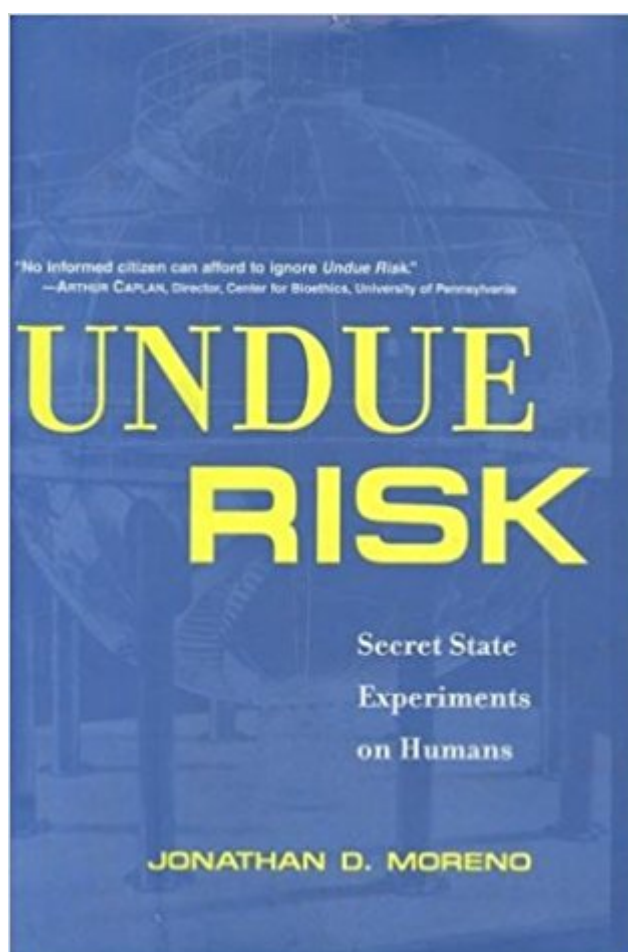


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# Undue Risk: Secret State Experiments On Humans (State Secrets)



## Synopsis

In 1994, Jonathan Moreno became a senior staff member of a special commission created by President Clinton to investigate allegations of government-sponsored radiation research on unknowing citizens during the cold war. The top secret documents he helped to declassify revealed a shocking truth-- that human experimentation played an extensive role in this country's attempts to build and protect against weapons of mass destruction. In *Undue Risk*, Moreno presents the first comprehensive history of the use of human subjects in atomic, biological, and chemical warfare experiments from World War II to the twenty-first century. From the courtrooms of Nuremberg to the battlefields of the Gulf War, *Undue Risk* explores a variety of government policies and specific cases, including plutonium injections into unwitting hospital patients, U.S. government attempts to recruit Nazi medical scientists, the subjection of soldiers to atomic blast fallout, secret LSD and mescaline studies, and the feeding of irradiated oatmeal to children. It is also the first book to go behind the scenes and reveal the government's struggle with the ethics of human experimentation and the evolution of agonizing policy choices on unfamiliar moral terrain. As the threat of foreign and domestic terrorist attack continues to grow, the need for our country to defend itself against insidious weapons is greater than ever. Can a democracy justify using humans in potentially risky experiments in order to answer scientific questions vital to national security? Exploring the possibilities, *Undue Risk* highlights a program of human experimentation that is a moral model for all others, civilian and military.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Between 1949 and 1969, the U.S. Army conducted over 200 "field tests" as part of its biological warfare research program, releasing infectious bacterial agents in cities across the U.S. without informing residents of the exposed areas, Moreno reveals in this chilling, meticulously documented casebook. A professor of biomedical ethics at the University of Virginia, Moreno (*Arguing Euthanasia*) served on a Clinton-appointed advisory committee that blew the lid off the government's secret radiation experiments from WWII through the mid-1970s, which involved the injection of unwitting human volunteers with plutonium, uranium and other radioactive substances. His disturbing new book partly overlaps with Eileen Welsome's *The Plutonium Files* (*Forecasts*, Aug. 2), though Moreno's survey extends further from Walter Reed's turn-of-the-century yellow fever research to the infamous Tuskegee syphilis study; from army and air force mind control experiments (1950--1975) involving ingestion of LSD and incapacitating chemicals by thousands of subjects, often without their consent, to the compulsory vaccination of Gulf War GIs with botulism toxin vaccine not approved by the FDA that may have contributed to "Gulf war syndrome." While Moreno duly excoriates the excesses and horrors, his overarching thesis is that human military experimentation is unavoidable, and he commends the army's current infectious-agent research program at Fort Detrick, Md., as a model for future "ethical" research. Some readers may welcome his coolly detached chronicle as a complement to Welsome's scathing, far more powerful exposé. Agent, Betsy Amster; 3-city author tour. (Oct.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The infamous Nazi medical experiments on human subjects represent an extreme of government arrogance. But many other nations, including the U.S., have done similar if less egregious things, usually in the name of national security. Radiation, chemical agents and disease-causing agents are tested on people who have not given informed consent and may not even know they were test subjects. Moreno, professor of biomedical ethics at the University of Virginia and director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics there, decided to pursue the subject after his service on the presidential Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1994 to investigate allegations of government-sponsored radiation research on unknowing citizens during the cold war. He tells of secret medical experiments, some ancient but most during and since World War II, by many nations. "If there is a single lesson to be gleaned from the story of military-medical human experiments," he says, "it is that we can expect them to continue

in the future.... I believe it is also true that these experiments can be done ethically."

About 20 years ago I decided to start collecting the occasional news articles I might happen upon that had to do with exposing secret human experimentation by the US Govt (usually exposed by either a successful lawsuit or a Federal employee entrusted to destroy classified documents but who instead smuggles them out for release). There was no internet then, so newspapers were my only source. I compiled a file approx. 4 inches thick. From all of this, I concluded that one is much more at risk to be experimented on (non-consensual) if you are military (especially Army, but also to some extent the Air Force and Navy), or if you go to a hospital while indigent, not having health insurance (most hospitals get Fed funding, so strings may be attached). I have never found any instance of anyone wealthy, or socially prominent, having been experimented on. I concluded from my own files that you are most at risk if you are indigent or low income folks going to a Fed funded hospital or clinic, as well as military (especially Army). The USA still is quite aggressive toward its end goal of world domination, so experiments on humans that could lead to innovations in covert assassinations, or weapons of mass destruction, or even mind control will continue. The author of *UNDUE RISK* states, "If there is a single lesson to be gleaned from the story of military-medical human experiments, it is that we can expect them to continue in the future...."

In spite of books like this, or shows like *Declassified: Human Experimentation*, thousands still live in innocent bliss thinking their elected officials, and thousands of unelected bureaucrats beneath them, would never do anything unethical or to hurt them. News Flash: It has happened, happened repeatedly and is probably happening right now. While never approaching the horror of Nazi or Japanese experiments, many thousands here were unknowingly exposed to, or used, in experiments involving radiation, nuclear material, drugs and bio-agents. Will these revelations from history make people vigilant? I hope so, because in the secret corridors of Washington, do you think they are going to change their ways? That no one is going to cross the line? If you do, you must live on a different planet. Don't let history repeat itself. See also *Yellow Dirt* and *Lab 257*.

Dr. Moreno's book provides a good overview of unethical human experimentation including Nazi human experimentation and the subsequent recruitment of Nazi Scientists via Operation Paperclip and their assimilation into our U.S. military / defense / intelligence agencies following World War II. One of the most famous was Wernher von Braun, a leading figure in the development of rocket technology in Nazi Germany, where he was a member of the Nazi Party and the SS. Following

World War II, he was recruited by the United States, where he became the first Director of the Marshall Space Flight Center. Dr. Moreno highlights how the Nuremberg Code came about; the evolution of written informed consent and its difficult adoption; and provides examples of unethical human experimentation particularly the radiation experiments and much more. If I could offer a criticism it would be the shortage of details on the extent of Project MKULTRA and related projects, which were much more than just LSD experiments. Though then director of the C.I.A. ordered MKULTRA documentation destroyed there was some surviving documentation which Dr. Colin Ross based his book C.I.A. Doctors on. Additionally, Dr. Moreno didn't touch on current reports of ongoing non-consensual human experimentation and the loopholes in the existing regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects (title 45 Part 46 / the Common Rule [subpart A]). Additionally, information on "non-lethal" weapons testing, neurotechnologies and other current research wasn't really touched upon. Maybe a future book will provide more information.

I purchased this book to accompany research for a project affiliated with a Coursera class I was taking. The class had covered a number of the human experiments, but nowhere near as many as this book did. It is an eye-opener, and frightening, and yet one of those things where you feel like, "Wow, not surprised, but wow....REALLY?" Honestly, I cannot believe more people don't know of the cases in this book. Important reading for every citizen, I'd think.

This is a must read for just about every doctor.. and patient I guess. I've never walked out of a movie or put down a book because it was too scary. Well.. I had to PUT DOWN "Undue Risk" at about the 20% point. Filed under "Read Later". If it was a "Saw" movie or something like that? Sure that's all fake and make believe.. What is so horrifying about Undue Risk? It is TRUE! Most likely thousands of other incidents didn't MAKE it into this book. Not to mention the day to day unreported medical horrors still happening today! Be scared.. be very very scared! GENE

Stealth government at it's worst.

Some interesting things in here. I was looking for real experiments though. All the details all the gore. I understand you can't put all the good stuff in a book without getting into trouble. If anyone has a better book about this please pass it on.

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