

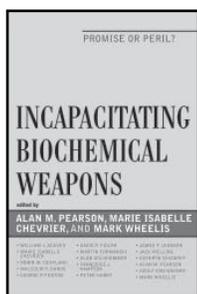
*Historical Dictionary of Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Warfare*, Benjamin C. Garrett and John Hart, The Scarecrow Press, Inc., Lanham, Maryland, August 2007.

Benjamin Garrett is a former Chemical Soldier who is now working for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and John Hart is a Stockholm International Peace Research Institute scholar who is well experienced in disarmament efforts. Having previously read the works of both authors, I was expecting this book to contain a wealth of obscure information. I was initially disappointed. The sources are mainly secondary, and the information presented is largely commonplace for those well versed on authoritative public works regarding nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) warfare.

Dictionaries necessarily define terms without the benefit of the context; therefore, it is often difficult for a novice reader to absorb information from a dictionary. However, the *Historical Dictionary of Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Warfare* does contain a wealth of authoritative information that could be of assistance to those writing about NBC warfare. Many readers may be reminded of what they have forgotten after years spent on the topic.

The content of the dictionary has been limited, apparently to avoid sensitive but unclassified details. The authors admit that some readers will believe the dictionary reveals too much; however, to those who are familiar with the scholarly information available to the public, it is obvious that the path of least sensitivity was chosen.

Due to its diverse definitions, accuracy, and clear presentation, the *Historical Dictionary of Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Warfare* is a recommended reference that deserves to be perused on a regular basis.



*Incapacitating Biochemical Weapons: Promise or Peril?* Alan M. Pearson, Marie Isabelle Chevrier, and Mark Wheelis, editors, Lexington Books, Lanham, Maryland, November 2007.

This book originated from a June 2005 symposium on incapacitating biochemical weapons conducted by well-known authorities and scholars in the arms control arena. The first half of the book is comprised of chapters that provide insight into the development of biochemical nonlethal weapon technologies. This is followed by a series of chapters that discuss the legal implications of using such weapons in law enforcement and the military. The use of an incapacitant by Russian special forces to resolve a 26 October 2002 hostage situation at the Dubrovka Theatre in Moscow takes center stage throughout the book.

In the first half of the book, biological and chemical weapons are overtly confused, as are riot control agents (tear and vomiting) and incapacitants (psycho agents). This is followed by the presentation of unsupported links between biomedical and pharmaceutical technologies and undefined biochemical weapon efforts. There are numerous valid points made in the first half of the book, and much of the information is interesting. However, against a troubled backdrop, these efforts fail to impress.

The latter half of the book is well worth reading. There are many vocal proponents for nonlethal weapons, which have the greatest potential to challenge the current international norm against chemical-biological weapons. The legal interpretations contained in the second half of the book effectively disprove the notion of nonlethal loopholes, making it clear that the perception of loopholes is derived from pulling the language out of context coupled with the difficulty in structuring a treaty through committee deliberations. *Incapacitating Biochemical Weapons* reveals important conflicts between military and police use of emerging nonlethal weapon technologies and demonstrates how such technologies may threaten the current international norms set forth by the Chemical Weapons Convention.

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