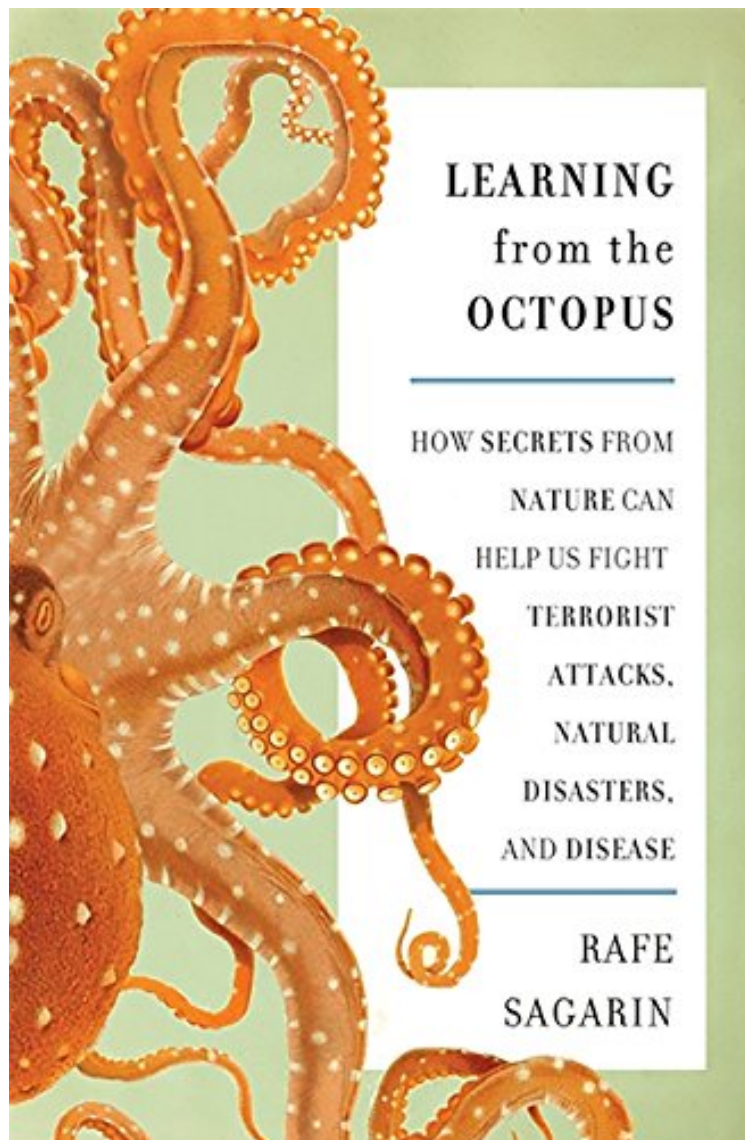


(Free) Learning From the Octopus: How Secrets from Nature Can Help Us Fight Terrorist Attacks, Natural Disasters, and Disease

Learning From the Octopus: How Secrets from Nature Can Help Us Fight Terrorist Attacks, Natural Disasters, and Disease

Rafe Sagarin

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11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Superb synthesis of seemingly disparate fieldsBy Mark Sagarin eloquently demonstrates how lessons learned from the plant and animal world can be applied to human defense against unexpected threats such as terror attacks, disease epidemics, and natural disaster. The text is loaded with examples, often humorous, of adaptations that living organisms have made to survive. Sagarin does not bog the story down with excessive statistics or data. There are many ideas that show how we could better protect ourselves at lower cost to the dangers in the future. I highly recommend this to fans of Malcolm Gladwell and other "idea books" as a start of a national dialogue.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fresh perspective on Counter-terrorismBy CalgalReally unique thinking about biology how we can learn from nature's often lethal confrontations. This country can definitely use fresh thinking on counter-terrorism this book provides.14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. This book made me think about everything in an exciting new wayBy African QueenI love reading, but I usually don't put down a book and think about how it can affect my life and change my way of thinking or doing things. This is a book with take-away. It is stimulating, provocative, deeply intelligent, original and beautifully written. Hopefully it will be a catalyst for institutional change in some branches of government, in business, in the classroom and at home. It has ideas that can work for bringing up children. I recommend it to everyone. It is a terrific read (I am not a scientist) and will change your perspective.

Despite the billions of dollars we've poured into foreign wars, homeland security, and disaster response, we are fundamentally no better prepared for the next terrorist attack or unprecedented flood than we were in 2001. Our response to catastrophe remains unchanged: add another step to airport security, another meter to the levee wall. This approach has proved totally ineffective: reacting to past threats and trying to predict future risks will only waste resources in our increasingly unpredictable world.

Eric Liu, co-author of *The Gardens of Democracy: A New American Story of Citizenship, the Economy, and the Role of Government*This book is a provocation and a delight. Rafe Sagarin invites us to look at national security with the eyes not of a state but of nature itself: for recursive patterns, adaptations, and the simple keys to complexity. It's thrilling to apply the lessons of octopuses, tidepools and other biological systems to defense, intelligence, and government generally. It's even more thrilling to imagine what our policymakers could learn from this book.John Arquilla, Professor of Defense Analysis, U.S. Naval Postgraduate SchoolSimply brilliant. Rafe Sagarin is one of the world's leading lateral thinkers. He can study tidepool life and find insights from it for fighting terrorism. He has harnessed our understanding of nature's immutable forces—selection, learning and adaptation—and turned them to the task of guiding us to a fresh new security paradigm. Above all, Sagarin sees how networked nature is, and how building our own networks is the best way to defeat the perils our balky security institutions have done so little to overcome.