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Weapons by the United States -- 15. Sverdlovsk 1979: The Release of Bacillus anthracis Spores from a Soviet Ministry of Defense Facility and Its Consequences -- 16. Soviet Research on Mycotoxins -- 17. Assistance by Warsaw Pact States to the Soviet Union's Biological Warfare Program -- 18. The Question of Proliferation from the USSR Biological Warfare Program -- 19. Recalcitrant Russian Policies in a Parallel Area: Chemical Weapon Demilitarization -- 20. The Soviet Union, Russia, and Biological Warfare Arms Control -- 21. The Gorbachev Years: The Soviet Biological Weapons Program, 1985- 1992 -- 22. Boris Yeltsin to the Present -- 23. United States and International Efforts to Prevent Proliferation of Biological Weapons Expertise from the Former Soviet Union -- Conclusion -- Annex A. Annex B. Annex C. Annex D. Notes. Acknowledgments. Index -- Annex A: Acronyms and Russian Terms -- Annex B: Glossary of Biological Warfare-Related Words and Terms -- Annex C: A Joint Decree of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, USSR, and the USSR Council of Ministers, Dated 24 June 1981 -- Annex D: Joint US/UK/Russian Statement of Biological Weapons -- Notes -- Acknowledgments -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

Russian officials claim today that the USSR never possessed an offensive biological weapons program. In fact, the Soviet government spent billions of rubles and hard currency to fund hugely expensive research that added nothing to the country's security. This history is the first attempt to understand the full scope of the USSR's offensive biological weapons research-its inception in the 1920's, its growth between 1970 and 1980, and its possible remnants in present-day Russia. We learn that between 1990 and 1992 the U.S. and U.K. governments never obtained clear evidence of the program's closure, raising the haunting question whether the means for waging biological warfare could be resurrected in Russia today. Based on interviews with important Soviet scientists and managers, papers from the Soviet Central Committee, and U.S. and U.K. declassified documents, this book peels back layers of lies, to reveal how and why Soviet leaders decided to develop biological weapons, the scientific resources they dedicated to this task, and the multitude of research institutes that applied themselves to its fulfillment. We learn that Biopreparat, an ostensibly civilian organization, was established to manage a top secret program, code-named Ferment, whose objective was to apply genetic engineering to develop strains of pathogenic agents that had never existed in nature. Leitenberg and Zilinskas consider the performance of the U.S. intelligence community in discovering and assessing these activities, and they examine in detail the crucial years 1985 to 1992, when Mikhail Gorbachev's attempts to put an end to the program were thwarted.
