorism*, Dr. Jeanne Guillemin, Columbia University Press, 2005.

Dr. Jeanne Guillemin (author of *Anthrax*, the 1999 book that dealt with the 1979 Sverdlovsk biological accident) wrote this book for those interested in the modern history of biological warfare. She found that many people, including military professionals, were unaware of the development of biological weapons in different countries, so she compiled the history, development, and proliferation of bioterrorism in Great Britain, the United States, Japan, and the Soviet Union.

Having been a scholar of biological warfare history for more than fifteen years, I was pleased by the sources of information Dr. Guillemin used in creating *Biological Weapons*. You can spend years reading volumes of thirty- and fifty-year-old technical documents, histories, and monographs; or you can read *Biological Weapons*. Dr. Guillemin deduces the history of biological warfare programs to an initial offensive phase, a second treaty phase, and a final defensive phase.

Another aspect that makes *Biological Weapons* worth reading is the influence that the science-for-peace movement had on the Nixon Administration's decision to end the US biological weapons program. The author puts these decisions into historical context, identifies trends within nations that lead to the rise and fall of biological weapons programs, and raises the concern of a possible return to an offensive program.

Because of the nearly complete historical review that *Biological Weapons* provides, it is a highly recommended book.

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