



Survive the Bomb: The Radioactive Citizen's Guide to Nuclear Survival

Eric G. Swedin

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The launch of Russia's Sputnik satellite in 1957 began an era where American citizens were haunted by fears of annihilation. Baby Boomers will remember Bert the Turtle, who instructed them how to "duck and cover." *Survive the Bomb* documents other U.S. government efforts to calm the collective psyche with nuclear survival handouts.

These cheerful and naïve representations unintentionally inspired countless schoolchildren to question authority at an early age. This strange era reached its peak in 1962 with the Cuban Missile Crisis, lasting at least until the fall of the Berlin Wall. The nightmare still lingers today with the terrorist threat of dirty bombs and efforts by countries like Iran and North Korea to build their own nuclear arsenals.

In addition to Civil Defense brochures and pamphlets from the period, *Survive the Bomb* includes:

- Aftermath descriptions and casualty estimates at various distances from a nuclear blast
- Civil Defense reports and recommendations to the United States Congress and President
- Declassified nuclear wargame scenarios where the Department of Defense imagined the unimaginable
- An introduction and commentaries by Cold War historian Eric G. Swedin

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