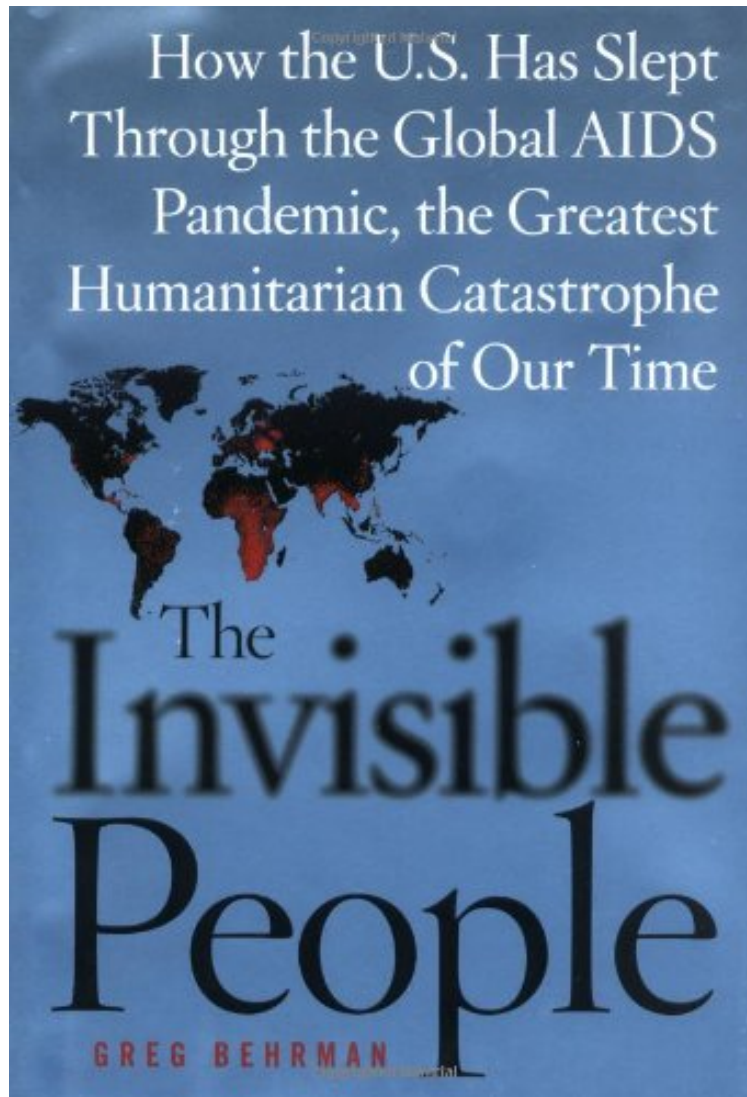


[Free pdf] The Invisible People: How the U.S. Has Slept Through the Global AIDS Pandemic, the Greatest Humanitarian Catastrophe of Our Time

# The Invisible People: How the U.S. Has Slept Through the Global AIDS Pandemic, the Greatest Humanitarian Catastrophe of Our Time

Greg Behrman

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**Greg Behrman : The Invisible People: How the U.S. Has Slept Through the Global AIDS Pandemic, the Greatest Humanitarian Catastrophe of Our Time** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Invisible People: How the U.S. Has Slept Through the Global AIDS Pandemic, the Greatest Humanitarian Catastrophe of Our Time:

8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. An Emergency That No One Responds To By E. Beaver This was the most difficult book I read all year, of many that I read, bored at sea and often bored with the book in hand. Difficult because it poses a damning question about America and its policy priorities. Difficult because it carefully, thoroughly reveals to the reader with a fair eye how poorly the US (and world) response to the AIDS epidemic has been. There are villains and heroes (many heroes in fact), tragic figures and inspiring ones, but what remains throughout is the compassion the author gives them all. No one is vilified by criticism in this book, their actions (and reasoning) speak louder than words, for better or worse. Difficult because it is just so damn heartbreaking and galling that we failed so miserably for 20 years. I don't like to see the US fail in anything, but I am afraid that we are failing and failing miserably in a war we are tepid about fighting. For this epidemic not to rip apart Russia, India and China the way it is ripping Africa apart now, more and more people will need to read this astonishing, revealing story of how the US nearly lost the war on AIDS before George W. Bush even started it in January 2003, so that we can learn from our past mistakes and not make them again. We can only hope Pres. Bush is learning from those mistakes so the massive amount of capital he is infusing into the fight (and more later) is not wasted. A must for anyone interested in international affairs, medicine, society (both in America and in the greater world), economics, history, politics and just about any other field that has any connection to this increasingly interconnected world.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The "Why" and "How" of AIDS By Helen A. Bills This book gives a good look at the AIDS pandemic, how it started and how it was ignored because of its association with homosexuality. A great deal of the blame rests on Ronald Reagan and his Nancy, who did not believe their advisors.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Abi GREAT!!

Charging that the United States has taken an irresponsible stance toward the global AIDS epidemic, a critical account traces the political and racial factors that the author believes are behind America's failure to act in afflicted Third World nations. 35,000 first printing.

.com Any writer attempting to tackle the AIDS pandemic faces a demanding task. Now spanning decades and covering the globe, it has claimed a staggering number of lives (more than 40 million people are currently infected with HIV and 8,500 die of AIDS each day). That's more than most of us can grasp. The plague's heroes and villains aren't celebrated or demonized like those in a conventional war. For AIDS, there is no FDR or Hitler; there are just the victims of an inconceivable holocaust. Greg Behrman employs an almost cinematic perspective to address the catastrophe in his fast-moving history, cutting to new locations and characters to capture the epic nature of the global AIDS struggle. A vivid cast of characters populates these pages, ranging from U.S. presidents to activists, physicians, diplomats, and rock stars (U2's Bono emerges as one of the most pragmatic and effective combatants). What's heartbreaking is that, despite the best work of many (and, to a degree, because of the tepid or obstructive efforts of others), the disease remains a mighty foe. Both moral and moderate in tone, Behrman focuses on American anti-AIDS efforts, believing the United States' mighty wealth at the end of the 20th century and its own experiences with the epidemic gave it a unique capability and responsibility to lead the fight in Africa and elsewhere. The American effort, he's forced to conclude, has been "inglorious." --Steven Stolder

From Publishers Weekly According to Behrman, although tremendous progress has been made since the 1980s in prevention and treatment of AIDS, woefully little has reached the developing world, where it is needed most. By 2010, largely because of AIDS, many countries in sub-Saharan Africa will see average life expectancies reduced to 30 years or lower, and the continent will be home to an estimated 20 million AIDS orphans; societies and economies will face unimaginable devastation. Much could have been done to avert this catastrophe, writes Behrman, if wealthy nations--particularly the U.S.--had funded global AIDS initiatives years ago. Behrman, coordinator for the Council on Foreign Relations Roundtable on Improving U.S. Global AIDS Policy, argues that several factors contributed to this neglect: the discomfort among conservatives in addressing the subject of AIDS; the initial reluctance of African leaders themselves to acknowledge the crisis; the efforts of drug companies to block cheap generic medicines; and, most disturbingly, the feeling that Africa's problems are simply too overwhelming for the West to bother with. Behrman chronicles the tireless efforts of public health officials, politicians, the U.N., and even superstar Bono to bring attention to the crisis and to demand action, while policy makers wavered and infection rates soared. In time, it was not the sympathetic Bill Clinton but the moralistic George W. Bush who finally pledged significant monies--\$15 billion--to the Global AIDS Fund. Behrman's account, impassioned but fair, describes a moral failure that escalated to tragic dimensions because we allowed its victims to remain invisible for too long. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist The subtitle of Behrman's book voices his feeling that the U.S. dropped the ball when it came to AIDS, and his hundred or so interviews of such noted figures as Dr. C. Everett Koop and Ambassador Princeton Lyman, all of whom allow varying degrees of U.S. culpability, back it up. Extrapolating on the theme "to whom much is given, much is expected," Behrman indicts the U.S. specifically because of its status as a wealthy world leader. What began as an Oxford philosophy thesis evolved into this scathing account of how fear--in the forms of passive racism, homophobia, and denial--as well as buck-passing, greed, and bilateral ennui permitted what has been

termed the "Holocaust of our time" to spiral wildly out of control. Behrman traces how the last two decades of ultraconservative American government combined with such world events as the fall of the former Soviet Union to facilitate universal denial and the diversion of valuable resources, and hence, treatment, from the millions dying for lack of medical and scientific attention. Donna ChavezCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved