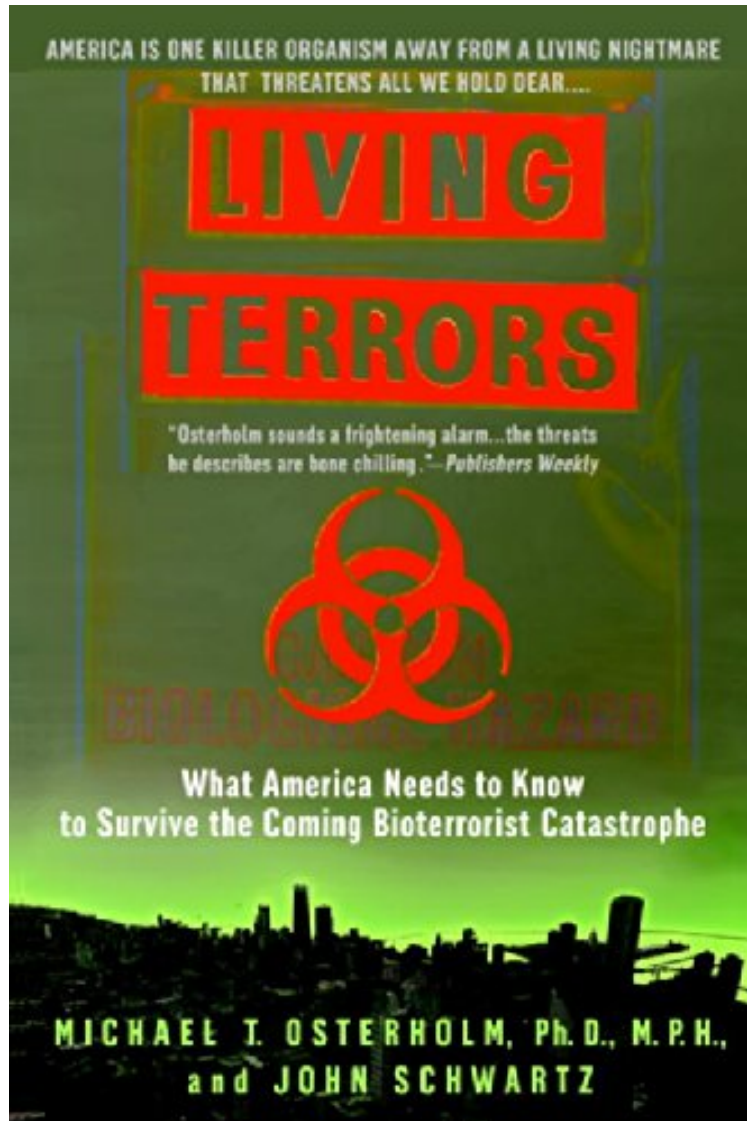


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## Living Terrors: What America Needs to Know to Survive the Coming Bioterrorist Catastrophe

*Michael T. Osterholm Ph.D. MPH, John Schwartz  
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**Michael T. Osterholm Ph.D. MPH, John Schwartz : Living Terrors: What America Needs to Know to Survive the Coming Bioterrorist Catastrophe** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living Terrors: What America Needs to Know to Survive the Coming Bioterrorist Catastrophe:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Author knows his stuff, though this is a bit old, it is still very

relevantBy BugsWhile I think some of the material is a bit outdated- the book is getting old and we know a lot more about ebola now- I think- it's still very relevant in many, many ways- specifically about the threat of bioterrorism and the book describes many possible scenerios.I felt like this book was easy to read and well written. It's not too thick and it was never in any way overwhelming. I learned a lot from it.Michael Osterholm really speaks clearly and intelligently on epidemiology and emerging biological threats. I'd love to have got a chance to study with him, so I'm grateful to get to read his books and find his lectures and speeches online. To me he makes more sense than anyone on the subject of ebola the threat of bioterrorism..0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dr Osterholm rocks! Scary, could not put the book down.....better buy two give one to your best friend !By marla wahlDr Osterholm wrote this book in 2000. I read it was scared but felt informed. I gave the book to a friend. Now, years later, with relevant current events, I needed to read the book again. I got myself a very nice used one from read it again. If knowledge is power, this book provided enough info to calm me my friends, to help us develop plans that are sensible, not hysterical. Dr Osterholm tells it like it is the truth tends to be more empowering than lies. Less hysteria, more focus better planning for our future. I highly recommend this book. Thank you, Dr O !1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. LIVIING TERRORSBy Marian E. WellsOpens your eyes and mind as to what may come or actually what is already happening. You could put this book away and reread 4-5 months again and see something that you might of missed first time around. Americans need to read this book.

America is one killer organism away from a living nightmare that threatens all we hold dear....A deadly cloud of powdered anthrax spores settles unnoticed over a crowded football stadium.... A school cafeteria lunch is infected with a drug-resistant strain of E. coli.... Thousands in a bustling shopping mall inhale a lethal mist of smallpox, turning each individual into a highly infectious agent of suffering and death....Dr. Michael Osterholm knows all too well the horrifying scenarios he describes. In this eye-opening account, the nations leading expert on bioterrorism sounds a wake-up call to the terrifying threat of biological attack and Americas startling lack of preparedness. He demonstrates the havoc these silent killers can wreak, exposes the startling ease with which they can be deployed, and asks probing questions about Americas ability to respond to such attacks. Are most doctors and emergency rooms able to diagnose correctly and treat anthrax, smallpox, and other potential tools in the bioterrorists arsenal? Is the government developing the appropriate vaccines and treatments? The answers are here in riveting detail what America has and hasnt done to prevent the coming bioterrorist catastrophe. Impeccably researched, grippingly told, Living Terrors presents the unsettling truth about the magnitude of the threat. And more important, it presents the ultimate insiders prescription for change: what we must do as a nation to secure our freedom, our future, our lives.

.com "We are ... at the brink of a new age: what some experts call catastrophic terrorism," write Michael T. Osterholm (an epidemiologist) and John Schwartz (a Washington Post science reporter) at the start of this slim volume. What's more, "the United States is not doing enough to prepare." Smallpox, anthrax, bubonic plague--a smart terrorist could use any of these deadly diseases to wreak havoc on thousands or even millions of Americans. Yet there aren't enough antibiotics and vaccines in stockpile, public-health facilities can't handle a "surge," and most law enforcement agencies have no idea how to cope with a crisis. "I do not believe it is a question of whether a lone terrorist or terrorist group will use infectious disease agents to kill unsuspecting citizens; I'm convinced it's really just a question of when and where," writes Osterholm in the introduction. Books about disease and bioterrorism have become a subgenre in recent years, following the popular success of Richard Preston's *The Hot Zone* and Ken Alibek's *Biohazard*. *Living Terrors* probably provides the best quick-and-dirty guide to the problem for lay readers, with its harrowing descriptions of why certain diseases are so fatal and its clear assessment of America's disturbing vulnerabilities. Each chapter begins with a fictionalized account of how an attack might occur. In one, Osterholm and Schwartz write of a disgruntled scientist who loads anthrax into a crop-duster and flies over a crowded stadium. The authors believe this kind of sensationalism is completely warranted, given the nature of the threat and federal government's lackadaisical response to it. The point, they say, is "to warn you that the threat of biological terrorism is real without frightening you out of your wits. Instead, we hope to frighten you into your wits." --John J. MillerFrom Publishers WeeklyWith the help of Washington Post science writer Schwartz, Osterholm (formerly chief state epidemiologist in Minnesota) sounds a frightening alarm in this compact book. "I do not believe it is a question of whether a lone terrorist or terrorist group will use infectious disease agents to kill unsuspecting citizens," he writes. "I'm convinced it's really just a question of when and where." Combining urgent, fact-filled prose with a series of fictional scenarios, the book outlines the scope of the potential threat. Osterholm introduces the various types of people and organizations he thinks might be planning to unleash an epidemic on a major U.S. city; he covers the six diseases that pose the greatest threat (such as anthrax and smallpox); he explains how underprepared we are for such an attack; and he proposes a "seven-point plan for change" (including stockpiling antibiotics and vaccines). Its hard to know whether Osterholm's panic is justified, as he prudently declines to get into the sort of detail that could facilitate a terrorist attack. But although the threats he describes are bone-chilling, his pro-public health, seven-point plan is sensible and compelling. (Sept.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. Osterholm sounds a frightening alarm ... the threats he describes are bone chilling, his seven-point

plan is sensible and compelling. Publishers Weekly