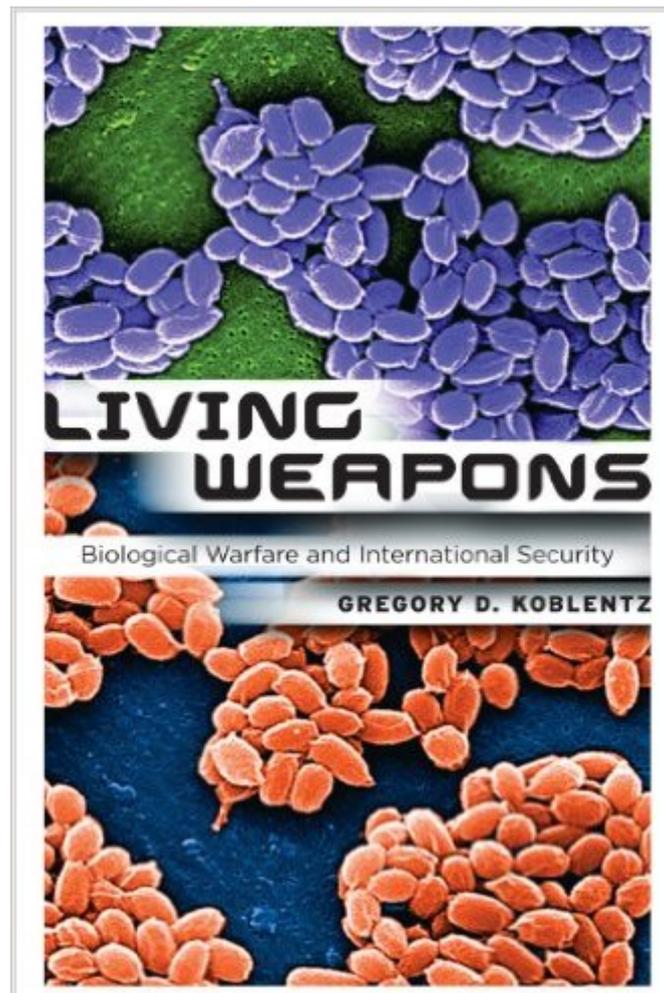


The book was found

# Living Weapons: Biological Warfare And International Security (Cornell Studies In Security Affairs)



## Synopsis

Biological weapons are widely feared, yet rarely used. Biological weapons were the first weapon prohibited by an international treaty, yet the proliferation of these weapons increased after they were banned in 1972. Biological weapons are frequently called 'the poor man's atomic bomb,' yet they cannot provide the same deterrent capability as nuclear weapons. One of my goals in this book is to explain the underlying principles of these apparent paradoxes.â "from Living Weapons

Biological weapons are the least well understood of the so-called weapons of mass destruction. Unlike nuclear and chemical weapons, biological weapons are composed of, or derived from, living organisms. In Living Weapons, Gregory D. Koblentz provides a comprehensive analysis of the unique challenges that biological weapons pose for international security. At a time when the United States enjoys overwhelming conventional military superiority, biological weapons have emerged as an attractive means for less powerful states and terrorist groups to wage asymmetric warfare. Koblentz also warns that advances in the life sciences have the potential to heighten the lethality and variety of biological weapons. The considerable overlap between the equipment, materials and knowledge required to develop biological weapons, conduct civilian biomedical research, and develop biological defenses creates a multiuse dilemma that limits the effectiveness of verification, hinders civilian oversight, and complicates threat assessments. Living Weapons draws on the American, Soviet, Russian, South African, and Iraqi biological weapons programs to enhance our understanding of the special challenges posed by these weapons for arms control, deterrence, civilian-military relations, and intelligence. Koblentz also examines the aspirations of terrorist groups to develop these weapons and the obstacles they have faced. Biological weapons, Koblentz argues, will continue to threaten international security until defenses against such weapons are improved, governments can reliably detect biological weapon activities, the proliferation of materials and expertise is limited, and international norms against the possession and use of biological weapons are strengthened.

## Book Information

File Size: 1065 KB

Print Length: 272 pages

Publisher: Cornell University Press; 1 edition (June 10, 2011)

Publication Date: June 10, 2011

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0055O1F8M

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #399,191 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #18

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > Weapons & Warfare > Biological & Chemical

#35 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics &

Government > International & World Politics > Arms Control #103 in Books > History > Military >

Weapons & Warfare > Biological & Chemical

## Customer Reviews

"Living Weapons: Biological Warfare and International Security" is a very well documented text describing the successes/failures of verification, oversight and the intelligence of biological weapons issues. The first chapter "Offense, defense, and deterrence" discusses the characteristics of biological weapons (microorganisms and toxins) from the United States, Soviet Union and Iraq perspectives. The paradox of biological weapons is well stated on page 42 "The secrecy required to retain the element of surprise in a biological attack reduces a state's ability to issue credible threats to inflict unacceptable damage against an adversary". Chapter two "Verification" discusses the problems of knowing who has what biological weapon and where is it. Chapter three, "Oversight" portrays a scary world when the leaders of the various countries are misled as to the status of their country's biological weapon inventory. Chapter four, "Intelligence" was an eye-opener to me. I was surprised to learn how little the US knew of Soviet, South African and Iraq biological weapons programs. Chapter five "Biological terrorism" discusses the history of biological weapons. This chapter concludes with the ominous statement that long-term prospects of bioterrorism are "worrisome." The "Conclusion" has as its explicit goal of "Reducing the danger posed by biological weapons." This book, while not an easy read, was very informative and worth reading.

Dr. Koblenz's book gives a very honest and real depiction of bioweapons and the different programs throughout history. His points on dual-use technologies and the generations of bioweapons are extremely relevant with the growing discussion over CRISPR and genomic editing. I enjoyed his overview of different international programs, especially the American one. I would highly

recommend this book to anyone interested in biological weapons and their role in international security issues. Koblentz keeps the reader engaged with interesting facts and a touch of humor.

"Living Weapons" is on the ROROTOKO list of cutting-edge intellectual nonfiction. Professor Koblentz's book interview ran here as cover feature on November 23, 2009.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Living Weapons: Biological Warfare and International Security (Cornell Studies in Security Affairs)  
Spiritual Warfare During Your Sleep: Weapons of Warfare vol. 2 (Dream Warfare) Why Intelligence Fails: Lessons from the Iranian Revolution and the Iraq War (Cornell Studies in Security Affairs)  
Toxic Terror: Assessing Terrorist Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons (BCSIA Studies in International Security) Weapons of Mass Destruction: An Encyclopedia of Worldwide Policy, Technology, and History; Volume I: Chemical and Biological Weapons and Volume II: ...  
Technology, and History (2 volume set) Slaying the Nuclear Dragon: Disarmament Dynamics in the Twenty-First Century (Studies in Security and International Affairs) Mini Weapons of Mass Destruction: Build and Master Ninja Weapons Machine Guns: An Illustrated History of Their Impact (Weapons and Warfare) 101 Weapons of Spiritual Warfare Spiritual Warfare During Your Sleep: Dealing With Dream Invaders vol. 1 (Dream Warfare) International Politics: Power and Purpose in Global Affairs Foxfire 3: Animal Care, Banjos and Dulcimers, Hide Tanning, Summer and Fall Wild Plant Foods, Butter Churns, Ginseng, and Still More Affairs of Plain Living Foxfire 5: Ironmaking, Blacksmithing, Flintlock Rifles, Bear Hunting, and Other Affairs of Plain Living (Foxfire (Paperback)) Foxfire 11: The Old Home Place, Wild Plant Uses, Preserving and Cooking Food, Hunting Stories, Fishing, More Affairs of Plain Living Home Security: Top 10 Home Security Strategies to Protect Your House and Family Against Criminals and Break-ins (home security monitor, home security system diy, secure home network) Documents of Judean Exiles and West Semites in Babylonia in the Collection of David Sofer (Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology) Multilevel Regulation of Military and Security Contractors: The Interplay between International, European and Domestic Norms (Studies in International Law) Surfacing Up: Psychiatry and Social Order in Colonial Zimbabwe, 1908-1968 (Cornell Studies in the History of Psychiatry) The Price of Wealth: Economies and Institutions in the Middle East (Cornell Studies in Political Economy) The Choice for Europe: Social Purpose and State Power from Messina to Maastricht (Cornell Studies in Political Economy)

[Dmca](#)