

from Leslie Feinberg August 2011 transgenderwarrior.org  
my research notes on the medical politics driving the "Lyme Wars"

## Conclusion

Today, Plum Island is reportedly up for sale. According to a number of web sites, including plumislandny.com:

"In 2008, the United States Congress enacted (Public Law 110-329) that 110 directed the General Services Administration (GSA) to sell all real and personal property related to operations at Plum Island if the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) determined that the research and laboratory work performed on Plum Island be located elsewhere. DHS made that determination through a Record of Decision on January 16, 2009."

Will a clean-up of Plum Island under the aegis of Homeland Security restore the island to this description in the 1909 Plum Island Adventurer: "For a quiet outing where the air is a real tonic to a run-down man or woman; where you could have your bluefish and blackfish, sea bass, and lobsters fresh out of the water, cooked to a turn; milk, eggs, and chicken in abundance, Plum Island was the ideal place. What more could one ask?" (epigraph, "Lab 257.")

Plum Island should be treated as a possible mass crime scene that must be opened up for domestic and international investigations, with the results made public in many languages.

However, as important as it is to know whether the U.S. military-industrial complex has weaponized ticks in the U.S., inquiry into this epidemic is also an opportunity to develop deeper solidarity with nations who have been the targets of U.S. covert and overt warfare—including biological warfare.

Diseases have been used as racist weaponry--from smallpox-infected blankets knowingly distributed to Native Nations, to Black Alabama sharecroppers deliberately kept from knowledge that a cure existed for the infectious spirochete that was killing them. Have ticks weaponized with Lyme/+ been used as modern Pentagon weaponry?

"In 1999," British researcher Elena Cook noted, "Lyme patient advocacy leader Pat Smith was amazed to find, on visiting an Army base at an old biowar testing ground in Maryland, that the U.S. Dept. of Defense has developed a satellite-linked system that enables soldiers to read, in real-time, off a display on their helmet's visor, information about the rate of Lyme-infected ticks wherever they may be on earth.

"Unit commanders could update the database using state-of-the-art portable PCR machines, which test for Lyme DNA in soldiers bitten by ticks. The use of such cutting-edge technology for a supposedly 'hard-to-catch, easy-to-cure' illness seems odd, to say the least!" Cook cites this source: [lymediseaseassociation.org/EICScconference.doc](http://lymediseaseassociation.org/EICScconference.doc) (elenacook.org )

Cook added, “The 2003 proposal for a rapid-detection method for biowarfare by Dr JJ Dunn of Brookhaven National Lab seems to add further grounds for suspicion. It is based on the use of two ‘sentinel’ germs—plague and Lyme.”  
([www.ftrs supplemental.blogspot.com](http://www.ftrs supplemental.blogspot.com))

After the U.S.-led war against Iraq in 1991, Cook continued, the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) drew up “a list of microbes to be monitored in Iraq. Among them—the borrelia genus in general, and *Borrelia burgdorferi* in particular. She cites: "Note by the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission established pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) (i) of Security Council resolution 687 (1991)" Document date: 17 March 1995 Ref- S/1995/208 [fas.org/news/un/iraq/...5-0208.htm](http://fas.org/news/un/iraq/...5-0208.htm)

Cook pointed out, “There are other organisms on the UN list not generally associated, in the public mind, with biowarfare, and it could be argued that the UN was simply being extra cautious by casting a wide net. However, whether Lyme bacteria were present in Iraq at that time or not, they certainly are today, and U.S. Army manuals warn soldiers to protect themselves from the disease. (Cook cites: First Infantry Division Soldier's Handbook to Iraq, Unclassified Document 2003. Posted on 11/03/07, 02:11 pm)

Cook concluded: “If we are to accept the traditional Steerite explanation for the rise of Lyme--that it is a natural consequence of a recent population explosion of deer due to reforestation, combined suburbanisation, bringing humans into contact with forests--then the presence of Lyme in the dusty sand dunes of Iraq seems perverse.”

Charges of biological, and other covert forms of warfare, by the U.S. and other imperialist powers are a matter of public record. These charges come from countries that are defending their sovereignty, their right to self-determination, and their resources and labor from imperialist globalization. And these charges have come from revolutionary workers’ states that struggle to provide jobs, housing, and free health care and education for their entire populations—while under siege, covertly and overtly, by imperialist warfare.

In the U.S., the Lyme/+ epidemic has spread from coast to coast. While Frederick Engels wrote in the 1872 about overall patterns of population shifts under capitalism, future researchers can determine the impact of the Lyme/+ epidemic on the gentrification move in recent decades of the wealthy and middle classes back to large urban centers. (“The Housing Question,” Engels, [marxists.org](http://marxists.org))

Today, the populations of towns, rural areas, reservations, cities and campuses across the U.S. have a right to hold public meetings to assess the toll of the Lyme/+ epidemic, with the right to subpoena officials and documents that are necessary to make an accurate assessment of the scope and human toll of the epidemic.

Independent, international tribunals need to convene--also armed with the power to subpoena all information, including classified data. Such a tribunal could help build ties

of international solidarity of working and oppressed peoples around the world. This unity is forged by the struggle with the same mega-banks and transnational corporations that are running the world market based on a “Robin Hood in reverse” drive for profits—people and planet be damned.

A struggle can fight for and win scientific inquiry, and the funds necessary to treat those who are ill—not only for those in the U.S., but around the world.

I close this series of research notes as I opened it, with this powerful truth stated in 1857 by the great anti-slavery Abolitionist Frederick Douglass:

“If there is no struggle there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation...want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. ... Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”

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***Bibliographic note to readers:***

*“Dialectical Materialism and Modern Science,” by J.D. Bernal*

*“The Dialectical Biologist,” by Richard Levins and Richard Lewontin*

*“Socialism: Utopian and Scientific,” by Frederick Engels*

*“The Housing Question,” by Frederick Engels (includes epidemics in its analysis)*

*“The Communist Manifesto,” By Karl Marx and Frederick Engels*