



NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

Excerpts from the National Intelligence Council's 2020 Project publication *'Mapping the Global Future'*



“Strong terrorist interest in acquiring chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons increases the risk of a major terrorist attack involving WMD. **Our greatest concern is that terrorists might acquire biological agents or, less likely, a nuclear device, either of which could cause mass casualties.**”

“As biotechnology information becomes more widely available, the number of people who can potentially misuse such information and wreak widespread loss of life will increase. **An attacker would appear to have an easier job—because of the large array of possibilities available—than the defender**, who must prepare against them all.

Moreover, as biotechnology advances become more ubiquitous, stopping the progress of offensive BW programs will become increasingly difficult. Over the next 10 to 20 years there is a risk that advances in biotechnology will augment not only defensive measures but also offensive biological warfare (BW) agent development and allow the creation of advanced biological agents designed to target specific systems—human, animal, or crop.”

“Developments in CW and BW agents and the proliferation of related expertise will pose a substantial threat, particularly from terrorists.”

The full report is available for free on the CIA's web site:

http://www.cia.gov/nic/NIC_globaltrend2020.html

The NIC is a US government think-tank that provides counsel and information to the American intelligence community.