

THESE TRUTHS WE HOLD

“Seized by the Allies” Gas Showers

“Gas Showers” and Industrial Pesticides

Following World War II, the Allied powers dismantled and prosecuted IG Farben, the German industrial conglomerate that had become deeply intertwined with the Nazi regime. The company was ultimately broken apart, and several successor corporations emerged, including Bayer, BASF, and Hoechst.

Historically, IG Farben played a significant role in the Nazi war economy. The company benefited from forced labor, maintained extensive relationships with the German state, and was connected to the production and supply chain of Zyklon B, a cyanide based pesticide that became infamous for its use in Nazi extermination camps.

Today, the United States government, military, hospitals, universities, and other public institutions purchase products and services from many multinational corporations whose histories, mergers, acquisitions, or predecessor entities are tied to difficult chapters of world history. The prevailing legal position is that modern corporations such as Bayer and BASF are distinct legal entities operating under contemporary ownership, management, and regulatory structures, despite their historical lineage.

An Enduring Civic and Moral Question

To what extent should governments consider historical corporate conduct when awarding contracts in the present day?

Some argue that successor companies have acknowledged their historical connections, participated in remembrance efforts, supported educational initiatives, and cannot fairly be treated as identical to the organizations that existed during the Third Reich.

Others contend that corporations whose origins are connected to institutions involved in crimes against humanity should remain subject to heightened public scrutiny and historical examination, particularly when they receive government contracts or occupy influential positions in modern society.

The discussion remains active among historians, ethicists, policymakers, and citizens. While legal responsibility and historical responsibility are not always treated as the same thing, many believe that an informed public benefits from understanding both the history of these institutions and the continuing debates surrounding their legacy.

The Allied Powers

The principal Allied powers that occupied Germany and directed the postwar dismantling of IG Farben were:

- **United States**
- **United Kingdom**
- **Soviet Union**
- **France**

After Germany's surrender in 1945, these four powers divided Germany into occupation zones and jointly governed the country through the Allied Control Council.

Regarding IG Farben Specifically

- The company's facilities ended up in different occupation zones.
- The United States played a major role in investigating IG Farben's activities and prosecuting executives during the IG Farben Trial.
- The Allied occupation authorities ultimately ordered the breakup of IG Farben into separate successor companies, including BASF, Bayer, and Hoechst.
- The formal dissolution process took many years and continued well beyond the initial occupation period.

Reasons for the Dismantling of IG Farben

Historically, the decision to dismantle IG Farben was driven by several concerns:

1. **Its role in supporting the Nazi war effort.**
2. **Its economic dominance within Germany.**
3. **Its use of forced labor.**
4. **Its connections to facilities associated with Nazi crimes, including the Auschwitz industrial complex.**

Historical Context

It is important to note that the breakup was not carried out by a single country acting alone. It occurred under the authority of the Allied occupation system established by the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and France after the war.

Chemical Exposure and Neurological Injury

A number of industrial chemicals, pesticides, and toxic substances have been associated with neurological injury, nerve damage, or other adverse health effects.

Examples include:

- Arsenic poisoning
- Lead poisoning
- Mercury poisoning
- Manganese poisoning
- Hexane poisoning
- Organophosphate poisoning

In addition, certain chemical warfare agents have been designed specifically to attack the nervous system, including:

- Sarin
- VX

While these substances differ significantly in their uses, mechanisms, and toxicity, they have all been studied for their potential effects on the human nervous system.

Pesticide Litigation in the United States

If one examines lawsuits involving pesticides alleged to cause neurological injury, cancer, or other health effects, the scale of litigation varies considerably depending on the chemical involved.

Roundup (Glyphosate)

Roundup litigation is currently the largest pesticide related litigation in United States history.

- Approximately 170,000 lawsuits have been filed against Monsanto and Bayer alleging that Roundup caused cancer.
- Bayer has reported resolving or settling roughly 100,000 cases and paying approximately \$11 billion in settlements.
- More than 60,000 active claims have reportedly remained pending.

Paraquat and Parkinson's Disease Litigation

Paraquat has become the subject of substantial litigation involving allegations that exposure contributed to Parkinson's disease.

- More than 6,400 federal lawsuits have been filed alleging a connection between paraquat exposure and Parkinson's disease.

Chlorpyrifos Litigation

Litigation involving chlorpyrifos has proceeded through multiple courts and legal theories involving allegations of:

- Birth defects
- Developmental injuries
- Cognitive impairment
- Parkinson's disease
- Other neurological conditions

Because these cases are dispersed across multiple jurisdictions, there is no single publicly reported total comparable to the Roundup litigation.

All Pesticide Litigation

Litigation may occur through:

- Federal multidistrict litigation
- State court proceedings
- Class actions
- Individual personal injury lawsuits
- Wrongful death claims
- Occupational exposure claims

Nevertheless, when discussing pesticide related litigation in modern American history, Roundup litigation alone accounts for well over 100,000 filed claims and remains the most significant pesticide litigation by volume.

Conclusion

The history of industrial chemistry, pesticides, wartime production, public health, and corporate accountability remains complex and often controversial. Questions surrounding historical responsibility, present day liability, public safety, government contracting, and the long term effects of chemical exposure continue to be debated by historians, scientists, policymakers, courts, and citizens alike.

Whether viewed through the lens of history, law, public health, or ethics, these discussions remind us that understanding the past remains an important part of evaluating the choices made in the present.

Union of Saint's Position

Pesticide exposure in Florida has been associated with serious illness and, in many cases, death. Vulnerable populations may face elevated risks, including immunocompromised individuals, children, older adults, pets, and agricultural field workers.

This issue should not be taken lightly. Certain pesticides and chemical exposures have been linked to neurological injury, respiratory illness, cardiovascular complications, and other long term health concerns. Nerve damage can be difficult to treat and, for some individuals, may result in chronic pain, weakness, numbness, or reduced quality of life.

Americans deserve clear information, honest risk assessments, and meaningful protections from hazardous exposures. Communities should be empowered to ask questions, seek medical attention when appropriate, and advocate for transparency regarding the chemicals being used in their neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and public spaces.

Public health and safety should remain a priority. Citizens should educate themselves about potential environmental hazards, understand their rights, and take reasonable steps to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.

Don't let them "gas-light" you. They called it "gift gas" then. Today they call it "luxury spray."
→ **Get out while you can.**