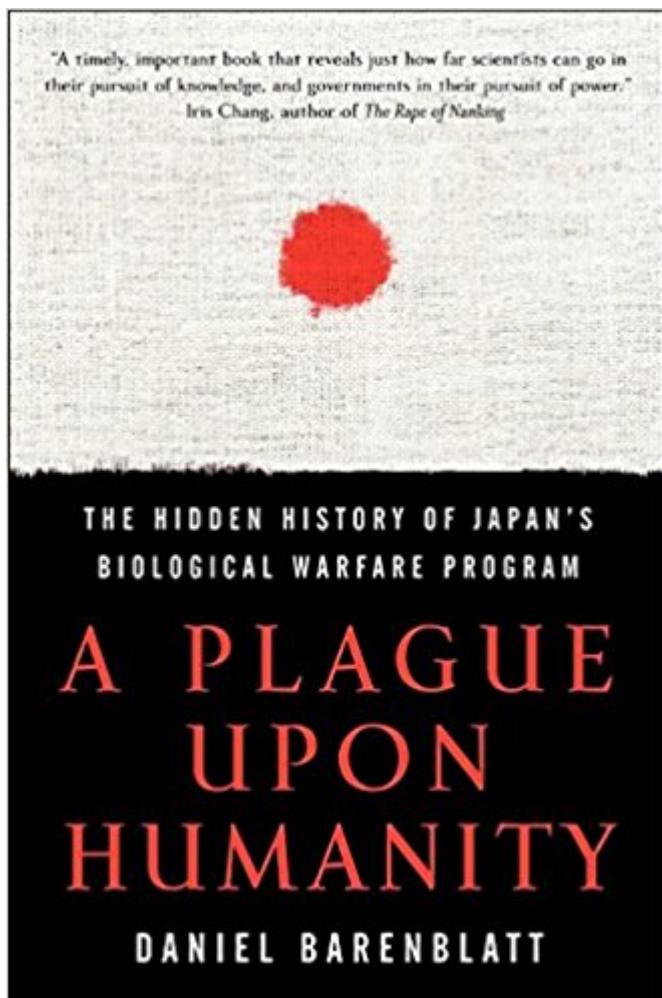


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# A Plague Upon Humanity: The Hidden History Of Japan's Biological Warfare Program



## Synopsis

From 1932 to 1945, in a headlong quest to develop germ warfare capability for the military of Imperial Japan, hundreds of Japanese doctors, nurses and research scientists willingly participated in what was referred to at the time as 'the secret of secrets' — horrifying experiments conducted on live human beings, in this case innocent Chinese men, women, and children. This was the work of an elite group known as Unit 731, led by Japan's answer to Joseph Mengele, Dr Shiro Ishii. Under their initiative, thousands of individuals were held captive and infected with virulent strains of anthrax, plague, cholera, and other epidemic and viral diseases. Soon entire Chinese villages were being hit with biological bombs. Even American POWs were targeted. All told, more than 250,000 people were infected, and the vast majority died. Yet, after the war, US occupation forces under General Douglas MacArthur struck a deal with these doctors that shielded them from accountability. Provocative, alarming and utterly compelling, *A Plague Upon Humanity* draws on important original research to expose one of the most shameful chapters in human history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Barenblatt exposes horrors that test the limits of human imagination ... A timely, important book.” (Iris Chang, author of *The Rape of Nanking*) “An important book, *A Plague upon Humanity* is as alarming as it is compelling.” (James Bradley, author of *Flags of Our Fathers* and *Flyboys*) “Daniel Barenblatt’s account could not be more timely. A revealing complement to today’s WMD debate.” (James Fallows, national correspondent, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and author of *Looking at the Sun*) “Delivers gripping

testimony and long-needed justice to one of the great untold evils of World War II. (Craig Nelson, author of *The First Heroes*) Eye-opening. Daniel Barenblatt has written a powerful and disturbing book. (Ross Terrill, author of *Mao and The New Chinese Empire*)

Daniel Barenblatt holds degrees from Harvard and UCLA, and his writing about the Japanese germ warfare program has appeared in the *Washington Post*. He lives in New York City.

I purchased this book as a research source for my master's in military history, and it has been one of my favorite books. It is an incredibly detailed account of Japan's biological warfare program during WWII. The subject matter is graphic, but this is an excellently researched and interesting book. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in WWII history, and especially that of Imperial Japan's war in China.

I am studying disaster preparedness and emergency management, this book offered an insight into peoples minds and how they operate in the biological and chemical weapons world, their motivation and the results from their work. The scientists in this book went right to the source to find the real answers to their science endeavors.

very interesting with tons of facts that 90% of the world don't know thanks to Japan and the US covering it up for Bio info that would be used against the cold war bad guys if needed. But accidents happens!!

This book is excellent history of Japanese atrocities. It is well written and easy to read. Well researched. Some surprising events, little known history. Recommend to serious students of Pacific war.

A Plague Upon Humanity is extremely well-written and it fills in a gap in the literature on the subject of Japanese wartime atrocities and US complicity in its cover-up. The review by "Harkius" below contains false statements that need to be challenged. First, contrary to Harkius' statement, this book definitely uses a number of primary sources, and quite valuable and dramatic ones at that. They are clearly listed in the endnotes and sometimes in the body of the chapter texts as well. Harkius writes that the book errs in calling the agent of typhus by the name *Eberthella typhosa*. In fact, this was the common name used for the bacterium in the time period examined in the book, the years of

Imperial Japanese germ warfare and Unit 731, so it is perfectly acceptable to use the term. It is precisely the same bacteria that would later go by the name *Salmonella typhi*. The book's narrative of the unfolding history is quite clear, easy to read and chronological. I had no problem following the details of the story and cannot comprehend why he would characterize its style as "schizophrenic". Exactly the opposite is true. Harkiss completely misquotes the author by saying that he writes that a girl's vivisection by Japanese invaders was "the exact act of a devil." Author Barenblatt did NOT say that, rather that is a quote from the testimony of a Chinese woman from the girl's village and it is presented in the book as the account of a Chinese survivor and an eyewitness. And it is perfectly appropriate for her to describe the horrific medical atrocity this way. Once again, Harkiss has it completely wrong. The actual quote of the woman, Wang Lijun, is: "an 18-year-old girl, named Wu Xiaonai, was dissected alive, and had her internal organs taken out while she was still alive, which was exactly a devil's act. Zhang Julian who saw that bloodcurdling scene was frightened and barely escaped with her life ..." As for the book he recommends, "Alibekov's Biohazard", I am quite familiar with it and it has only a brief, error-filled mention of Japan's germ warfare and human experiments, and it completely omits the U.S. secret recruitment of Japan's criminal doctors after the war. This is not surprising since co-author Alibek (who also uses the name "Alibekov") himself unapologetically worked in the US biowar program and so cannot be trusted to give an unbiased, truthful account. I would say that if you are interested in this subject, you will find it quite difficult if not impossible to find any work aside from Barenblatt's *A Plague Upon Humanity* that is as readable and that is based upon as much up-to-date independent research as his.

It's a sharp and a very nice Chef product. just fine. satisfied. my sister need it , the best product, high quality and low price .

This book offers insight into a primarily unexplored portion of history. Terrifying is the most descriptive term I can think of to portray the magnitude of what I felt by reading this book. It is well researched and flows well for reading. In fact, it flows almost too well as the reader finds himself in Harbin in the 1930s and the terror that ensued with the biological warfare program. The thought of human vivisection is too overpowering when considering the absolute hell the victims must have endured. How this horror has remained largely unchallenged defies the laws of humanity! Proceed with caution...this book offers nightmares more intense than any best selling horror novel could ever offer.

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