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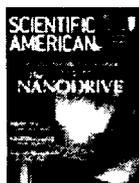
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# Biohazard: The Chilling True Story of the Largest Covert Biological Weapons Program in the World-- Told from Inside by the Man Who Ran It

by Ken Alibek, Stephen Handelman (Contributor)



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## Editorial Reviews

### Amazon.com

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.

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"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 --*This text refers to the Hardcover edition.*

**From Library Journal**

Biological weapons in the former Soviet Union; where are they now? Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --*This text refers to the Hardcover edition.*

**The New York Times Book Review, Philip Taubman**

...a richly descriptive report on the Soviet program and Alibek's role in it. --*This text refers to the Hardcover edition.*

**Richard Preston, author of The Hot Zone**

"As the top scientist in the Soviet Union's biowarfare program and the inventor of the world's most powerful anthrax, Dr. 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." --*This text refers to the Hardcover edition.*

**Book Description**

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.

**Ingram**

The true story of the largest covert biological weapons program in the world--written by the man who ran it--"Biohazard" tells a terrifying tale: a fast-paced account of accidents and disasters in the labs and KGB threats and assassinations--all in chilling detail. --*This text refers to the Hardcover edition.*

**From the Back Cover**

"Harrowing...richly descriptive...[An] Absorbing account."

--*The New York Times Book Review*

"Read and be amazed....An important and fascinating look into a terrifying world of which we were blissfully unaware."

--Robin Cook, author of **Contagion**

"Terrifying revelations."

--*Newsday*

**About the Author**

Ken Alibek was born in Kauchuk, Kazakhstan, in 1950. He graduated in 1975 from the military faculty of the Tomsk Medical Institute, where he majored in infectious diseases and epidemiology. He holds a Ph.D. in microbiology for research and development of plague and tularemia biological weapons and a doctorate of science in biotechnology for developing the technology to manufacture anthrax on an industrial scale. He joined Biopreparat in 1975 and was its first deputy chief from 1988 to 1992. Since his defection to the United States in 1992, he has briefed U.S. military intelligence on biological weapons. He is now working in biodefense.

Stephen Handelman is a columnist at *Time*. He was the Moscow bureau chief of *The Toronto Star* in the late eighties and early nineties and is the author of **Comrade Criminal: Russia's New Mafiya**.

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