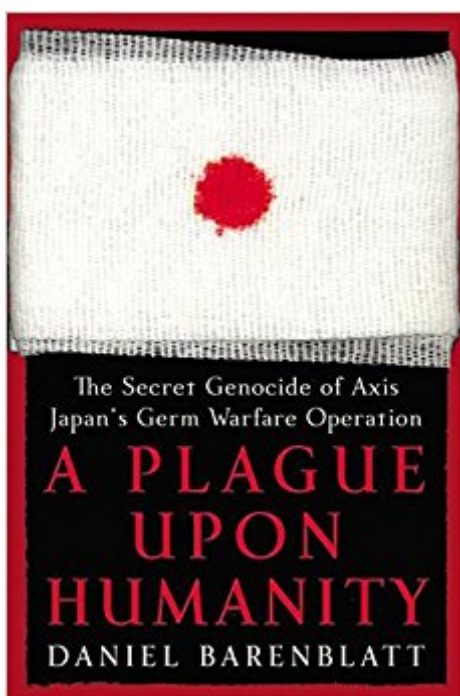


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# A Plague Upon Humanity: The Secret Genocide Of Axis Japan's Germ Warfare Operation



## Synopsis

In wartime Japan's bid for conquest, humanity suffered through one of its darkest hours, as a hidden genocide took the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent people. Cloaked in secrecy and protected under the banner of scientific study, the best and brightest of Japan's medical establishment volunteered for a major initiative in support of the military that involved the systematic murder of Chinese civilians. With the help of the United States government, they were allowed to get away with it. Based on important original research, this book reveals as never before the full extent of this crime, in a story that is as compelling as it is terrifying. Beginning in 1931, the military of Imperial Japan came up with a new strategy to further the nation's drive for expansion: germ warfare. But they needed help to figure out how to do it. So they recruited thousands of doctors and research scientists, all of whom accepted willingly, in order to develop a massive program of biological warfare that was referred to as "the secret of secrets." This covert operation consisted of horrifying human experiments and germ weapon attacks against people whose lives were seen as expendable, including Chinese men, women, and children living in Manchuria and other areas of Japanese occupation. Even American POWs were targeted. At the forefront of this disturbing enterprise was an elite organization known as Unit 731, led by Japan's answer to Joseph Mengele, Dr. Shiro Ishii. Under Ishii's orders, captives were subjected to deeds that strain the boundaries of imagination. Men and women were frozen alive to study the effects of frostbite. Others were dissected without anesthesia. Tied to posts, victims were infected with virulent strains of anthrax and other diseases. Entire cities were aerially sprayed with fleas carrying bubonic plague. All told, more than five hundred thousand people died. Yet after the war, U.S. occupation forces under General Douglas MacArthur struck a deal with the doctors of Unit 731 that shielded them from accountability for their atrocities. In this meticulously documented work, Daniel Barenblatt has drawn upon startling new evidence of Japan's germ warfare program, including firsthand accounts from both perpetrators and survivors. Authoritative, alarming, and gripping from start to finish, *A Plague upon Humanity* is a powerful investigation that exposes one of the most shameful chapters in human history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Only last year did a Japanese court acknowledge that Japanese germ warfare experiments in China took place during WWII. A useful overview of the history of biological warfare provides a historical context for the gruesome experiments on humans that began in northern China in the early 1930s, linked to the military expansion Japan began during the 1930s and fathered by scientist Shiro Ishii, who figures prominently in the book among the 20,000 Japanese professionals involved (some of whom knowingly distributed tainted food). The accounts of experiments on humans and massive germ warfare attacks against civilians—more than 400,000 Chinese died of cholera after two attacks in 1943—include the testimony of Chinese victims and witnesses as well as some Japanese. While most atrocities were committed against Chinese and Koreans, some Westerners, including American prisoners of war, were also victims. The most thoughtful portions of the book, *Washington Post* contributor Barenblatt's debut, explore how such atrocities "...coldly preserve medicine's scientific devices while annihilating all its high ideals." Shameful U.S. government efforts, spearheaded by MacArthur, to protect the Japanese perpetrators from prosecution in exchange for their research, even to the extent of characterizing the only war crimes trial that prosecuted perpetrators as propaganda (it was conducted by the Soviets), are well documented. The postwar material includes highly controversial claims of America's use of biological warfare during the Korean War. Although many of the gruesome facts have been published before, Barenblatt brings together the many contexts of how Japan's war machine came to commit medical-biological war crimes on a massive scale, with a final death toll of 580,000. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Journalist Barenblatt, an expert on Japanese biological warfare, valuably summarizes the known facts and reasonable speculations about it. Like many other aspects of science in Japan, the country's knowledge of biology was much more advanced before World War II than the rest of the

world believed. Japan's biological warfare capability, carefully developed with the direct support of the emperor, had been tested upon Chinese and Western subjects and deployed operationally at the cost of as many as a million Chinese lives. After the war, cold war politics prevented war-crimes prosecution of Japanese biowar experts and may have led to the use of their talents and stocks of material in Korea (Barenblatt grants that such use has not been proven). Barenblatt's useful addition to the literature on biological warfare and WWII belongs on the same shelf as Iris Chang's *The Rape of Nanking* (1997) and studies of the comfort girls, where it may, however, raise the hackles of Japanese still in the dark about their country's war crimes. Roland Green Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Daniel did a detailed research on this subject of Japanese horror in WW II in China with their genocide germ warfare operation condensed in this volume. It is comprehensive with an unbiased viewpoint on black and white, right and wrong, life and death, open and close, Chinese and westerners. Daniel pointed out that (p.41) it would be strange if a man (i.e. Emperor Hirohito) of his scientific enthusiasms was not kept well informed about the largest, most sensational and most militarily sensitive biological project happening under his rule. The first seven chapters talked about how and when Japan set up such medical research program and exploited it for aggressive domination in Asia, specially in China. Chapter 8 and 9 elaborate on *What America Knew and The Secret Deal* with explosive disclosure with attention on Soviet Trial with members of Unit 731. Even American POWs at the camp in Mukden, Manchuria were Japanese guinea pig. The Tokyo Trial did not cover this subject. The 1982 John W. Powell's paper with CBS 60 Minutes report shocked the Netherlands Judge of 1946 Tokyo Court, B.V.A. Roling who expressed a strong sense of revulsion, betrayal and justice denied ( p.222) Frightening was the fact that in November 1944, Japan sent out over 9,000 balloon bombs to America intended to kill (p.191). Shocking is the accusation of cannibalism in many of Allied Asia Courts with prisons' inner organs for gourmet dinners, with American flyboys liver for spiritual energy (p.219). Daniel however did not talk about the anthrax after September 11 Of 2001. Is there any relationship between Japanese spore and the ones sent to American officials? Reading this book help understand history and international politics. It may help to understand why Japanese PM Abe claimed "Tokyo Trial is victor's justice". Is America prepared for another Pearl Harbor, balloon bombs and germ warfare attacks? Unit 731: Japan's Secret Biological Warfare in World War II, *Factories of Death: Japanese Biological Warfare, 1932-45 and the American Cover-Up*, *Guests of the Emperor: The Secret History of Japan's Mukden POW Camp*

Great book. This story needs to be told.

excellent book super fast delivery just as described

Good book. Pleased with the information it offers.

This is an excellent written book about germ warfare experiments by the Japs durning WWII. Very well written and easily read. Might make some people mad at our goverment after WWII for not doing any thing to the Jap personel who performed the expirments.

It is very difficult to beilve that one person would cut open another as standard operating procedures to ensure the organs were in the best state, with out drugs for the patient. Makes Dr Mangela look mild. they were some sick people.

Perfect condition as though it has never been read. I haven't read it yet though. It is for my PhD research.

This is why my mother won't visit China. Although she would like to learn more about Chinese culture, she discouraged my visiting China because she was afraid something would bite me or I would bring vermin back not because the Chinese are inherently dirty but because she accurately remembers the strength of vermin warfare inflicted upon China and is convinced that the poisoning of China's water system and soil makes Chinese products suspect even before the industrial accidents in recent news. It takes a widespread intense campaign to deal with this problem. I didn't read this book before visiting China but I believed that she was being practical in her advise and not political. This problem needs to be researched. One must satisfy the most critical person in order to solve the problem correctly.

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