



Biohazard: The Chilling True Story of the Largest Covert Biological Weapons Program in the World--Told from Inside by the Man Who Ran It

By Ken Alibek, Stephen Handelman

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Anthrax. Smallpox. Incurable and horrifying Ebola-related fevers. For two decades, while a fearful world prepared for nuclear winter, an elite team of Russian bioweaponeers began to till a new killing field: a bleak tract sown with powerful seeds of mass destruction—by doctors who had committed themselves to creating a biological Armageddon. *Biohazard* is the never-before-told story of Russia’s darkest, deadliest, and most closely guarded Cold War secret.

No one knows more about Russia’s astounding experiments with biowarfare than Ken Alibek. Now the mastermind behind Russia’s germ warfare effort reveals two decades of shocking breakthroughs . . . how Moscow’s leading scientists actually reengineered hazardous microbes to make them even more virulent . . . the secrets behind the discovery of an invisible, untraceable new class of biological agents just right for use in political assassinations . . . the startling story behind Russia’s attempt to turn a sample of the AIDS virus into the ultimate bioweapon. And in a chilling work of real-world intrigue, *Biohazard* offers us all a rare glimpse into a shadowy scientific underworld where doctors manufacture mass destruction, where witnesses to errors are silenced forever, and where ground zero is closer than we ever dared believe.

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

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In this fast-paced memoir, Ken Alibek combines cutting-edge science with the narrative techniques of a thriller to describe some of the most awful weapons imaginable. The result will remind readers of *The Hot Zone*, Richard Preston's smart bestseller about the Ebola virus. That book focuses on the dangers of a freak accident; *Biohazard* shows how disease can become a deliberate tool of war. Alibek, once a top scientist in the Soviet Union's biological weapons program, describes putting anthrax on a warhead and targeting a city on the other side of the world. "A hundred kilograms of anthrax spores would, in optimal atmospheric conditions, kill up to three million people in any of the densely populated metropolitan areas of the United States," he writes. "A single SS-18 [missile] could wipe out the population of a city as large as New York."

Chilling passages like these, plus discussions of proliferation and terrorism, make *Biohazard* a harrowing book, but it also has a human side. Alibek, who defected to the United States, describes the routine danger of his work: "A bioweapons lab leaves its mark on a person forever." An unending stream of vaccinations has destroyed his sense of smell, afflicted him with allergies, made it impossible to eat certain kinds of food, and "weakened my resistance to disease and probably shortened my life." But it didn't take away his ability to tell an astonishing story. --*John J. Miller*

From Library Journal

Biological weapons in the former Soviet Union; where are they now?

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Review

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"An important and fascinating look into a terrifying world of which we were blissfully unaware. While we all grew up with the anxiety of the threat of a nuclear winter, little did we know there was an equally horrific menace from biotechnology. *Biohazard* takes you behind the scenes of the Soviet Union's clandestine bioweapons program. Read and be amazed."—**Robin Cook, author of *Contagion***

"As the top scientist in the Soviet biowarfare program and the inventor of the world's most powerful anthrax, Ken Alibek has stunned the highest levels of the U.S. government with his revelations. Now, in a calm, compelling, utterly convincing voice, he tells the world what he knows. Modern biology is producing weapons that in killing power may exceed the hydrogen bomb. Ken Alibek describes them with the intimate knowledge of a top weaponeer."—**Richard Preston, author of *The Hot Zone***

"This is a gripping book. The hum of machines that kept deadly airborne germs away from the scientists and their families can be heard in the background. The technical details are vivid and terrible even as the human story unfolds. It was fascinating—and chilling—to peer inside this awesome war machine. I worked for a dozen years to develop defenses against a Soviet threat that was largely unknown. To see its full scope made me realize how overpowered we would have been if it had ever been used. Military casualties would have

been incredible, but civilians would have suffered equally as contagious diseases raced through cities and towns. Some of the Soviet ‘advances,’ such as inducing antibiotic resistance in classical pathogens like plague, would have changed the practice of medicine forever.”—**C. J. Peters, author of *Virus Hunter*, former deputy commander of USAMRIID, now at the CDC**

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