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(Dudziak, M. J., editor and translator)

Soviet Biological Weapon Systems: History, Ecology, Policy.

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In this volume is presented a large body of heretofore unpublished archival materials regarding the history and development of biological weapon systems developed within the former Soviet Union. The material covers the extensive history of secret preparations by the Soviet Union for developing a massive arsenal of offensive biological weapons of mass destruction that were intended for use against unspecified opponents and aggressors. Additionally this book addresses the heavy environmental and public health consequences for the countries of the world, particular the Russian Federation and neighboring nations in Eurasia, from all of this biomilitaristic activity.

For scientific and engineering audiences; experts and decision-makers in spheres of biological, medical, military activity, disarmament, biological safety; members of ecological and environmental organizations and the general public audience of readers interested in the issues and consequences of biological warfare and environmental safety.

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Dedicated to the memories of V. V. Bojtsov and A. E. Lobastov

INTRODUCTION

Biological weaponry may well be considered to constitute one of the most barbarous means of mass destruction, more insidious perhaps in potential long-term and long-range effects than the arsenals of nuclear weapons created and stockpiled around the globe. Biowarfare is also one of the least known among the high dangers and threats faced by contemporary society because of our militancy and warfare with each other.

Two nations have excelled in the development of technologies and arsenals for biological weapons of mass destruction – the former Soviet Union (USSR) and the United States of America. Regarding the biological weapon of Soviet Union the general reader knows very little [1-15]. However, the bioweapons programs of the USSR constituted the most extensive and broad-based of all biomilitary programs and created one of the most severe environmental threats to not only populations in the past but even, by virtue of environmental consequences, to those of the present and future.

Some of the information within this volume has appeared in connection with attempts to publicize objectively estimates of known emissions and hazards from particular biological weapons incidents (e.g., the Siberian ulcer, Sverdlovsk (Ekaterinburg) in 1979. ...

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Meanwhile the pervasive ignorance of our society with respect to biological weapon systems and their risks has truly existed in the country and this absence of understanding is extremely dangerous. Due to the lack of proper civil control, inhabitants of the former USSR have constantly been at risk to suffer from dangerous infections, without anyone in authority taking steps to provide information on the origins and methods of prevention. This danger has automatically been transferred to modern Russia.

The unbiased vision and interpretation of history is important. Consequently, it is necessary to question and to understand whether or not there was for Soviet authorities the necessity to take risks and to prepare for biological warfare, thereby threatening the lives of fellow citizens and breaking of international agreements, established in 1925 and 1972, forbidding the use of biological weapons as means of conducting war [71,72].

The present work has for an object to fill in blanks and to provide a continuum of information for the global audience that is interested not only in Soviet military history but in the foundations of a biological warfare system that could be replicated by others, including rogue nations in other countries, other times. Any war demands an estimate of casualties and other expenses, and biological war is not exception. We believe that the information collected in this book will help any society to realize the dangers proceeding from a military-biological complex and to understand that such a complex cannot be tolerated nor justified in any manner. We hope that our present and future society can find within itself the strength, the intelligence, and the will to resist all incessant or recurrent attempts to conduct such activity that are inherently dangerous for all life.

The history at this book is quite unusual. In [1996] an officer within the Russian Army, V.V.Bojtsov, had delivered to me a draft copy of a work on the history of the Soviet biological weapons program [7]. (" I am engaged in the chemical weapon ") it has sincerely answered my bewilderment: " And let lays. Just in case ". Valentine Vitalevich in the same year unfortunately had died; not all "graduates" of Chernobyl die the death. It is necessary to tell, that by 1995 V.V.Bojtsov has not done a poor study of foreign data about the Soviet preparation for offensive biological war [1,2] and he had even found many important documents in our military archives [70]. Something from his ideas had found its way into a detailed foreign book [12]. Meanwhile I had continued the same research with plans to publish a book.

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