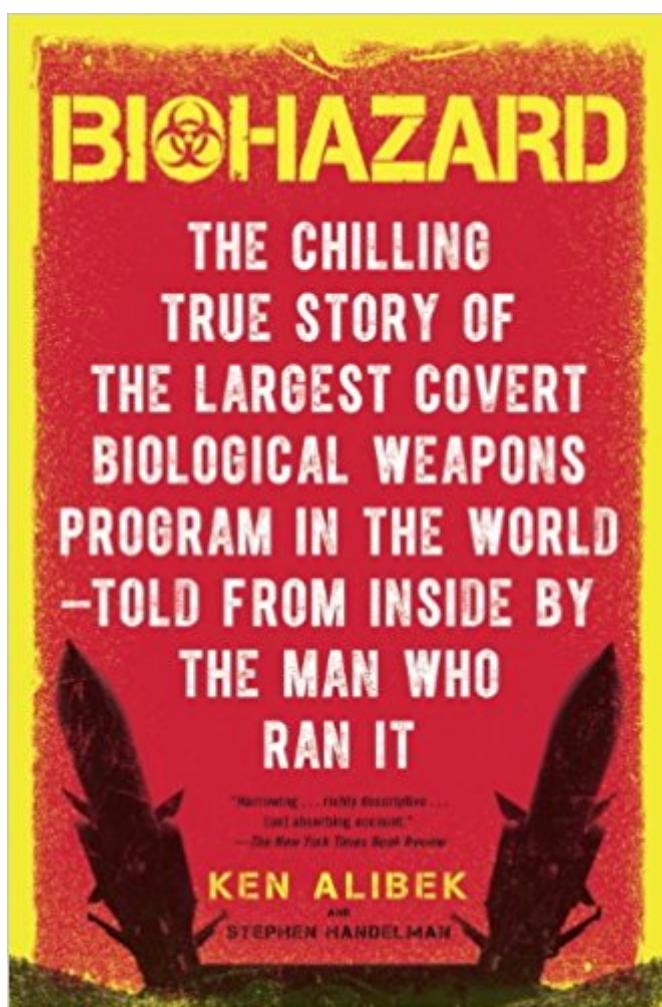


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Biohazard: The Chilling True Story Of The Largest Covert Biological Weapons Program In The World--Told From The Inside By The Man Who Ran It





Synopsis

Imagine a hot zone in which Ebola is being spliced using the latest techniques of genetic engineering with smallpox, the most infectious disease known to man. Now imagine that cocktail is meant for you. For fifty years, while the world stood in terror of a nuclear war, Russian scientists hidden in heavily guarded secret cities refined and stockpiled a new kind of weapon of mass destruction—an invisible weapon that would strike in silence and could not be traced. It would leave hundreds of thousands dead in its wake and would continue to spread devastation long after its release. The scientists were bioweaponeers, working to perfect the tools of a biological Armageddon. They called it their Manhattan Project. It was the deadliest and darkest secret of the cold war. What you are about to read has never before been made public. Ken Alibek began his career as a doctor wanting to save lives and ended up running the Soviet biological weapons program—a secret military empire masquerading as a pharmaceutical company. At its peak, the program employed sixty thousand people at over one hundred facilities. Seven reserve mobilization plants were on permanent standby, ready to produce hundreds of tons of plague, anthrax, smallpox, and Venezuelan equine encephalitis, to name only a few of the toxic agents bred in Soviet labs. Almost every government ministry was implicated, including the Academy of Sciences and the KGB. Biohazard is a terrifying, fast-paced account of tests and leaks, accidents and disasters in the labs, KGB threats and assassinations. The book is full of revelations—evidence of biowarfare programs in Cuba and India, actual deployments at Stalingrad and in Afghanistan, experiments with mood-altering agents, a contingency plan to attack major American cities, and the true story behind the mysterious anthrax outbreak in Sverdlovsk. But beyond these is a twisted world of lies and mirrors, and the riveting parable of the greatest perversion of science in history. No one knows the actual capabilities of biological weapons better than Dr. Alibek. Many of the scientists who worked with him have been lured away from low-paying Russian labs to rogue regimes and terrorist groups around the world. In our lifetime, we will most likely see a terrorist attack using biological weapons on an American city. Biohazard tells us—in chilling detail—what to expect and what we can do. Not since Arthur Koestler's *Darkness at Noon* has there been such a book—a report from inside the belly of the beast. Praise for Biohazard “Harrowing . . . richly descriptive . . . [an] absorbing account.” The New York Times Book Review “Remarkable . . . terrifying revelations . . . [Ken Alibek's] overall message is ignored at great national peril.” Newsday “Read and be

amazed. An important and fascinating look into a terrifying world of which we were blissfully unaware. •Robin Cook, author of *Contagion*From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

The book is very informative, and it is rather a source than an entertaining reading. I did not miss a line, because of my professional interest as a microbiologist and because I knew personally many of the listed in the book individuals. Perhaps, for an ordinary reader it is too many technical things. Unfortunately, there are no summary to be presented in a lay language. Also is missing and would be of interest for an ordinary reader a perspective of today on the possibility and danger of biological weapon, and not just from Russia, but rather from other countries where people were trained as a result of collaboration with Russians and beyond. I tried to address this issue in my recent book titled "Murder in the Lab". The book is neeses for those who are interested in the problem, and congratulations to the authors for this work. Leonid Heifets

A little dry, but hey, he's a Russian scientist, not a novelist. Autobiographical stuff to hold the story

together, but not too much to detract from the subject. Scary! Marburg, Ebola, Anthrax, Bubonic Plague, Botulism, Smallpox, various other bacteria, viruses, genetically engineered to be resistant to treatment drugs, all weaponized in an aerosol form and tested as payloads on missiles (poor monkeys). Look at the current natural Ebola outbreak in Africa with several countries and hundreds of victims now involved. Imagine an attack on a city where thousands would be infected in the initial attack, then hundreds of thousands dead before containment. The USSR and later Russia had a serious production line going, not just experiments. And the U.S. "experts" keep saying that it was possible to achieve such a result. Maybe they just didn't want us to be afraid.

Well written and a good companion to "the Biology of Doom" which is a story of America's biowarfare efforts.

This story of the development of the Soviet Union's biological weapons program as written by a former high level official in the program is truly scary. I, for one, had no idea of the scope of the program, the huge amounts of bioweapons being produced and stored, the cold-hearted calculation of how to make them as thoroughly deadly as possible. This is a well-written chronological account that clearly explains the diseases they worked with and how they worked to develop from the original diseases even more deadly weapons and the means to deliver them. The scariest part is that, even if the stockpiles have been destroyed, this knowledge is still out there and being used today. I found this narrative compelling from beginning to end and strongly recommend it.

America Beware would be another subtitle for this book. While the rest of the world stopped their bioweapons programs, the USSR secretly developed bioweapons that could easily kill or eliminate an entire country's population. The downside is that it would eventually destroy Russia as well as the bioweapon make it back. This is an updated book of his earlier release of the book Biohazard. Since the break-up of the Soviet Union, stockpiles of smallpox, plague, Ebola and a few other highly infectious diseases are no longer tightly controlled or protected. The highly trained scientists also found out that they could earn an enormous salary if they went rogue going from 100 rubles per month to thousand of rubles per month. The former KGB and the Russian military still have secret bioweapon manufacturing sites in the new Russia. President Putin, a former KGB head, now leads the country. He undoubtedly still believes that the western nations need to be eliminated and placed under Russian control. Remember, bioweapons are a "poor man's" nuclear weapon. Easy to disperse without anyone knowing about the release for several days or weeks. Just sit back and

watch a population collapse without firing a single shot.

Well, this was certainly disturbing. Here, in the words of a man who was the head of a whole department dedicated to the weaponization of biological agents, is the rundown of just how far the old Russia got with such a program before the state itself imploded - and it was pretty darned far along. It seems incredible that scientists could be motivated to dedicate great effort towards developing diseases for which they themselves had no cure, to use as weapons. They even hybridized smallpox with equine encephalitis to make a new superbug. Thank God none of this ever ended up in actual use. An actual on-the-ground war with them in the 80s might well have quickly devolved into an international horror show.

I found this to be among the best written and informative books on this topic. There is an excellent discussion of how the Soviets (and now Russia?) have interwoven their military and production programs. Also discussed are the contributions the United States and other countries made to this program by supplying equipment and other material. This is a great book to develop an understanding of why we have so much more to fear from a rogue bioweapons attack than we do from being nuked. Where has all the material wound up? With Russia's current economic troubles, who has sold what where?

Colonel Kanatjan Alibekov - now Ken Alibek - ran the USSR's biological weapons program which produced weaponized strains of plague, dengue fever, smallpox and a host of other toxic terrors. This book unveils the cold war's worst aspects where both the USA and USSR violated Geneva Convention protocols in hopes of having an 'edge' on the other superpower. This book is remarkable in that it could be fascinating to both a Ph.D. level scientist or a student being introduced to the Cold War era. It contains some technical specifics but they are explained in a way that does not demand a knowledge of advanced chemistry in order to become absorbed in. One unexpected but highly educational aspect of this book is its exposé of the Soviet bureaucracy. Few Westerners have any clue as to how following party doctrine and pleasing one's superiors were often the deciding issues as to if one's career advanced or if you would be exiled to Siberia. Definitely recommending reading.

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