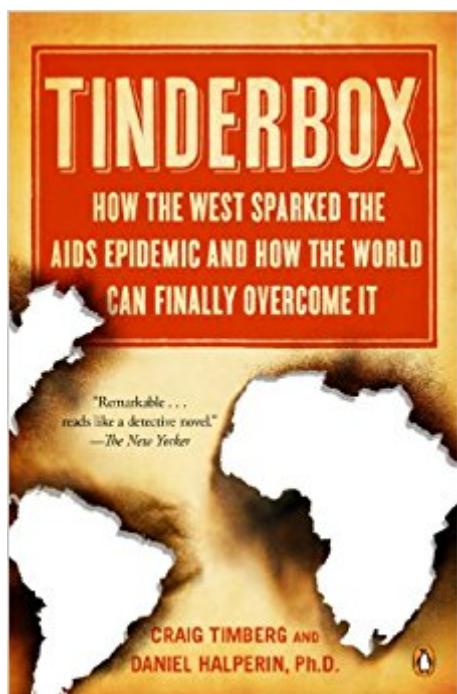


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Tinderbox: How The West Sparked The AIDS Epidemic And How The World Can Finally Overcome It



Synopsis

"Remarkable... reads like a detective novel."•The New YorkerIn this groundbreaking work that reads like a detective novel, longtime Washington Post reporter Craig Timberg and award-winning AIDS researcher Daniel Halperin tell the surprising story of how Western colonial powers unwittingly sparked the AIDS epidemic and then fanned the flames. Drawing on remarkable new science, Tinderbox overturns the conventional wisdom on the origins of this deadly pandemic, and in a riveting narrative that stretches from colonial Leopoldville to 1980s San Francisco to South Africa today, it reveals how human hands unleashed this epidemic and can now overcome it, if only we learn the lessons of the past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A remarkable volume. With rare clarity, Tinderbox lays bare the origins of the AIDS virus, and then reveals the often hapless and delinquent responses of the international community. It's a fascinating read: relentlessly honest, sometimes scathing, always principled."•Stephen Lewis, Founder/Director of AIDS-Free World, Former UN Special Envoy on AIDS in Africa"Remarkable...reads like a detective novel."•The New Yorker"•"Gripping" buy the book."•The Nation"A strong warning to those who would disregard the cultural specificities of those one is trying to serve."•The New York Times (EDITORS CHOICE)"Tinderbox will help readers understand...why the period ahead is so critical in fighting the epidemic. Millions of lives depend on the effort."•The Washington Post"•"In addition to

a useful history of the disease, Timberg and Halperin examine how to confront it and develop more effective ways to fight it. Timberg and Halperin present a forceful case with which future students of HIV and AIDS will have to reckon.

Kirkus (STARRED REVIEW) "Insightful. . . . Essential for understanding a relentlessly urgent issue. . . . An essential and engrossing read, Timberg and Halperin's sweeping work covers AIDS from its origins to its impact on the world today." Extensively researched, eminently readable and accessible, Timberg and Halperin's work is a notable and invaluable addition to the AIDS canon.

Booklist (STARRED REVIEW) "Tinderbox is an unusually compelling and informative account of how the AIDS epidemic has affected the world, particularly the peoples of Africa. In a compassionate and engaging manner, Timberg and Halperin bring to life the story from its beginnings to the most recent evidence on how to effectively prevent further tragedy."

Jay Levy, M.D., director, Laboratory for Tumor and AIDS Virus Research, University of California, San Francisco "Craig Timberg and Daniel Halperin have written a searing book about the AIDS epidemic. Tinderbox is an indictment of Western ineptitude and meddling and lost opportunities to prevent millions of infections and deaths. But it also contains valuable prescriptions for making change; and it's an important read for anyone who cares about Africa."

Stephanie Nolen, author of *28: Stories of AIDS in Africa* "Timberg and Halperin have been challenging conventional wisdom (and behavior change skeptics like me) for years. Their book is entertaining, thought-provoking, human, and in the end, hopeful for a continent that craves some answers after two decades of HIV prevention failures."

Francois Venter, M.D., president, Southern African HIV Clinicians Society "Randy Shilts's *And the Band Played On* was the first—and for decades the best—book on AIDS. Craig Timberg and Daniel Halperin's *Tinderbox* is every bit as good, revealing the same denial, the same story of politics trumping science, and the same tragedy. This time, it is about the whole world, not just San Francisco. Read it!"

Malcolm Potts, M.D., author of *The AIDS Reader* and *Ever Since Adam and Eve* "The sometimes glorious, often tragic constellation of science, politics, and personalities in the fight against AIDS comes to life in the masterful storytelling of an energetic journalist and a passionate scientist."

Arthur Allen, author of *Vaccine: The Controversial Story of Medicine's Greatest Lifesaver* "An excellent read. *Tinderbox* brilliantly outlines the successes, failures, and missed opportunities in the battle of HIV prevention over the last thirty years."

Elly Katabira, M.D., president, International AIDS Society

Craig Timberg is the former Johannesburg bureau chief for the Washington Post and its deputy national security editor. He lives in Washington, D.C. Daniel Halperin, Ph.D., was a top technical advisor in the U.S. government's program to combat AIDS. He is an epidemiologist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

A senior executive at the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative recommended this book as a primer on the fight (so far) to end HIV/AIDS. Discussions of policy and science are not often page turners. But *TINDERBOX* turned out to be just that. Written by Washington Post reporter, Craig Timberg, *TINDERBOX* shot down pretty much every assumption I held about the epidemic. Did you know, for instance, that the virus itself is probably tens of thousands of years old ... and was unleashed on humankind thanks to the depredations of fin de siècle colonialism? Me neither. Everything I thought I knew about the infection (as a white, heterosexual, reasonably well-informed male raised and educated in the US) turned out to be either years out of date or just plain wrong ... even embarrassingly stupid. If the truth about HIV/AIDS, a modern killer of unbelievable magnitude, is of interest to you, read this account.

I consider myself a well-read person, but I had to plead absolute ignorance on the AIDS epidemic before reading *Tinderbox*. Timberg's book is not only a page turner, but it educates and offers practical solutions to curb the further spread of HIV that are rooted in science. I hope public health officials around the world stop and read this book.

For anyone who has studied the global AIDS epidemic, and the on going efforts to fight same, this book opened even my eyes as to the overlooked simplicities that could have (and still can!) save millions. Well written, well researched and gave me a new perspective. My research had not reached identical conclusions, let me open to even further possibilities. A very well done and accessible book.

A thorough investigation into a hot topic. An interesting new theory challenges stereotypes and forces us to think about everything we thought we knew about this disease.

Excellent read. Gives a very holistic and thought-provoking overview of the AIDS epidemic. Must-read for anyone who wants to be well-informed about AIDS.

harrowing

I love this book, it provides a good and thorough history of the disease and a nice background and small excerpt on the future. It's unfortunate that there seems to be such controversy surrounding it, I would only suggest that readers look at the authors and their bios, very competent people here. Love it.

So apparently AIDS didn't start because a man had sex with a monkey years ago. Who knew? All kidding aside, Timberg does a great job explaining the origins of HIV, discussing various approaches that were implemented to stop the spread of the disease, and how people and politics got in the way. The book gives a good analysis that undermines a lot of the conventional wisdom about HIV and is well worth the read.

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