



The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War

By Eileen Welsome

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War By Eileen Welsome

When the vast wartime factories of the Manhattan Project began producing plutonium in quantities never before seen on earth, scientists working on the top-secret bomb-building program grew apprehensive. Fearful that plutonium might cause a cancer epidemic among workers and desperate to learn more about what it could do to the human body, the Manhattan Project's medical doctors embarked upon an experiment in which eighteen unsuspecting patients in hospital wards throughout the country were secretly injected with the cancer-causing substance. Most of these patients would go to their graves without ever knowing what had been done to them.

Now, in **The Plutonium Files**, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Eileen Welsome reveals for the first time the breadth of the extraordinary fifty-year cover-up surrounding the plutonium injections, as well as the deceitful nature of thousands of other experiments conducted on American citizens in the postwar years.

Welsome's remarkable investigation spans the 1930s to the 1990s and draws upon hundreds of newly declassified documents and other primary sources to disclose this shadowy chapter in American history. She gives a voice to such innocents as Helen Hutchison, a young woman who entered a prenatal clinic in Nashville for a routine checkup and was instead given a radioactive "cocktail" to drink; Gordon Shattuck, one of several boys at a state school for the developmentally disabled in Massachusetts who was fed radioactive oatmeal for breakfast; and Maude Jacobs, a Cincinnati woman suffering from cancer and subjected to an experimental radiation treatment designed to help military planners learn how to win a nuclear war.

Welsome also tells the stories of the scientists themselves, many of whom learned the ways of secrecy on the Manhattan Project. Among them are Stafford Warren, a grand figure whose bravado masked a cunning intelligence; Joseph Hamilton, who felt he was immune to the dangers of radiation only to suffer later from a fatal leukemia; and physician Louis Hempelmann, one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the plan to inject humans with potentially carcinogenic doses of plutonium. Hidden discussions of fifty years past are reconstructed here,

wherein trusted government officials debated the ethical and legal implications of the experiments, demolishing forever the argument that these studies took place in a less enlightened era.

Powered by her groundbreaking reportage and singular narrative gifts, Eileen Welsome has created a work of profound humanity as well as major historical significance.

From the Hardcover edition.

 [Download The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medic ...pdf](#)

The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War

By Eileen Welsome

The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War By Eileen Welsome

When the vast wartime factories of the Manhattan Project began producing plutonium in quantities never before seen on earth, scientists working on the top-secret bomb-building program grew apprehensive. Fearful that plutonium might cause a cancer epidemic among workers and desperate to learn more about what it could do to the human body, the Manhattan Project's medical doctors embarked upon an experiment in which eighteen unsuspecting patients in hospital wards throughout the country were secretly injected with the cancer-causing substance. Most of these patients would go to their graves without ever knowing what had been done to them.

Now, in **The Plutonium Files**, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Eileen Welsome reveals for the first time the breadth of the extraordinary fifty-year cover-up surrounding the plutonium injections, as well as the deceitful nature of thousands of other experiments conducted on American citizens in the postwar years.

Welsome's remarkable investigation spans the 1930s to the 1990s and draws upon hundreds of newly declassified documents and other primary sources to disclose this shadowy chapter in American history. She gives a voice to such innocents as Helen Hutchison, a young woman who entered a prenatal clinic in Nashville for a routine checkup and was instead given a radioactive "cocktail" to drink; Gordon Shattuck, one of several boys at a state school for the developmentally disabled in Massachusetts who was fed radioactive oatmeal for breakfast; and Maude Jacobs, a Cincinnati woman suffering from cancer and subjected to an experimental radiation treatment designed to help military planners learn how to win a nuclear war.

Welsome also tells the stories of the scientists themselves, many of whom learned the ways of secrecy on the Manhattan Project. Among them are Stafford Warren, a grand figure whose bravado masked a cunning intelligence; Joseph Hamilton, who felt he was immune to the dangers of radiation only to suffer later from a fatal leukemia; and physician Louis Hempelmann, one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the plan to inject humans with potentially carcinogenic doses of plutonium. Hidden discussions of fifty years past are reconstructed here, wherein trusted government officials debated the ethical and legal implications of the experiments, demolishing forever the argument that these studies took place in a less enlightened era.

Powered by her groundbreaking reportage and singular narrative gifts, Eileen Welsome has created a work of profound humanity as well as major historical significance.

From the Hardcover edition.

The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War By Eileen Welsome

Bibliography

- Rank: #280402 in eBooks
- Published on: 2010-10-20
- Released on: 2010-10-20
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medic ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War By Eileen Welsome

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

As World War II reached its climax, the U.S. push to create an atomic bomb spawned an industry the size of General Motors almost overnight. But a little-understood human dilemma quickly arose: How was all the radiation involved in building and testing the bomb going to affect the countless researchers, soldiers, and civilians exposed to it? Government scientists scrambled to find out, fearing cancer outbreaks and worse, but in their urgency conducted classified experiments that bordered on the horrific: MIT researchers fed radioactive oatmeal to residents of a state boys' school outside Boston; prisoners in Washington and Oregon were subjected to crippling blasts of direct radiation; and patients with terminal illnesses (or so it was hoped) were secretly injected with large doses of plutonium--survivors were surreptitiously monitored for years afterward.

It was these plutonium guinea pigs that set journalist Eileen Welsome on her decade-long search to expose this grisly chapter of America's atomic age, a feat that would earn her the Pulitzer Prize. In the impressively thorough and compelling *Plutonium Files*, Welsome recounts her work with a reporter's gift for description, characterizing early radiation researchers as "a curious blend of spook, scientist, and soldier," tirelessly interviewing survivors and their families, and providing social and political context for a complex and far-reaching scandal. Perhaps most damning is that not only did these cold-war experiments violate everything from the Hippocratic Oath to the Nuremberg Code, Welsome reveals, they were often ill-conceived, inconclusive, and repetitive--"they were not just immoral science, they were bad science." --*Paul Hughes*

From Publishers Weekly

In a deeply shocking and important exposé, Welsome takes the lid off the thousands of secret, government-sponsored radiation experiments performed on unsuspecting human "guinea pigs" at U.S. hospitals, universities and military bases during the Cold War. This riveting report greatly expands on Welsome's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1994 articles in the Albuquerque Tribune, which told how 18 men, women and children scattered in hospital wards across the country were injected with plutonium by U.S. Army and Manhattan Project doctors between 1945 and 1947. As Welsome demonstrates, the scope of the government's radiation experimentation program went much further. She documents how, between 1951 and 1962, the army, navy and air force used military troops in flights through radioactive clouds, "flashblindness" studies and tests to measure radio-isotopes in their body fluids. Additionally, she reveals that cancer patients were subjected to total-body irradiation, and women, children, the poor, minorities, prisoners and the mentally disabled were targeted for radio-isotope "tracer" studies, frequently without their consent and in some cases suffering excruciating side effects and premature deaths. In 1993, Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary launched a campaign to make public all documents relating to the experiments, which had been kept secret. Welsome cogently argues that O'Leary's efforts resulted in a Republican vendetta that led to her ouster. Written with commendable restraint, this engrossing narrative draws liberally on declassified memos, briefings, phone calls, interviews and medical records to convey the enormity of the irradiation program and the bad science behind the flawed and dangerous tests and to document the government's systematic cover-up. Anyone who cares about America's history, moral health and future should read this book. 8-city author tour. (Sept.)

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Expanding on her Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper series, Welsome's shocking exposé reveals that during

the Cold War Americans were injected with plutonium without their knowledge in secret government experiments to see if radiation caused cancer. This is superb investigative journalism. (LJ 9/15/99)
Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Thomas Rinaldi:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a publication your ability to survive improve then having chance to endure than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading a new book, we give you that The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War book as nice and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Brittany Belliveau:

Beside this particular The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War in your phone, it can give you a way to get nearer to the new knowledge or data. The information and the knowledge you can got here is fresh from your oven so don't become worry if you feel like an old people live in narrow town. It is good thing to have The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War because this book offers for you readable information. Do you occasionally have book but you do not get what it's about. Oh come on, that will not happen if you have this in your hand. The Enjoyable agreement here cannot be questionable, including treasuring beautiful island. So do you still want to miss this? Find this book in addition to read it from now!

Benjamin King:

In this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more important than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to have a look at some books. On the list of books in the top record in your reading list is definitely The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

Stephen Galvan:

Reading a publication make you to get more knowledge from the jawhorse. You can take knowledge and information from the book. Book is prepared or printed or created from each source that filled update of news. In this particular modern era like now, many ways to get information are available for an individual. From media social similar to newspaper, magazines, science publication, encyclopedia, reference book, fresh and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Do you want to spend your spare time to spread

out your book? Or just trying to find the The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War when you essential it?

**Download and Read Online The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War By Eileen Welsome
#MBK4J7NEUOS**

Read The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War By Eileen Welsome for online ebook

The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War By Eileen Welsome Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War By Eileen Welsome books to read online.

Online The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War By Eileen Welsome ebook PDF download

The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War By Eileen Welsome Doc

The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War By Eileen Welsome Mobipocket

The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War By Eileen Welsome EPub

MBK4J7NEUOS: The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War By Eileen Welsome