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Microbial Storms

An Essay on the Health Security Policies of the Transatlantic World

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In driving nations to adopt global solutions, concerns over health security, with their international scope, have contributed to the crisis of the nation-state

A specter haunts the Western powers: biological terrorism. The idea of the “microbial storm” betrays a considerable amplification in scope for health security. How did this worst-case-scenario logic start? What is actually at stake when it is applied to defense against bacterial threats? Patrick Zylberman clarifies three major areas: the heuristic role of fiction in the conceiving and testing of crisis management procedures; worst-case logic as a rational system of dealing with microbial crises; and the organization of public service bodies.
