

[4]. As a result, from prehistory until 1900, the evolution of BW can be separated into three main periods: Except for a few well-documented cases, it is difficult to determine whether these BW attacks constituted real threats or were part of political hoaxes from 1900 to 1945, prior to the foundation of Microbiology as a science as a direct result of the studies of Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch culminating in the acceptance of the germ theory of disease. The advent of modest and rudimentary national BW programmes, as well as the employment of biological weapons in both World Wars I and II after 1945, characterise this period: the increased availability of biological agents With the advancements made in biotechnology and biochemistry allows for the democratization of BW programmes even small organisations and individuals can access it.

For microbiologists and historians, distinguishing between spontaneous epidemics and planned biological attacks can be difficult, such as the plague outbreak during the siege of Ca

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