

# A Study on Biological Weapons and International Law

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**Abstract:** *Following the breakup of the Soviet Union and resulting decline in fear of nuclear war, attention has shifted to other threats that remained in the background during the superpower confrontation. Fear of biological warfare uniquely fits the new evolving world. International instability characterizes the post-Cold War world. Additionally, the demise of the Soviet Union created a vacuum in American policy perceptions. With no great power great, American attention has focused on rogue states and international terrorist organizations. Furthermore, unlike nuclear weapons, biological weapons are relatively inexpensive and easy to conceal. States unable to afford an atomic weapons program can still develop this "poor man's atom bomb." Non-state actors such as international terrorist organizations, domestic hate groups, and millennial cults can procure ingredients necessary to create homemade biological weapons.*

**Keywords:** Biological weapons, International law, Convention, Soviet Union, United States

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