

# Bioterrorism



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10 June 2008 Bioterrorism The rapid technological advancement which swept the global economy by bringing a myriad of products which enhanced efficiency is the same factor that threatens human being of bioterrorism.

This type of terrorism which is featured in the 1995 film *Outbreak* is defined by the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention as the " deliberate release of viruses, bacteria, and other germs (agents) used to cause illness or death in people, animals, and plants." In the movie, the end result of the outbreak of the fictional virus called Motaba is not just the destruction of relationship and trust but chaos for the whole community. *Outbreak* shows that in the end, people are able to get away from the more adverse effects of bioterrorism yet in the real world this might be impossible.

Bioterrorism dates back as far as the Roman Empire when decaying animals are thrown into wells in order to poison water supplies (Bock 5). This primitive way of introducing deadly microorganisms in the society is now modernized by the advancement of science and technology which allows scientists to create strains of germs and viruses that can harm the society either by causing diseases or making the human immune system more susceptible to diseases. One of the most recent examples of bioterrorism attack is the 2001 case of anthrax in the United States which caused a global stir by killing five people and infecting 17 others.

The adverse effects of bioterrorism can never be overstated. It should be noted that these attacks are often aimed at creating mass panic and disruption in the community. Diseases which are often incurable propagate chaos and bring in more problems in the social and political arena.

Bioterrorists attacks like the foot and mouth disease in the United Kingdom did not directly harm human being but had been very detrimental to its

economy particularly in the produce of livestock. The worse effect of bioterrorism, if it remains unresolved is the eradication of the human population.

The world can never be fully protected from bioterrorism attacks because no government can control the activities of all the individuals in the globe. The disputes among countries can also motivate parties to resort to biological weapons in order to secure themselves and paralyze another economy. In addition, the current technology is still incapable of detecting and resolving bioterrorists attacks as they occur.

Thus, it is suggested that the United Nations allot time and money in creating a device in order to efficiently monitor and detect the existence of a threat. This will be made possible by injecting chips in the human body that can monitor the entry of harmful toxins. Another will be uniting the global economies under one world government which will allow nations to settle disputes and pursue the same goals.

#### References

" Bioterrorism." Center for Disease Control and Prevention. 2008. 10 June 2008 Block, S. M. " The growing threat of biological weapons." American Scientist, 89: 1. 10 June 2008 < <http://www.americanscientist.org/template/IssueTOC/issue/382>>