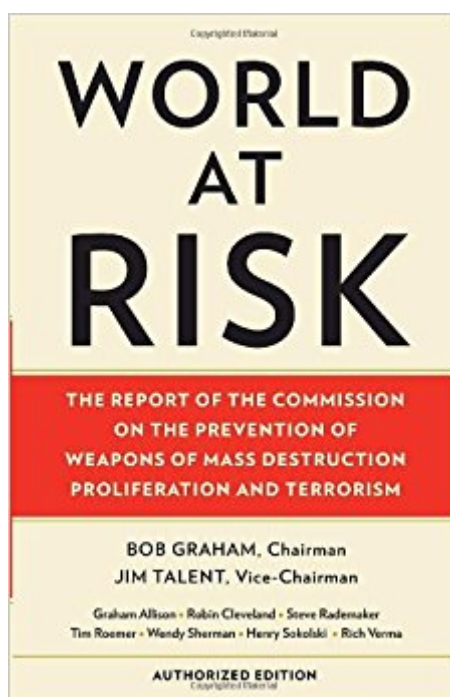


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World At Risk: The Report Of The Commission On The Prevention Of Weapons Of Mass Destruction Proliferation And Terrorism



Synopsis

“The greatest danger of another catastrophic attack in the United States will materialize if the world’s most dangerous terrorists acquire the world’s most dangerous weapons.”

The 9/11 Commission Report The bipartisan Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism was established by the U.S. Congress to build on the work of the 9/11 Commission by assessing our nation’s progress in preventing weapons of mass destruction proliferation and terrorism, and providing a roadmap to greater security with concrete recommendations for improvement. The Commission has interviewed over 200 experts inside and outside of government. They have met with counterterrorism and intelligence officials here at home and abroad who are working to stop proliferation and terrorism. The Commission’s report examines the government’s current policies and programs, identifies gaps in our government’s prevention strategy and recommends ways to close them. The threat of terrorist attacks in the United States and elsewhere is still very real. The world remains at risk. There is more that can and must be done. Our security depends on it.

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Customer Reviews

This dire warning from a non-partisan group predicts a 50% chance of a major terrorist incident, probably a biological attack, before 2014. This book is primarily helpful as a warning and call to action, and not as a strategy to prevent terrorism. Their warning is worth repeating verbatim:

"Unless the world community acts decisively and with great urgency, it is more likely than not that a weapon of mass destruction will be used somewhere in the world by the end of 2013".

Unfortunately, this scary warning is probably true, and unfortunately again, it is unlikely leading governments will act decisively to thwart this risk. This exploratory group headed by Senator Bob Graham has done considerable homework by making numerous site visits, conducting interviews with leading experts (over 250 governmental and non-governmental thinkers), and deliberated extensively on risks. It's written in terse, business-style, with an executive summary at the front for busy officials with little time to read; the writing style is understandably bureaucratic and drab. But their conclusions are sobering. And while their main conclusion is little more than a highly educated political guess, I applaud them for this leap because I think the risk is real, and a specific conclusion of this sort was necessary to generate media attention which did happen. Surprisingly, the panel dismissed the risk of chemical or radiological attacks since, in their view, these attacks were highly difficult to execute and unlikely to cause significant damage. Instead, they urge world governments to focus on preventing nuclear and especially biological terrorism. Why is biological terrorism such a risk?

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