

# The Role of Insects and Worms as Agents of Bioterrorism in the Atmosphere of Post- 9/11 America

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**Abstract**—The paper examines an importance of symbolism of microcosm engaged even into the bioterrorism rethoric used in the past September 11 (2001) media language in American public and politics and also on present public narration. The object of our review and study is a more constructive, cultural image of a bug (also 'electronic bug'), worm or insect as an element of various discourses in American media culture after terrorist 9/11 attacks in 2001. Since those events the approach to microcosm was stimulated in USA by the imagination of fears derived from the parthenogenesis, mass, parasitism, amorphous structures, destructive decays...etc. These figures of meaning are primarily attached to mostly pejorative content. The instrumental use of micrology for military and terrorist purposes today is a matter of common knowledge. Direct bio-attacks in that period of 2001-2002 were indirectly treated as a threat to the freedom of information exchange, and on the other, as a disturbing attempt to anticipate possible counterattack from the side of the U.S. Viruses, germs, bacteria or other pathogens, as semiotic and symbolic prolongation of the threat of "foreigners", especially terrorist forces. The main method of research which is involved within the article is desk research and review of American popular media – both paper and electronic forms.

**Keywords**— *bioterrorism, worm, electronic bug, viruses, microcosm, American media, 9/11 attacks in New York City.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the presented approach the taxonomic definition of vermin, worms, insects, germs as the objects of cognition and research from the zoological-scientific point of view is the secondary context, for the authors much more important is an analysis of all such small and the smallest phenomena from the postmodern social and cultural point of view. Although this paper treats "microcosm" in more general way, it is not binding, and consistent with the

current state of the zoological art knowledge, findings on species classified as vermin. Zoology here appears only as one of the possible, providing specific images and meanings, discourse. But a simpler discourse of common people who on daily basis do not deal with special explications and used to refer to microcosm just occasionally is also important for our short diagnosis. Object of our cognition and study is a more constructive, cultural image of the worm on the level of literary criteria: as a lexem, symbol, image, motif, archetype, element of the *topos* (gr.), aesthetic-poetic convention, rather than its zoological equivalent – worm or insect *sensu stricto*. It reminds us slightly the situation of the worm in Hebrew, where its name was meant in *sensu largo* and was referring to all small crawling creatures on earth. The Bible also generally used formally two words to describe a worm: *rimmâh* or from Latin - *vermiculus*, especially since the worm belongs to a quite symbolic biblical (also religious) zoology which hardly can be missed in a comparative analysis. We may find out similarly that commonly called worms can be freely identified as worms *sensu stricto* (eg worms, worms, tapeworms, leeches), as well as any invertebrates, insects, larvae of insects. [1]. Worm or bug as a element of various discourses in European and American culture turns out to be a figure, motif, symbol, allegory...etc. These figures of meaning are primarily attached to mostly pejorative meaning. Hence we will try to make a brief cross-sectional review of their "occurrence" in imagination of Americans and politicians specially in so called post 9/11 time on the examples of enunciations of American media. There will be also some traits of American pop culture mixed with tradition of political-ideological propaganda.

The state of being a "small" or even "micro", to which worms, insects are belonged to, in the past as well as in

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modern times was generating the less or more justified images, symbols, metaphors, and connotations. Mostly worms have been treated as all sorts of subject of suspicion, distrust and unequivocally negative imaginative projections [2]. It does not mean that in these days people are not afraid of any new micro-creatures (see casus of anthrax, HIV virus, SAARS, Ziko, disturbing bacteria *Escherichia coli*, coronavirus COVID-19 ... etc.) as microcosmos reveals itself outside. And the reasons and opportunities for this ambivalent attitude of the former mentality to the microfauna sphere have not changed yet too much. All microorganisms which stimulated the imagination have become also another source of fears, threats and provided useful images which we can take into account here for our comparative analysis. Some features related to cultural perception of vermin creatures can be raised sometimes in characterizing such phenomena as mass culture, massive objects or aliens. These vermin-analogy characteristics include for instance parthenogenesis, masses, parasitism, amorphous structures, destructive decays...etc. To some extent words of Dwight Macdonald refer to this mentioned parallel talking about the essence of popular or mass culture: „It is true that mass culture was born - and to a certain extent it is still today - as parasitic, cancerous growth (ulcer) on a higher culture. [...] However, there is no type of relationship like between the leaf and the branch, but rather it imitates the relation between a caterpillar and a leaf. Mass culture undermines the higher culture as if were situation of unpredictable settlers who extract wealth from the land [3].

From the point of view of history it has to be remembered that the most tragic for the Jewish people were associations and comparisons, exploited by racist Nazism in Germany, comparing them to parasites and vermin in relation to social affairs and referring to the role of Jews in trade or usury, especially when Hitler came to real power in 1933. Due to propaganda efforts, especially in the context of developing audiovisual media, Hitler succeeded on an unprecedented scale to create the image of a Jew-parasite and to install it in the mentality of most Nazi Germans [4]. Declared reluctance towards the Jews was more than once expressed by means of the generically meaningful motif of the vermin as the main imagery attribute that is identified with this ethnic-religious factors. These symbolic offensive attacks - as it turned out - were formulated at various times, for various reasons and by various characters. The authors of such racial depictions and caricatures sometimes made by very noble and respected persons because of its place in literature or culture and others were simply anti-Semites [5]. A quite known sociologist - Zygmunt Baumann tries to explain Hitler's tendency to committing atrocities and crimes through his interpretation of Hitler's keeping hygiene and clean what he was revealing from the very beginning of his life of political activist. Therefore Hitler's attitude to Jews, Gypsies, the disabled, sick, and other victims of Nazi German genocide can be interpret by means of traditional archetype and opposition "clean - unclean". But not only the Jews were the victims of propaganda suggesting to enemies of being as worms or antiseptic allusions. Here,

though still in the German propaganda of the prehistoric times in Germany and Nazi triumph of German propaganda engaged this suggestive image towards German's enemies. For example compiled propaganda materials from the struggle for Upper Silesia in the time of the March 1921 plebiscite in German they have been mocking the alliance of Poland and France during the dividing of Upper Silesia: "In the drawing entitled« French Purity » there is shown sitting in a chair in a German room with the will of a treaty a French officer with insects symbolizing Polish soldiers crawling over the floor in the corners, walls and even on the French officer's leg..... " [6]. Also, several years later then, Soviet propaganda will be exploiting in its discourse a caricature picture of an insect imitating a Polish general pierced with a knife as a reaction to the defeat of Poland in September 1939 year [7]. From the cultural and historical perspectives the worm was seen as a tangible sign of the interference from deities, the sacred, the aliens, usually seen mostly as an envoy from the sphere of the infernal entropy to bring the same process down on earth. Therefore worms stood in the eyes of people as a cruel tool for revenge and punishment; moreover the demonic worms among others "causes" like heretics, witches, doctors, dissidents, Jews, Gypsies, Jesuits, etc. have been blamed for deliberate infection or indirect providing deadly epidemic plagues; these mechanisms of social psychology exploiting the image of worms as a danger from nowhere (microcosm) exist unfortunately also till now, but in different already contextual configurations adjusted to today's reality and mentality. The position of former demonic actors coming from micro-world which used to be worms has been replacing by new imaginative forms of fear like special services, ethnic minorities, sexual deviations, secret relationships and organizations ... etc. It can be proved though by an example of the colloquial and sometimes peculiar "popularizing" the works of various interpretations of contemporary AIDS epidemic relating on various arguments and their interpretations, here is a sample:

“ The cause of AIDS is the abuse of using narcotic drugs; this God's penalty for homosexuality and prostitution; mutants, formed as a result of trials with nuclear weapons, they converted an harmless microbe into a deadly virus; as a result of malaria experiments there have been accidental virus infections of monkey by scientists and they spread the microorganism to others” [8].

Such fears and allegations towards microorganisms more or less logically justified we also found in political and social discourse after time of healing social and mental wounds of American society of 9/11 attacks in 2001. Moreover, post 9/11 period was undoubtedly political, economic and mentality change in American society and media, where the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 in Manhattan of New York City became a specific turning point in American thinking and looking at reality. During that time, our research interests related to the cultural perception and presentation of the microcosm, which resulted in the following research, which also revealed a specific record of that "post-September" atmosphere of

danger and suspicion towards microorganisms as microbes, germs, bacteria, viruses, insects, worms...etc. without zoological taxonomy differentiations but for mostly regarded from the cultural points of view. As observers of those behaviours and American reactions to the bio-terroristic threats we decided to examine them with new interpretative contexts.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Authors of this review of mostly American press media from the period of the post 9/11 anxiety caused by the tries of bioterrorist attacks in years 2001-2002. Therefore, the main method of research which is involved within the paper is a desk research and review of some data and diaries of the authors who were travelling in USA in years 2001-2003. A small amount of contribution comes from the own experience of the authors who have watched American electronic media as well.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *A. What were the typical examples of the bio-terroristic threats and reactions of American society?*

More than eighty years ago, before the advent of radio and television, Walter Lippmann (1922) observed that what people know about the world around them is mostly the result of second-hand knowledge acquired by reading newspapers. In modern-day mass societies, people are even more dependent on the news;" [9]. The period of media narration, which we are trying to review shortly too, still belonged to postmodern and globalist time before the dominant outburst of social media which actually started more or less around 2007. Even when individuals witness events, such as a devastating terror attack or massive anti-war demonstrations, or when people are affected by socioeconomic developments, such as high unemployment or increasing energy costs, they are still likely to depend on the traditional source of news to explain the reasons, consequences, and political significance of what they have experienced personally. Both entertainment and news media have always paid extraordinary attention to violence regardless whether in the form of crimes or acts of terrorism. Especially in television network news and local news programs terrorism outpaced by far other important events, issues, and problems. It is worthy to indicate that between 1981 and 1986, more news stories were broadcasted (mentioning only three TV networks ABC, CBS, and NBC) on terrorism than on poverty, unemployment, racial inequality, and crime combined. Hijackings, hostage situations, and similar events. Major anti-American attacks took place inside the United States (the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993, the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995) and abroad (the Khobar Towers bombing in 1996, the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, the suicide attack on the USS Cole in 2000). But the most broadcasted „live" moments of terrorist attack ever probably took place just on 11 September of 2001, when hijacked planes hit the towers of WTC in New York City: traditional media as radio, networks provided all day and night coverage; at

least two cable shopping channels and Chicago's WPWR-CH.50 ceased regular programming out of respect for events. Cable sports channels and even MTV and VH1 canceled regular programming to run coverage from their corporate-sibling news organizations. Authors of this paper were being in the U.S. that time and witnessed as several local stations used their relationships with other stations to air news coverage. Channel 50 showed CBS, WCIUCH.26 aired channel 9's CNN coverage; WCPX-CH.38 channel aired NBC news programming.

Nationally, all the networks, in a rare moment of cooperation, shared their live feed without credit or logos attached. Televising hijacked plane hitting north tower in NYC, and collapsing towers was reminding killing Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby in the eye of American public in 60's. Even worse not only crumbling towers but people diving out from the top floors of burning WTC towers. The 9/11 attack undermined the claim that the rich and powerful, sophisticated missile-defence system can shield such super geopolitical powers as USA.

On 13th September 2001, one of the daily popular columnist and commentator from „Chicago Tribune" John Kass wrote: "For the past decades we have sat dumb and stupid as the U.S. military was transformed from a killing machine into a playpen for sociologists and political schemers. [10]. The one of primary goals of terrorists was to intimidate their target publics and force governments to react and often over-react or to get an enemy paralyzed But government officials who are responding to terrorist attacks were also in excellent positions to utilize the media to enlist public support for their policies.

In post - 9/11 atmosphere the feeling of American security that the Capitol (the United States Congress's architectural complex) had been out of reach of the totalitarian regimes, terrorist attacks, internal and economic unrest, once again was undermined just after 9/11 quite fast but on October 18th of 2001. One of the cause was bacteria called *Bacillus Anthracis*. The range of possible germs is vast, but there are some mutated pathogens that are particularly capable of causing chaos. The NATO guide to potential biological weapons lists 31 infectious agents. The top five are such as anthrax, smallpox, plague, botulism, and tularemia. Anthrax has always been at the top of the list of diseases that cause real terror [ 11 ] . It may even have been a major factor in one of the first recorded cases of biologically assisted political persuasion—one of the first plagues to hit Egypt in the time of Moses. Even today, most experts still consider anthrax to be a very potent and effective weapon. This species of bacteria (*Bacillus Anthracis*) appears all over the world and regularly causes natural cases of the disease. American anthrax victims learned that these bacteria can be transmitted by inhaling them from the air or even scratching the skin. Eating raw meat can also have the same effect. The first symptoms begin to appear after 1-5 days. The skin infection kills 1 in 5 people, but when the bacteria get into the lungs, they kill almost every victim within 2 or 3 days. They produce a toxin that not only attacks our body but also disables our immune system, thus leaving us completely helpless in the

face of the attacker [11]. But this virtual to some extent anxiety was caused at that time also by the SAARS virus and the West Nile Virus which were affecting convenient American way of life much and deeply in some parts of States. For instance the West Nile Virus particularly touched the American continent. The authorities of Louisiana state reported 14 new cases of West Nile Virus (which caused two deaths). Authorities along with 20 scientists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have admitted they are unable to stop the spread of the virus, which hit 85 people and killed 7 people. There were 128 cases nationwide. In 90 cases, 60% of the subjects in the lab might be positive, as doctor Raoult Ratford, the state epidemic inspector from the North Dakota State Department of Public Health, suggested. There was also no reduction or halting of the development of infections, and therefore more and more concerned people were trying to check their results, hence the frequency of visits and tests passing. It should be indicated that the Virus West Nile used to be transmitted mostly by migratory birds and spread by mosquitoes. Deadly specimen of such an infected bird were found, among others. In Baton Rouge in May (2002) [12]. Persons infected with this virus can manifest influenza-like symptoms as well as in some cases encephalitis or swelling of the brain. First discovered in the West Nile in Uganda in 1937, the virus has spread to Europe, Middle East Asia and North America. In summer of 1999 seven New Yorkers died during the first outbreak of the virus in the United States. Since then, the West Nile has killed 22 people in 34 states. The first cases appeared in New York in 1999, then at that time 55 people were hospitalized, seven were the fatalities. In August 2002 there were 128 human cases across the country. Those casualties of the virus sooner or later had to cause a sort of social fear. Despite this fear we should admit that terrorists, internal bio-attacks were not for the American society anything new. They had experienced at least the cases like the Oregon accident of September 1984 and 1985, when followers of the Rajneeshee sect spread Salmonella Typhimurim (what resulted in 751 cases of gastroenteritis and multiple hospitalizations). The investigation did not succeed and there was no sure whether the appearance of anthrax molecules was yet another attack of Al Qaeda or a maniacal incident.

For a cultural and psychological interpretation, the diagnosis of the mental consequences of a criminal offence is much more important. Referring to anthrax again it should be stressed that this bacteria caused more confusion in the House of Congress and American media than many other earlier political events. In spectacular cases of finding presumably pollen of anthrax in presence of such American as Robert Stevens from Florida (the official photographer of The Sun magazine) or New York - Ernesto Blanco (a NBC correspondent), New York Governor George Pataki, or the habitants of Washington at last (31 employees of Capitol) who had probably dealt with almost invisible pollen distributed by mails. Powdered spores of a single-celled bacterium (1-5 microns) were found in the office of Senator Tom Daschle, who was in that time important the Senate Majority Leader. Unfortunately, anthrax in its pure

form of bacterium produces dangerous toxins, and possible infection can be occurred in three ways: skin infection through wound, pulmonary-inhalation and the rarest type - through the digestive tract when raw meat is ingested [13]. At the same time, it is worthy to underline a *sui generis* perfidious feature of the phenomena of microcosm: because this simple bacterium can exist only in tissue and blood, but over time, when the infected carrier dies, the bacterias are formed and transformed into spores - which imitate the structure similar to the semen and through the resistant immunity crust can survive for at least 100 years until the next host is found.

American society was concerned about the fact that a fairly probable, predictable, thoroughly researched and controlled bacterium (most of American universities and research centers were working on bacterial material, and 1,200 American laboratories in October of 2002 conducted current anthrax studies) is susceptible to control and does not belong to the most aggressive types of bacteria, although in that time it became out of control and caused social fear and anxiety. The anthrax preparation procedure consists of removing the liquid without destroying the chemical components of the substance. This process is similarly used in coffee production, because it preserves the taste; in the military industry, there is a chance that the bacterial spores will survive. The next step is to grind the resulting precipitate into a very fine powder. The finer the powder, the greater the chance of it later getting deep into the lungs of the victim [11]. Initially, biological weapons experts claimed that the samples looked quite primitive. The dust particles gave the impression that they had been produced in facilities with advanced technology. However, over time, experts began to change their minds - these were highly refined batches of anthrax dust, so perfect that many people believed that they must have come from the United States [11]. The reason for this conclusion is largely the belief that the chemical mixture surrounding the spores was probably prepared according to a method developed by the American military and kept a secret that no one knew about. The mixture gave the anthrax the ability to stay in the air longer and to be carried in gusts of air, such as those released by someone passing by, making the agent even more deadly [11]. Given that the technique was developed by the U.S. military, it's tempting to point at the causes of appearing antrax in the U.S. involving American laboratories.

In this context we can look at the much more dangerous "epidemic", before COVID-19 in 2020-22, which had become the AIDS illness in mid and late 80s, in comparison to the anthrax, raised a lot of doubts and justifiable fears too. Interestingly, its mortal and ruthless features and activity in the human body is almost automatically referred to - by using language of discourse of a military bio-attacks - a hidden terrorist act. Therefore Susan Sonntag writing about deadly AIDS was referring in similar way to fears of microcosm: "The invader is tiny, about sixteen thousand times smaller than the head of a pin. [...] Scouts of the immune system, large cells called macrophages when they feel the presence of a microscopic aliens immediately

notify the immune system. It starts to mobilize cell hosts, which, among other things, produce counteracts to the fight against the threat. The AIDS virus stubbornly ignores most of the blood cells in its path, avoids fast-moving defenders and traps the main immune system coordinator. At the surface of the cell, the enemy finds the receptor to which one of the proteins fits perfectly, like a key to the lock. Sticked to the cell, the virus penetrates the membrane and deprives it of the protective sheath. Then the invader locate for good in the new environment" [14] .

What scared the Americans mostly, and what aroused their particular mental discomfort, was the inability to see or visualize the enemy. An uncomfortable impotence in the ability to confront the enemy face to face. In fact, the transcendence of the anthrax germs into the field of sensory experience was decisive in the development of human imagery and fears, as the Americans themselves clearly demonstrated in their reactionary reactions. An employee of Senator Deschle's office in administration did not hide, for example, his source of anxiety because of this "miniature": "Anthrax is very scary, very frightening [...] It is invisible. [Anthrax is scary, scary because it is not visible]" [15]. He was probably convinced by the fateful comments of the scientists, who at that time poured yet more anxiety to society, such as C.J. Peters from the Texas Center for Biological Conservation. "It could infect thousands of people before anyone suspects anything is wrong. You can take out 200,000 people in a heartbeat - maybe millions. I am not worried about anthrax in the latter. I am worried about weapons of mass destruction" [13]. Quite quickly, in such a situation of uncertainty and social anxiety, the ground is created for all kinds of gossip, fakes or false alarms, which are conducive and often increase the panic and chaos. An example may be loud but false information, which was "released" by Dennis Haster's Senator-in-Office, the spokesperson of the Senate House, that the anthrax was distributed in Capitol buildings through the ventilation system, and that afterwards all 30 employees had positive test results.

These accidents, though reproducible, can be illustrated by the often recurring mentality that comes to mind when accustomed to brutal, mechanical, and face-to-face confrontation with Western violence, freely surrendered in the face of the "biological warfare". Society had to deal with some of its aspects, in principle, when it came to the more sophisticated enemy - the microbes and the real, and more over not from the fatalistic Hollywood production. Unfortunately, these micro-robots - as viruses and germs such as HIV, Ebola, ziko, A / H1N1 ... etc. will bring many more victims before our civilization defeat them, and by the way our overwhelming, illusory modernist and scientific hopes of dealing with every untimed danger are melting down just facing dangers of microcosm. These modern and postmodern attitudes towards the micro-world are smartly commented by a mentioned before sociologist - Zygmunt Bauman: "Flies, cockroaches, spiders, mice and other "vermin" who at any time can claim their place at home without asking their legitimate residents for permission, are for this reason constantly, in every situation, "by nature"

undesirable visitors ; they cannot be framed in by any schema of order, since the order is, before anything else, the state of a controlled and surrendered area. Such "self-driving" busy beings are a particular nuisance, because their peregrinations reveal something that supposed to be keep secret: the fragility, the contingency, the arbitrariness of the introduced order and the circled boundary" [16]. To confirm such Bauman's conviction let us present an example: here among the inhabitants of Western Wisconsin (specifically Northwoods place) rumors had arisen, engulfing speculative conspiracy theories. So that summer the terrain of the northern and state-of-the-wild nature was haunted by the plagues of even "black flies" (*Sarcophaga aldrichi*). Therefore the Department of National Resources was accused of conspiracy although the Department of National Resources's intention was to consciously propagate certain species to protect forests from verminous caterpillars, which are capable of destroying the same species of fly in their early stages of development. Probably, it turned out that the Department of Natural Resources did not predict any side effects, because, indeed, parasitic caterpillars were limited, but persistent flies remained and continued to reproduce, becoming more and more indigenous communities [17] . In that situation of fear or even trauma of bio-attacks, not only the strong columns of the Capitol were „shaken up” of the liberal-democratic order and watchfulness of the foundations of a world-wide political consensus and economic colossus, but the first of all, the social security was undermined too although the modernist model of the state had been providing security so far. As it was possible to realize that the American response to such enemy would be introducing the advanced antiseptic hygiene measures of society.

#### *B. How American society dealt with new enemies of microcosm ?*

Americans in 2001-2002 have received a dose of no longer a hyper realistic image, but real events effecting them directly. Therefore to some extent the American anthrax germs could not be treated in the American public as new representations of past fears and prejudices. Their imaginary impact was great one because it had turned out that bacteria was not capable of being killed by modern and perfect cleansers and household chemicals, and even the pharmacology initially seemed to have no certain remedy. However, struggling with a more crafty "unclean" category required a new diagnosis too. In this context professor Z. Bauman writes more on the phenomenology of microcosm agents: "But there are beings more dangerous to the order than from the "worms" themselves: such as not only wandering where they want and when they want, but in addition they do it secretly and are unnoticed. The supervisors of the order may not even realize that these micro agents have intruded into their area and that they have just nested: guardians of the order may delude themselves that the orders are not in danger – and to abandon the vigilance. Such beings ignore the established state but each question the same idea of gravity, dispelling the hope that with the right effort that one will be able to

undergo an area of charge for the good before the intruders to protect“ [16].

Although not for all the destructive role of the microcosm on such a scale turned out to be sinister and surprising; They were well aware of the microscopic irresistible face of the microcosm which has long been studied by specialists and scientists. What was worse for Americans, as reported by the press at that time, in the context of problems with bioterrorism and increasingly intrusive viruses, there came up other phenomena which started to worry up larger group of people than reporters. As geneticists have said, the virus can be produced very quickly and easily, sometimes even in completely laboratory conditions [18]. It turned out also that it had been enough to download the genetic code or the whole bio-genetic project from the Internet to create a "synthetic" virus in laboratory conditions. Of course, it only applied to the models of uncomplicated genetic engineering, and therefore not to the scale of the major threat, but it probably did not help for those who had counted on limiting and eliminating bioterrorism after the post 9/11 intensification of the use of such sort of secret weapon. The instrumental use of micrology for military and terrorist purposes became a matter of common knowledge. Naturally, this is not a new thing in the history of military warfare, but the scale of the impact of the real and mental threat revealed by those who know the subject is disturbing. In addition to spectacular victims (public officials), as well as the whole atmosphere of suspicions, threat and uncertainty that surfaced after September 11, one of the major attacks and paralysis was towards the US media too.

Attack on American media caused discomfort and social disappointment because the American media, apart from being an obvious key tool for communication – were taken as an area of the immune circulation of all information and the maintenance of interpersonal relations as well. Moreover media are the condensed center of all simulacra - which multiply the reality, the spectacular area like matrix cords to which society is attached for 24/7. First of all, the media are, however, considered to be a basic political and moral training ground, and as a result, during the crisis, it is a strategic weapon of destruction - even in the mind of Jean Baudrillard's very perceptive observation: “Americans generally use two types of weapons: aviation and information. They therefore carry out a two-pronged attack, consisting in physical bombing of the rest of the world. Both the air force and the power of information belong to superterritorial weapons ....” [19].

Direct bio-attacks (apparently of course perpetrated by terrorists) were indirectly treated as a threat to the freedom of information exchange, and on the other, as a disturbing attempt to anticipate possible counterattack from the side of the U.S. Perhaps they also felt the aggression on the fourth so called social power. It turned out that they were the special victims and at the same time the primary targets of the bio-attacks. If we do research of American press releases from that time, we have a clear picture of the backdrop of American media. It should be highlighted that the first victims of the anthrax, also mortal, were workers

of significant media sources. Let us outline shortly this calendar of main, decisive accidents: the death of Robert Stevenson, a 63-year-old photographer of the tabloid *The Sun* in Boca Raton, Florida, was presumably caused by ignoring the symptoms of anthrax infestation. That first death at the very beginning did not generate any major suspicions. But soon it turned out that the employee (Ernesto Blanco) who was responsible for correspondence in the press American Media Inc. fell into a similar illness, and further - five other corporate colleagues got positive test results. After those cases came up a panic, but there was also a change of the center of the suspicions from New York moved to the American capital - Washington D.C. In the light of the media there were such victims: Erin O'Connor, working for a famous news anchor Tom Brokaw in the New York branch of the NBC station, is getting a skin infection, a 7-year-old son of ABC News producer is subjected to antibiotic treatment due to skin infection [20]. More and more suspicious shipments and envelopes with dangerous “powder” were also found addressed inadvertently to strangers. Probably there were not many of them before, but bigger number of controls generates the atmosphere of danger. Also suspicious, the white powder finally came to the editor of Dan Rather, who became almost a media hero from unforgettably Tuesday of September 11th, 2001, when he was the frontline face of ABC TV Channel News reporting dramatically terrorist Tuesday's events (9/11) in the eyes of America as a symbol of American power, resistance and courage. He confirmed his stance on the talk show with David Letterman when, perhaps just for the first time in the history of this iconic nightly talk show of ABC instead of irony and joke, there were showed genuine emotions and tears. Therefore when the threat of anthrax reached Rather's office and his person, Americans realized that situation was becoming very serious. Ordinary Americans were getting upset because they have had enough of some obscure speculation; clearly, they were suspecting Al Qaeda's revenge against American media for being too active and engaged in the verdicts made by some courageous journalists and media representatives (Dan Rather casus). There were also other locations of bioterrorism of using anthrax in America of post 9/11 time - like the next case of a correspondent for American Media Inc., 36-year-old Stephanie Dailey. Sooner or later further events were touching the world of politics through the institutions of the national mail office after the loud closure of the six rooms of the Capitol Congress on the orders of the US President.

The obsession of fear was so intense that it included the size of the publishers of thousands of low and high-volume writers, including those of provincial institutions or people involved in other types of media activity. American feelings were experiencing in 2002 and in the previous year their worst moments, but in the same time also stimulated "resourceful" Americans, prompting them to a sharp rush to provide themselves inevitable secure means and secure themselves for the future. American society reached the peak of social fear of potential bio-attacks when the administrators of the city skyscrapers started to buy parachutes (for example such unconventional equipment,

which could be opened much faster than the traditional ones, and which allowed a jump from 30-35 feet [range of 10 floors], and costed \$ 795, even more all kinds of gas masks (Evac-U8 for eg. 69.95 \$), antibacterial overalls, for sophisticated inventions to protect against unexpected terrorist bio-attacks. Another significant impact of panic on health policy at that time was not only evidenced by the increased use of pharmaceuticals. Fear of the use of nerve gas also led to the unnatural acquisition of gas masks, even though a gas mask does not guarantee certain survival in the event of a gas attack. These cases prove again that the post 9/11 anti-terrorist hysteria in USA has created artificial consumer needs.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

The symbolic meanings of the microcosm mentioned at the beginning referring even to Nazi German and Soviet, totalitarian rhetoric: worms, insects, bacteria or viruses, were also marked in the American media after 9/11 with heavy and pejorative meanings that connoted the enemies, war, terrorists or attack.

Rational, even exaggeratedly practical American approach to many issues, which easily provokes mockery and irritates Europeans, is undoubtedly rooted in the cultured model of the modern state, cultivated for centuries and fetishized. Different descriptions of such behavior are diagnosed by different means of description. Firstly, we were able to see in these mentioned, artificially induced consumer needs, released by the mechanisms of liberal economics according to the specific functioning of the American state in the determinate potentials of combined a need and supply. In American commercialization of almost every thing even human tragedies and death, pain and less positive experiences have been not excluded from this "divine" legitimacy of making profits, there was nothing wrong with that according to the American protestant-bourgeois mentality. In spite of fear or tragedy, some companies must ultimately generate profits. Another possible sociological approach to such a kind of forward thinking is the George Ritzer theory of McDonaldization, which also has been to some extent reductive in wanting to see the spectrum of functioning of American society within just expansive governing paradigm: efficiency, predictability, calculation and planning [20]. After all, the influence of McDonalds model especially predictability and planning, is being influenced on a daily basis. Americans do not disdain of preparing and serving meals, work organization, science, health, administration or leisure because everything is important and can become worthy also from the economic point of view. The United States belong to a group of countries based on an extremely developed and complex set of insurance systems - which is probably the effect of rational, legal regulation, so in this context of predictable and preventive approach of American society the tragic events of September are even more merciless for those who were unwilling to insure themselves in advance unfortunately perished under the WTC ruins, no mentioning that they were mostly immigrants who paid double price in this tragedy. Unfortunately in those surroundings of cult of formalism

and bureaucratic, clerical discipline, there was not much place for human sentiments; a such attitude is to some extent derived from Max Weber's "awe-inspiring rationality" and used to be taken somewhat as a threat which motivates people. In addition next to the economic motive of American predictability, one should also mention the whole essential because of the mental paradigm of which G. Ritzer comments: rationalization requires a lot of effort to ensure that everything is going as it should. This is why rational society respects and emphasizes discipline, order, systematization, formalization, routine, consistency and methodology of behavior. In such society most of people like to know what are they going to expect in a moment. They do not want to and do not expect too many surprises [21].

In the reviewed cases of American reactions to bio-attacks after 9/11, the new technologies also had a transformative effect on the way how foreign news was covering the events. Today entering the wildly revealing era of the "eco-system," in which undefined, unfiltered news are circulating by cell phone or WhatsApp. Therefore since then, media were more controlling power, cell phone quickly acquired the awesome power of a tanks, which could create the revolutions and even collapses of governments as the instances of the Arabic Spring. The post 9/11 period in America media was one of such narration, big, important, damaging in its impact, but hopefully instructive for the questions it raised for the nation's consideration. One such question revolves around the deepening politicization of the media.

Since 11/9 no doubt, that the news magnified the administration's terrorism alerts by reporting such announcements mostly in lead stories and very long segments, while downplaying the new lower alert levels or not covering such changes at all. Bacteria, worm and insects are used not only to symbolize strangers but mostly in political discourse they are exploited by politicians and common people as well to frame other politicians or opponents as a enemy. It is not only issue of the past but a current tool of meaning.

Viruses, germs, bacteria or other pathogens, as semiotic and symbolic prolongation of the threat of "foreigners", aliens, especially terrorist forces, circulated not only over the images of the WTC ruins, barely covering them in October 2001. In these days, when the traumatic tragedy has been tamed or dismissed, there will be other micro-threats and fears that threaten the behaviour of politicians or candidates for the White House. Perhaps the postulated by president Donald Trump's to build wall on the southern border with Mexico will begin to play an additional role with the Brazilian Zika virus, transmitted by specific mosquitoes, and the Latino immigrant will be marked by another stereotype. Microcosms like an epidemics will be cyclically returning as the book of modern beasts of our time.

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