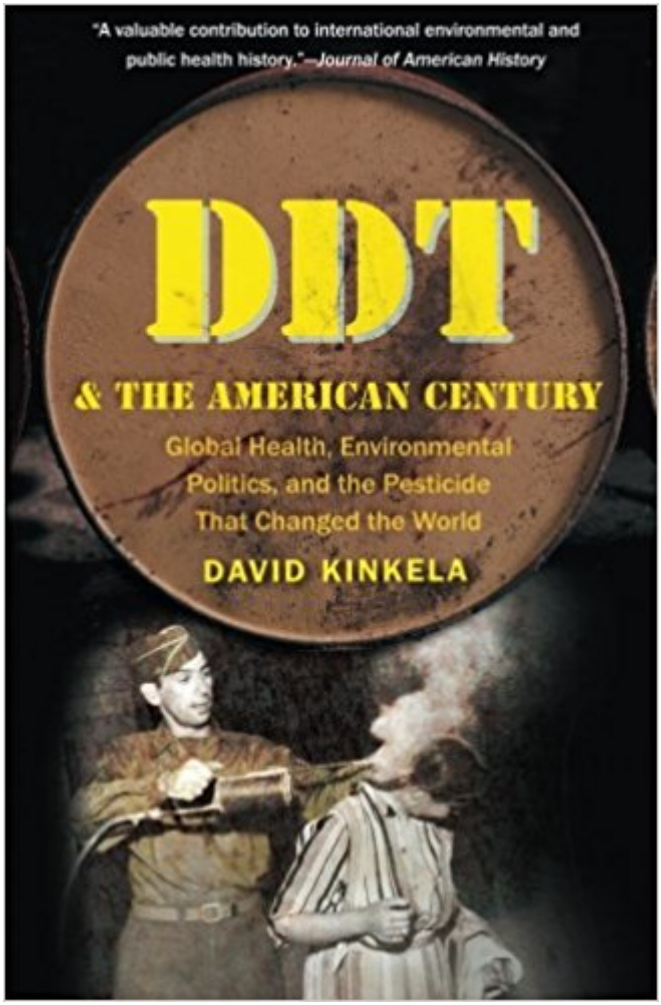
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DDT And The American Century: Global Health, Environmental Politics, And The Pesticide That Changed The World (The Luther H. Hodges Jr. And Luther H. ... Entrepreneurship, And Public Policy)




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Synopsis

Praised for its ability to kill insects effectively and cheaply and reviled as an ecological hazard, DDT continues to engender passion across the political spectrum as one of the world's most controversial chemical pesticides. In DDT and the American Century, David Kinkela chronicles the use of DDT around the world from 1941 to the present with a particular focus on the United States, which has played a critical role in encouraging the global use of the pesticide. Kinkela's study offers a unique approach to understanding both this contentious chemical and modern environmentalism in an international context.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An excellent monograph. . . . Everything a reader interested in science and its cultural contexts could want.--IsisKinkela offers an informative perspective on American involvement in spreading the use of DDT throughout the world as a Cold War weapon against malaria.--The Journal of the North Carolina Association of HistoriansA valuable contribution to international environmental and public health history.-- Journal of American HistoryReaders interested in the environment, public health, and international relations will find this book particularly timely. . . . A relevant and useful addition." --Library JournalKinkela untangles several DDT-related themes. . . . [and] examines each thread in

a way that reveals an overarching tension between the ideals underlying Henry Luce’s notion of the ’American century’ and the limits of technology.--Technology and CultureA welcome addition to the literature not only for scholars across many disciplines but also general readers.--Journal of Interdisciplinary History[A] well written, highly informative and useful book.--European Journal of Entomology[Kinkela] has proved his fluency in intellectual, social, cultural, and policy history.--Environmental History[Kinkela] presents DDT as a useful product with undesirable long-term ecological effects, requiring careful judgment about when to use it.--Foreign AffairsThis is a valuable book about a controversy that is still of critical importance. Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through professionals; general readers.--ChoiceA well-written and interesting book. Environmental scientists, chemists, legal scholars, and historians from all perspectives would benefit from reading this book.--Chemical &Engineering News

In this deeply researched and superb book, David Kinkela offers a refreshing take on the complex history of DDT. He revises our perception of long-standing environmental issues and places the debate over DDT in a global context that is invaluable to understanding why the use of DDT is still argued over today.--Mart Stewart, Western Washington University, author of "What Nature Suffers to Groe": Life, Labor, and Landscape on the Georgia Coast, 1680-1920If anyone can rescue the continuing debate over DDT from the ranters and ideologues, David Kinkela can. His book is a model of historical research--even-handed and carefully reasoned, based on a wealth of evidence.--Donald Worster, author of A Passion for Nature: The Life of John MuirIn DDT and the American Century, Kinkela gives us a compelling and lucid international history of one of the most controversial chemicals of modern times. In the quarter century after 1945, DDT helped fight the Cold War by killing disease-bearing insects and crop pests. Kinkela’s archivally based research shows how important and effective DDT was in American initiatives around the globe aimed at promoting health, agriculture, and sympathy for the United States--and deftly untangles the swirling controversies surrounding its use.--J.R. McNeill, Georgetown University

After a rocky start, the book hits its stride in chapters leading to Rachel Carlson to then masterfully describe how extreme views about DDT and other technologies came to be. Particularly insightful are the chapters on linking DDT and foreign policy in the mid of the Cold War. I wouldn’t say it is an easy read and some themes are clearly dear to the author (I still miss the "American Century" importance in all that). However, it is the most balanced discussion on Rachel Carlson and Silent Spring legacy I have read. Also quite well done is the distinction of "war on malaria" hellbent on

killing the last mosquito and failing and integrated malaria control, in which environmental aspects are given a big role.

Interesting book with several thorough discussions on many important aspects. I enjoyed it very much and recommend it to both chemists, biologists and environmentalists.

I wouldn’t give this book even one star except there was a lot of history regarding DDT I had not seen elsewhere. History that I would consider outside the box - which I liked - and worth knowing. However, he keeps repeating the same old lies - subtly - about DDT in his conclusions, all of which have been proven false. He does make the distinction between total eradication - which didn’t work, and given the biological magic of resistance is unlikely to work with any product on any pest, versus residential DDT prevention treatments, which I felt was well done. I think this book is worthwhile for those like me who’ve read and written extensively about DDT, but for the average reader - I think it’s misleading. I think itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s misleading because the first part of the book is firmly grounded in a lot of history, giving a sense of credibility to the rest, which I found inaccurate. I found his work to be expansive but disappointing.

book

This book is very special book and I learnt that this book is the best becuase it has helped in my INT. SCIENCE alot.

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