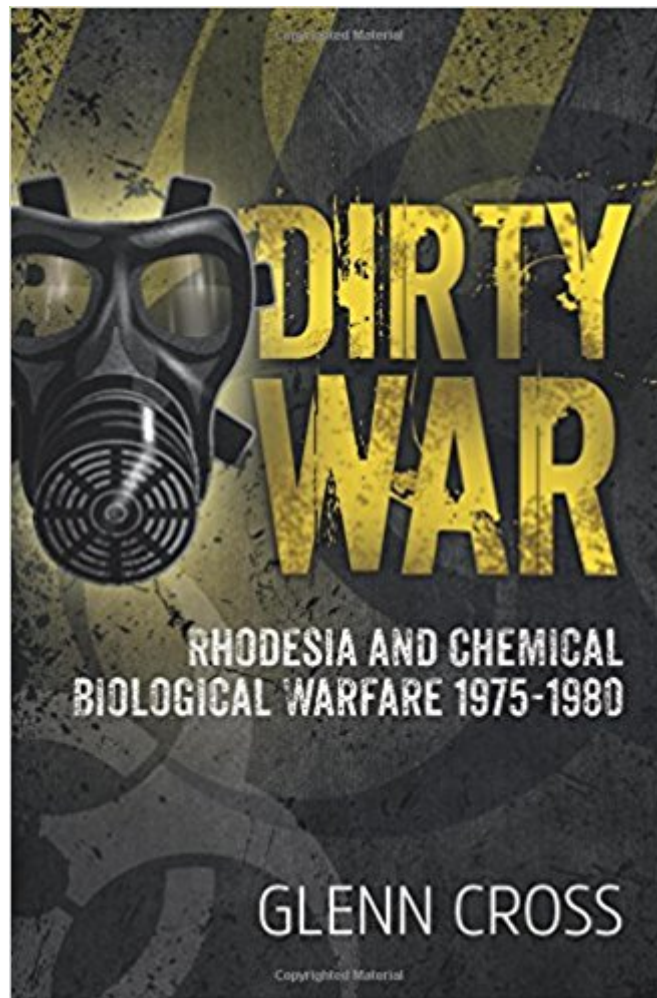




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Dirty War: Rhodesia And Chemical Biological Warfare 1975-1980



Synopsis

Dirty War is the first comprehensive look at the Rhodesia's top secret use of chemical and biological weapons (CBW) during their long counterinsurgency against native African nationalists. Having declared its independence from Great Britain in 1965, the government made up of European settlers and their descendants almost immediately faced a growing threat from native African nationalists. In the midst of this long and terrible conflict, Rhodesia resorted to chemical and biological weapons against an elusive guerrilla adversary. A small team made up of a few scientists and their students at a remote Rhodesian fort to produce lethal agents for use. Cloaked in the strictest secrecy, these efforts were overseen by a battle-hardened and ruthless officer of Rhodesia's Special Branch and his select team of policemen. Answerable only to the head of Rhodesian intelligence and the Prime Minister, these men working alongside Rhodesia's elite counter guerrilla military unit, the Selous Scouts, developed the ingenious means to deploy their poisons against the insurgents. The effect of the poisons and disease agents devastated the insurgent groups both inside Rhodesia and at their base camps in neighboring countries. At times in the conflict, the Rhodesians thought that their poisons effort would bring the decisive blow against the guerrillas. For months at a time, the Rhodesian use of CBW accounted for higher casualty rates than conventional weapons. In the end, however, neither CBW use nor conventional battlefield successes could turn the tide. Lacking international political or economic support, Rhodesia's fate from the outset was doomed. Eventually the conflict was settled by the ballot box and Rhodesia became independent Zimbabwe in April 1980. Dirty War is the culmination of nearly two decades of painstaking research and interviews of dozens of former Rhodesian officers who either participated or were knowledgeable about the top secret development and use of CBW. The book also draws on the handful of remaining classified Rhodesian documents that tell the story of the CBW program. Dirty War combines all of the available evidence to provide a compelling account of how a small group of men prepared and used CBW to devastating effect against a largely unprepared and unwitting enemy. Looking at the use of CBW in the context of the Rhodesian conflict, Dirty War provides unique insights into the motivation behind CBW development and use by states, especially by states combating internal insurgencies. As the norms against CBW use have seemingly eroded with CW use evident in Iraq and most recently in Syria, the lessons of the Rhodesian experience are all the more valid and timely.

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Customer Reviews

"The Glenn Cross book [Dirty War: Rhodesia and Chemical Biological Warfare 1975-1980](#), [Helion and Company, England, 2017](#), goes into greater depth. ... The book is superbly researched and referenced, but there are a lot of holes in the story. The people who knew about this campaign are not speaking or dead. Author Cross mentions numerous articles, quotes from books, biographies, and some actual statements by participants..." [Herb Friedman](#)"It seems highly unlikely that the Rhodesian army would have used chemical agents on their own people, but Cross presents his evidence in compelling form and seems able to support his claims in this dark book about Rhodesia's internal struggles during the late 1970s..." (Books Monthly)["The Rhodesian example is an important case study in how some nations and non-State actors might view the utility of CBW in 21st century counterinsurgency warfare."](#) (Insight on Africa)

Dr. Glenn Cross currently works for the US Government on WMD issues. Since the early 1990s, he has worked on biological weapons (BW) issues for several U.S. intelligence agencies. Beginning in the early 2000s, he has supervised analysis of WMD terrorism topics and most recently BW issues. His expertise focuses on state and non-state BW efforts. From September 2008 to October 2010, Dr. Cross was the Deputy National Intelligence Officer for WMD & Proliferation responsible for biological weapons issues on the Director of National Intelligence's National Intelligence Council. He also was a post-doctoral fellow at Georgetown University where he conducted an exhaustive study of the Rhodesian CBW program as an example of a CBW program that had slipped under the radar of most other nations. Dr. Cross is a frequent speaker at panels and

workshops on biological weapons and has been quoted in books and periodicals on biological weapons. Dr. Cross received his A.B. from Columbia University in history and political science, an M.A. from King's College, London in War Studies, a second M.A. from George Mason University in international trade, and a Ph.D. in biodefense from George Mason University.

Great book

Very well written and excellently researched! I commend the author for his ethics and courage in exposing the CBW useage, hopefully this knowledge can provide lessons that will benefit all mankind.

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