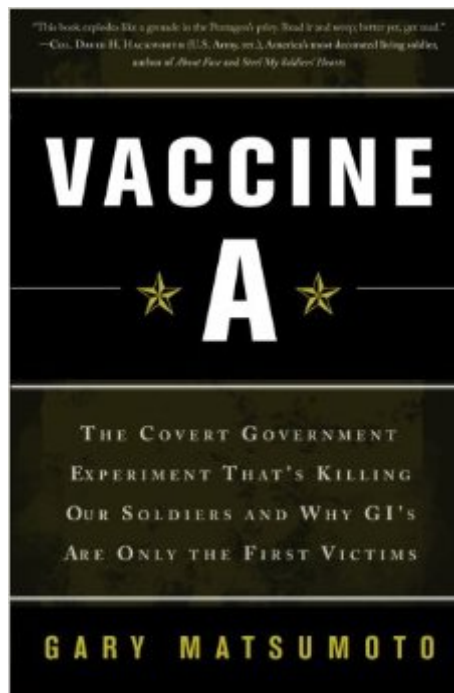


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Vaccine A: The Covert Government Experiment That's Killing Our Soldiers--and Why GI's Are Only The First Victims



Synopsis

In this provocative look at the US military from the Persian Gulf War through the 2003 invasion of Iraq, investigative journalist Gary Matsumoto contends that an anthrax vaccine dispensed by the Department of Defense was the cause of Gulf War Syndrome and the origins of a massive cover-up. Matsumoto calls it the worst friendly-fire incident in military history. A skillfully-woven narrative that serves as a warning about this man-made epidemic, *Vaccine A* is a much needed account of just what went wrong, and why.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is frightening if true. The premise, set forth in the introduction and detailed in the book, is that the US government has used experimental vaccines from the Desert Shield / Storm era through today on GI's and other individuals. Author Gary Matsumoto methodically - sometimes excruciatingly so - grinds through facts and builds a circumstantial case supported by nearly 60 pages of endnotes. Matsumoto was the first writer to publish a connection between the anthrax vaccine and the Gulf War Syndrome, doing so in an article published in *Vanity Fair* in 1999. His book, *Vaccine A*, is the spawn of that article. Matsumoto does not have an evident bias of distrust in the US government or even the military. He acknowledges the need to develop and use a vaccine effective against anthrax. He is even willing to understand the failure to obtain knowing consent from those injected with an unlicensed vaccine due to the exigent nature of the Gulf conflict and the fear of biological agents in the possession of Saddam Hussein - at least initially. As his investigation progresses, Matsumoto learns that one of the ingredients of Vaccine A (anthrax vaccine) is

squalene. This oily substance is an adjuvant that stimulates the immune system. Unfortunately, this oil too closely resembles oils found in the body and as a result, the body's immune system begins to attack itself. This causes a plethora of autoimmune diseases. Disturbingly, it appears that a wealth of scientific knowledge about the dangers of squalene was available to a thorough researcher prior to the Gulf War. Even more disturbing is the unwillingness of the US military to acknowledge more than ten years later the fact that squalene in Vaccine A caused a large number of "casualties".

Do not allow the subtitle, "The Covert Government Experiment That's Killing Our Soldiers and Why GI's Are Only the First Victims" to turn you off this book. It could be misinterpreted as a new age conspiracy theory-type work, when it is in fact a most seriously-minded piece. Matsumoto does an immediately fine job of walking the reader through the molecular biology that is requisite to understanding the argument of his book: that US military researchers (biochemists and molecular biologists) began using the oil "squalene" as the main adjuvant to the Anthrax vaccine which was created to immunize US, British, and Canadian military forces prior to the first Gulf War (this was necessary because it was thought Saddam Hussein had a functional Anthrax biological weapon). The oil squalene has a molecular composition very similar to other lipids (fatty, waxy substances) found naturally in the body; however when squalene is injected as the adjuvant of an Anthrax vaccine, the body begins producing antibodies against squalene -- which the immune system then has difficulty distinguishing from its own naturally-occurring lipids. The result is that the body begins destroying itself, causing severe autoimmune diseases such as Lupus, Multiple Sclerosis, and a host of others. Extant vaccine stockpiles being very low and almost incompetent to provide protection against Anthrax prior to the first Gulf War, military scientists were charged with producing an "improved" vaccine capable of protecting against multiple, highly virulent strains of the Anthrax bacillus -- with little time in which to do it.

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