

fight when he tasked the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to develop a vaccine to immunize the entire nation. President Ford and his advisors had noble intentions, but a small problem arose. The vaccine had a tendency to trigger Guillain-Barre' Syndrome—a potentially fatal disease for some people.

After long and sometimes bitter debates, the government forged ahead with the vaccination program, and true to form, people died of the Guillain-Barre' Syndrome. This exposed the government to litigation, and a hurricane of suits hit the government—no doubt pleasing the Trial Lawyers Association. In the final few chapters, the author summarizes what we know about the disease and recent attempts to discover the live tissue in the corpses of long-deceased individuals. We now have live strains of the disease, but so far, science cannot map it accurately enough to chart its genetic structure. Some of the best scientific minds in the world have attempted to not only chart the disease but also to understand how it spread so far so fast.

The important reason for reading this excellent book can be found in the ending sentences:

*"Perhaps we grow almost smug about influenza, that most quotidian of infections, a new plague is now gathering deadly force. Except this time we stand armed with a better understanding of the past to better survive the next pandemic."*

This, if nothing else, should cause concern about the possibilities of the flu. We cannot be overconfident. We could become a reincarnation of the 1918 flu, which could devastate the United States and not destroy a single man-made object. Small towns could be intact, but deserted. It happened once, and it can happen again.

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*Saddam's Secrets: The Hunt for Iraq's Hidden Weapons.*

Tim Trevan. New York: Harper, Collins, 1999

At the end of the Gulf War, it was assumed that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) had been destroyed. The final authority laid in the hands of the UN inspectors whose task was to ensure that all Iraq's WMD were completely destroyed. However, Saddam Hussein had other ideas. To keep his WMD, Saddam was willing to let the people of Iraq suffer considerably because of UN sanctions. All Iraq had to do was to comply with UN resolutions and, once the WMD had been eliminated, the sanctions would have been lifted.

Since 1991, the Iraqis have continued to be defiant and less than truthful in their contacts with the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM), the WMD inspection arm of the United Nations. For an inside look at the "cat-and-mouse" game between the United Nations and Iraq over its WMD infrastructure, read Tim Trevan's *Saddam's Secrets: The Hunt For Iraq's Hidden Weapons*.

Mr. Trevan's book is not objective nor is it intended to be an exhaustive academic history of the UNSCOM. Trevan was there in the middle of all Iraq's lies, deceit, and obstruction aimed against the United Nations for nearly a decade. He writes from personal experience and, in the wording of the text, it is obvious that he, as well as the UNSCOM, was very frustrated. They were trying to do their job. Iraq, however, was not cooperating and was also going to considerable lengths to stop the teams from finding what they needed to get the job done.

In one case, a UNSCOM team happened onto a large archive of documents that it wanted to remove from the parking lot of a building. For four days, there was a standoff between the unarmed team and hundreds of heavily armed Iraqi soldiers. Trevan's time in Baghdad was often punctuated by US air raids to encourage Iraq to cooperate. Eventually Iraq did agree to cooperate and went into the mode made popular at the time—"cheat and retreat."

This book is important for one chilling reason—if counterproliferation operations are to rid the world of WMD, it will be much harder to do that now because Iraq has shown that if a nation or, in this case, an absolute leader wants to defy the United Nations and the United States and is willing to take the heat, there is not much either can do short of a direct invasion.

*Saddam's Secrets* is a primer for any state that develops WMD and stands up to outside pressure to retain that capability. Both India and Pakistan have WMD. Neither is as militarily weak as Iraq, but both would go to any length to retain their WMD programs. They have spent too much money, time, and effort to develop them; thus, it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to persuade them to stop. Pressure like that applied against Saddam would not work. Both nations would be willing to undergo privations to keep their WMD.

If counterproliferation is to work, Saddam must comply, and *Saddam's Secrets* shows that is next to impossible. He will fight to the last Iraqi to retain his WMD because that is what he thinks. Iraq is surrounded by countries Saddam perceives as threats (such as Syria, Iran, and Israel), and having WMD capability preserves Iraq's and, of course, Saddam's position.

In reading this book, one can truly appreciate the hard work and dedication of UNSCOM's teams and the genuine risks they took to attempt to complete what Iraq had originally agreed to do with U.S. and Allied forces with a clear road to Baghdad.

You should read this book; it is a precursor of things to come. There can be no doubt that other rogue states will take heart from Iraq's defiance and continue to make and test WMD. The world will not be the better for it.