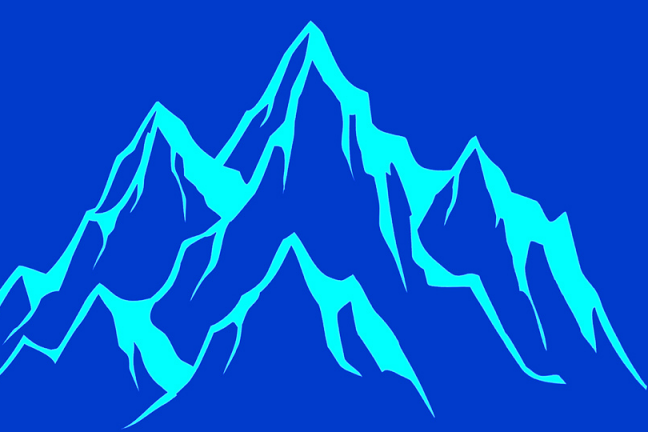


Issyk-Kul Highway



Located in the central Aral Sea, Vozrozhdeniya Island was one of the main laboratories and testing sites for the Soviet Union's Microbiological Warfare Group. In 1948, a top-secret Soviet

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Issyk-Kul Highway

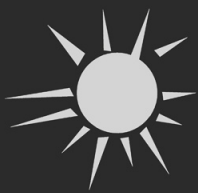


- 01 Intro — Vanadzor
- 02 Fergana
- 03 Tian Shan Reinforcement
- 04 No Capitalism Pt. 1
- 05 Kantubek
- 06 Red Lights Motel
- 07 No Capitalism Pt. 2
- 08 No Capitalism — Outro
- 09 Kyrgyz Wolves
- 10 Army Song
- 11 Dushanbe Motives
- 12 Soviet Meteorological Station (Dismantled)
- 13 Everybody Knows
- 14 Dzhankoi to Rostov (Truck Driver Single Version)
- 15 Eid al-Fitr, Tajikistan
- 16 Coastal Drone
- 17 Truck Driver (Culmination)
- 18 Parking Lot

GVGMFOS (literally: *Great Voice Great Music Full of Sex*)
= pre-Г5—54 project that
used analog synths with
acoustic and mechanical musical instruments

Cover design: A. Evdokimova
Model: S. Tatevosian
Initially recorded in 2015
Mixed and mastered in
2023-2024

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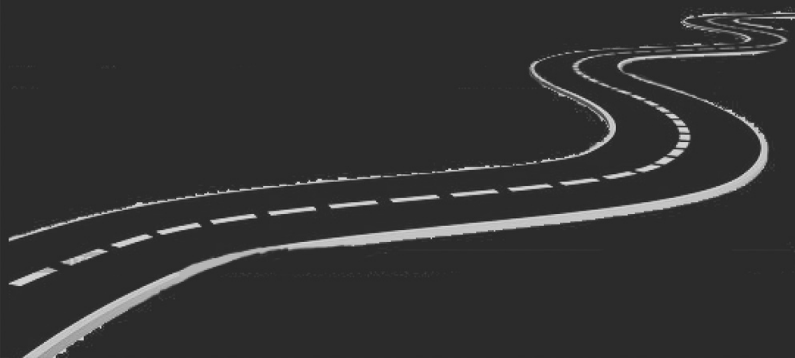
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In 2002, through a project organized and funded by the United States with Uzbekistan assistance, 10 anthrax burial sites were decontaminated.



Truck Driver

There's a Truck Driver
down in old Tashkent
And he loves to listen
to that radio

Everywhere he goes
you can hear
that old radio
And they call him
the Radio Truck Driver

Refrain:
Truck Driver

Radio Truck Driver

Kantubek

Kantubek (Russian: Кантубек) was a town on Vozrozhdeniya Island (Uzbekistan) in the Aral Sea. The town is still found on maps, but is usually uninhabited, and lies in ruins today.

Kantubek used to have a population of approximately 1,500, and was the place the former Soviet Union government used to test biological weapons. In the 1930s, experiments were conducted on monkeys, and other mammals.

Brian Hayes, a biochemical engineer with the United States Department of Defense's Threat Reduction Agency, led an expedition in the spring and summer of 2002 to neutralize what was probably the world's largest anthrax dumping grounds. His team of 113 people neutralized between 100 and 200 tonnes of anthrax over a three-month period. The cost of the cleanup operation was approximately US\$5,000,000.

1 See also

- Vozrozhdeniya Island
- Gruinard Island in Scotland, used for anthrax testing.

2 References

- *Anthrax Island*, By Christopher Pala

Coordinates: 45°09′17″N 59°20′06″E﻿ / ﻿45.15472°N 59.33500°E﻿ /

3 Text and image sources, contributors, and licenses

3.1 Text

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POISON ISLAND: a special report; At Bleak Asian Site, Killer Germs Survive

By JUDITH MILLER

Published: June 2, 1999

VOZROZHDENIYE ISLAND, Uzbekistan— In the spring of 1988, germ scientists 850 miles east of Moscow were ordered to undertake their most critical mission.

The scientists, working in great haste and total secrecy in Sverdlovsk, first transferred hundreds of tons of anthrax bacteria -- enough to destroy the world's people many times over -- into giant stainless steel canisters.

Then they poured in bleach to decontaminate the deadly pink powder, packed the canisters onto a train two dozen cars long and sent the cargo almost a thousand miles across Russia and Kazakhstan to this remote island in the heart of the Aral Sea, American and Central Asian officials say.

Here Russian soldiers dug huge pits and poured the sludge into the ground, burying the germs and, Moscow hoped, a grave political threat.

While Mikhail S. Gorbachev was pressing glasnost and perestroika and strengthening ties with the West, intelligence evidence was mounting in Washington that the Soviet Union, contrary to its treaty pledges, was producing tons of deadly germs that the world had banned.

The stockpile had to be destroyed in case the United States and Britain demanded an inspection.

Vozrozhdeniye Island was a natural choice. Until the military finally left here for good in 1992, Renaissance Island, as it translates from the Russian, had been the Soviet Union's major open-air biological testing site. Today the island, which the former Soviet republics of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan share, is the world's largest anthrax burial ground.

For the United States, it is an intelligence gold mine. At the invitation of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, American military scientists and intelligence experts have been secretly traveling here for the last four years to survey the island and take samples of the buried bacteria.

What they have found is stunning, the experts say. Tests of soil samples from 6 of 11 burial pits show that although the anthrax was soaked in bleach at least twice -- once in the 66-gallon containers and again after it was dumped and buried for decades under three to five feet of sand -- some spores are still alive and potentially deadly.

Tests performed by American military laboratories have also shown that the anthrax vaccine being given to 2.4 million American military personnel is effective against the Russian strain of this deadly scourge, -- at least the strain found here.

While this has reassured the Clinton Administration, the discovery of live spores of buried anthrax has alarmed Kazakhstan and especially worries Uzbekistan, which has been exploring for oil on the two-thirds of the island it controls.

Because the Aral Sea is shrinking -- a result of wrongheaded Soviet irrigation policies -- this deserted, isolated island has grown from 77 square miles to 770 and will soon be connected to the mainland.

As a result, Uzbek and Kazakh experts fear, the buried anthrax spores could escape their sandy tomb, stirred up by carriers like gophers and other rodents, lizards and birds, and brought to Uzbek and Kazakh territory.

The disease is spread from animals to people by direct contact; it is treatable with antibiotics if detected immediately. In weapons, it is disbursed as an aerosol to be inhaled.

Central Asian and American officials fear that as access to the island becomes easier, the buried anthrax could be dug up by terrorists and used to make more of it.

In addition, officials said, exposure could threaten a local population whose health is already abysmal. International medical experts are just starting to assess which of the residents' many chronic ailments are attributable to poverty and environmental degradation, and which might be linked to the region's biological and chemical legacy.

The Island Breeding of Germs, Breeding of Fears

Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, which have both officially renounced weapons of mass destruction, have independently asked the United States for help in assessing and cleaning up this terrible biological legacy of Soviet rule.

Uzbekistan also permitted this correspondent to visit Renaissance Island earlier this year -- the first visit by a journalist -- and to interview officials and scientists concerned about the hazards.

The trip, coupled with interviews with about two dozen scientists, Government officials and military experts in Central Asia, Russia and the United States, has shed light on one of the most closely guarded biological secrets of the cold war.

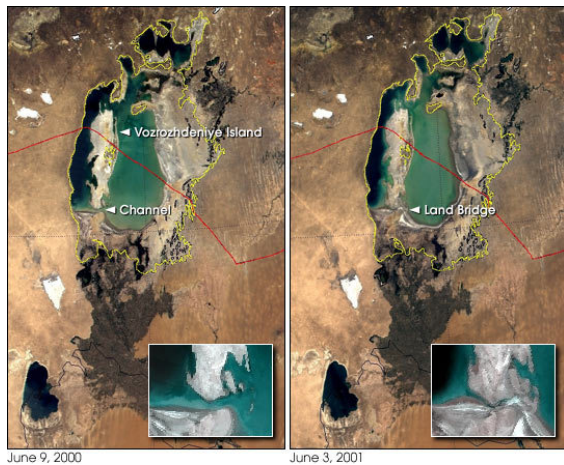
Although President Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia issued an edict in 1992 closing the site and vowing that the laboratory would be dismantled and decontaminated within three years, the cash-strapped Moscow Government never followed through. And Russia has never acknowledged responsibility for the anthrax cemetery here.

Military scientists at the United States Army Medical Research and Material Command and other laboratories where the samples are being studied refused comment on the island and the tests. But other officials said the labs are still deciphering the Russian anthrax's molecular structure and trying to determine why spores collected from some of the pits did not die.

Vozrozhdeniya Island

This article is about the former island. For the album by folk metal band Arkona, see [Vozrozhdeniye](#).

Vozrozhdeniya Island (Russian: **Остров Возрожде-**



Rebirth Island joins the mainland in mid-2001.

ния, *Ostrov Vozrozhdeniya*, which translates as **Rebirth Island** or **Renaissance Island**) was an island in the [Aral Sea](#) during the [Soviet Union](#). Now the former island is owned by [Uzbekistan](#) and [Kazakhstan](#) (as of the early 1980s). In 1954, a biological weapons test site called **Aralsk-7** was built there and on the neighboring [Komsomolskiy Island](#).^[1]

1 Geography

Vozrozhdeniya was once a small island; however, the island began to grow in size in the 1960s as the [Aral Sea](#) dried up due to its feeder rivers being dammed by the Soviet Union for agricultural projects.^[2] The shrinkage of the Aral continued and accelerated, and Vozrozhdeniya became a peninsula in mid-2001 when the channel to its south dried up completely and became a land bridge.^[3] Upon the disappearance of the Southeast Aral Sea in 2008, Vozrozhdeniya effectively ceased to exist as a distinct geographical feature. It briefly reemerged as a peninsula in 2010 when the eastern basin was flooded by heavy snow melt.

2 History

Located in the central [Aral Sea](#), Vozrozhdeniya Island was one of the main laboratories and testing sites for the [Soviet Union's Microbiological Warfare Group](#). In 1948, a top-secret Soviet bioweapons laboratory was established here, which tested a variety of agents, including anthrax, smallpox, plague, brucellosis, and tularemia.^[4] In 1971, a release of weaponized smallpox from the island infected ten people, of whom 3 died.

In the 1990s, word of the island's danger was spread by Soviet defectors, including [Ken Alibek](#), the former head of the Soviet Union's bioweapons program.^[5] It was here, according to recently released documents, that anthrax spores and bubonic plague bacilli were made into weapons and stored. The main town on the island was [Kantubek](#), which lies in ruins today, but once had approximately 1,500 inhabitants.

The laboratory staff members abandoned the small island in 1992.^[6] Many of the containers holding the spores were not properly stored or destroyed, and over the last decade many of these containers have developed leaks.

In 2002, through a project organized and funded by the United States with Uzbekistan assistance, 10 anthrax burial sites were decontaminated.^[7]

3 In popular culture

- In the video game *Command & Conquer: Generals*, the island was under U.S. occupation but was captured by the fictional Global Liberation Army.
- The area and its former Soviet biological weapons base and laboratories was featured in a mission in the video game *Call of Duty: Black Ops*.
- In the novel *The Home Team: Weapons Grade*, by Dennis Chalker and Kevin Dockery, the villains dig two metric tons of “Anthrax 836” up from an impromptu dump site 11 km from Rebirth Island for use in a terror plot.^[8]

4 See also

- [Biopreparat](#)
- [Ken Alibek](#)

- Kantubek
- Gruinard Island in Scotland, another location formerly used for anthrax testing.
- 1960's Satellite images of Soviet laboratory
- Top Inhospitable Places in the World

Coordinates: 45°09'N 59°19'E / 45.150°N 59.317°E

5 References

- [1] Dembek, Zygmunt F., Julie A. Pavlin, and Mark G. Kortepeter (2007), "Epidemiology of Biowarfare and Bioterrorism", Chapter 3 of: Dembek, Zygmunt F. (2007), *Medical Aspects of Biological Warfare*, (Series: Textbooks of Military Medicine), Washington, DC: The Borden Institute, pp 51-52.
- [2] Michael Wines (9 December 2002). "Grand Soviet Scheme for Sharing Water in Central Asia Is Foundering". *The New York Times*. Retrieved 29 October 2012.
- [3] NASA Visible Earth - "Rebirth" Island Joins the Mainland, Aral Sea
- [4] Tom Mangold; Jeff Goldberg (2001). *Plague Wars: The Terrifying Reality of Biological Warfare*. Macmillan. pp. 46–47. ISBN 9780312263799.
- [5] Hoffman, David (2009). *The Dead Hand: The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms Race and Its Dangerous Legacy*. Random House. p. 460. ISBN 9780385524377.
- [6] Pala, Christopher (2003), Anthrax Island, *The New York Times*, January 12, 2003.
- [7] Powell, Bill (16 September 2002). "Are We Safe Yet? For all the warnings, there hasn't been another attack. But the hard work of enhancing homeland security has only just begun. Here's what we need to do". *CNN*.
- [8] Chalker, Dennis and Dockery, Kevin (2006). *The Home Team: Weapons Grade*. New York, New York: Avon Books. p. 373. ISBN 9780061746901.

6 External links

- Abandoned Anthrax: Vozrozhdeniye Island. *Sometimes Interesting*. 29 Nov 2014
- Youtube: Going To Extremes: Voz-Island (Part 1)
- Youtube: Going To Extremes: Voz-Island (Part 2)
- Welcome to Anthrax Island - Guardian Unlimited
- Rebirth Island joins the mainland (2000 and 2001 satellite images)
- NASA satellite image comparison between 1989 and 2003
- Biological Decontamination of Vozrozhdeniye Island: The U.S.-Uzbek Agreement
- Former Soviet Biological Weapons Facilities in Kazakhstan: Past, Present, and Future

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GVGMFOS - Issyk Kul Highway

Text on the front cover:

Located in the central Aral Sea, Vozrozhdeniya Island was one of the main laboratories and testing sites for the Soviet Union's Microbiological Warfare Group. In 1948, a top-secret Soviet bioweapons laboratory was established here, which tested a variety of agents, including anthrax, smallpox, plague, brucellosis, and tularemia. In 1971, a release of weaponized smallpox from the island infected ten people, of whom 3 died. In the 1990s, word of the island's danger was spread by Soviet defectors, including Ken Alibek, the former head of the Soviet Union's bioweapons program. It was here, according to recently released documents, that anthrax spores and bubonic plague bacilli were made into weapons and stored. The main town on the island was Kantubek, which lies in ruins today, but once had approximately 1,500 inhabitants. The laboratory staff members abandoned the small island in 1992. Many of the containers holding the spores were not properly stored or destroyed, and over the last decade many of these containers have developed leaks. In 2002, through a project organized and funded by the United States with Uzbekistan assistance, 10 anthrax burial sites were decontaminated.

credits
released June 1, 2024

GVGMFOS (literally: Great Voice Great Music Full of Sex) = pre-P“5БТ”54 project that used analog synths with acoustic and mechanical musical instruments

GVGMFOS:

Sasha Minchenko - electromechanical generators, live mixing, acoustic and electric feedback control
Alexey Yeliseev - bass, flute, vocalist voice live processing

Cover design: A. Evdokimova
Model: S. Tatevosian

Initially recorded in 2015
Mixed and mastered in 2023-2024

Recorded, mixed and mastered at P“5БТ”54 Stronghouse
g5-54.com

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