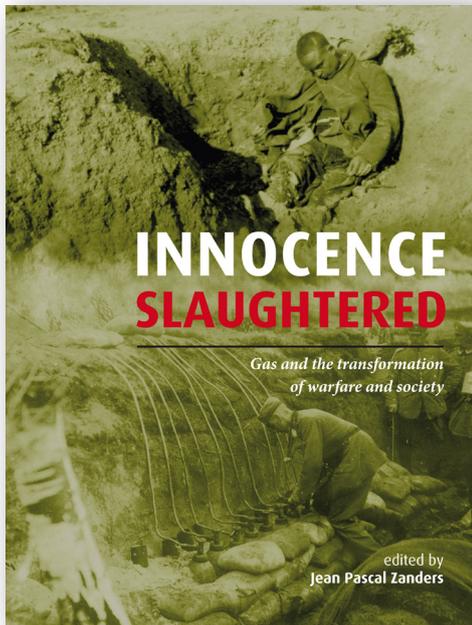


Innocence Slaughtered

Gas and the transformation of warfare and society

Jean Pascal Zanders (ed)



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Description

The introduction of chemical warfare to the battlefield on 22 April 1915 changed the face of total warfare. Not only did it bring science to combat, it was both the product of societal transformation and a shaper of the 20th century societies.

This collaborative work investigates the unfolding catastrophe that the unleashing of chlorine against the Allied positions meant for individual soldiers and civilians. It describes the hesitation on the German side about the effectiveness, and hence impact on combat operations of the weapon whilst reflecting on the lack of Allied response to the many intelligence pointers that something significant was afoot.

It goes on to describe the massive transformation that societies were undergoing as a consequence of industrialisation, science and technology, and the impact these trends were to have on the emergence of what we know today as 'total war'. Chemical warfare pitted the brightest minds from the various belligerents against each other and in some ways this competition revealed early thinking about intellectual superiority that was to define the decades after the Armistice. The ability to survive in a chemically contaminated environment was proof of a higher level of achievement. In simple terms, chemical defence equalled survival of the fittest.

Key Sales Points

- Published 100 years after the first gas attacks
- Topical content with current affairs
- Discusses the sociology of science and war
- Introduction by Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- Contributions from eleven historians and experts on Gas warfare and chemical weapons
- Edited by Dr Jean Pascal Zanders, an independent consultant on disarmament and security

Publicity & Marketing

- Official launch in The Hague at the Conference of the States Parties (OPCW)
- Further event at In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres
- Targeting scientific (chemical & biological) community & military history magazines, websites, blogs etc

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Marston Book Services
160 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park,
Oxfordshire
OX14 4SB

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Orders: trade@marston.co.uk

Enquiries: enq@marston.co.uk

European Sales

Durnell Marketing

Tel: +44 (0) 1892 544 272

Email: orders@durnell.co.uk



Uniform Press • 66 Charlotte Street • London • W1T 4QE • UK • www.uniformpress.co.uk

Contact: Simon Perks • simon@uniformpress.org • +44 (0) 777 589 1738