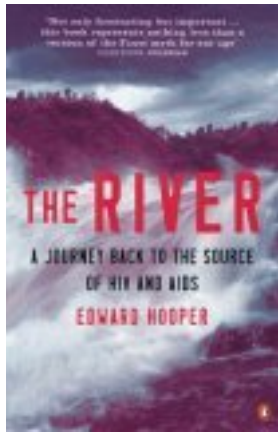


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## Edward Hooper

# The River: A Journey Back to the Source of HIV and AIDS



Title: The River: A Journey Back to the Source of HIV and AIDS

Author: Edward Hooper

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## Description

For all the devastation and suffering AIDS has caused worldwide, we have devoted surprisingly little attention to its beginnings. Former UN official and BBC correspondent Edward Hooper hopes to find the source of AIDS in *The River*, a stunningly comprehensive yet deeply engaging scientific history of the disease. Through more than 10 years of research comprising over 600 interviews and untold hours of library work, Hooper has uncovered a complex, interlocking set of stories--of scientific research, of medical assistance to the Third World, of political and economic exigencies that drive the courses of our lives--and brought them together in over 1,000 pages of text, footnotes, references, and illustrations.

His thesis, that HIV made the jump from simians to humans via the administration of oral polio vaccine in Africa in the 1950s, is still controversial, but his arguments are powerful, broad, and undeniable--all that is lacking is conclusive proof. Like a good scientist (and, sad to say, unlike any HIV researcher to date), he offers several easy tests of his hypothesis. His tales of brilliant epidemiological deductions, biochemical comparisons, and physiological insights ought to convince the medical establishment that the answer can and should be found, both to help us deal with the current crisis and to keep us from creating new ones of its ilk. In a litigation-weary world, though, it seems that it will take the kind of tireless, impartial research found in *The River* to show us--and our leaders--that blame should take a back seat to truth when extreme circumstances demand it. --*Rob Lightner*

## Insightful reviews

Briana: A massive tome about AIDS - I learned a lot

Mary: It has been some time since I read this, but I think about it every now and again. This is a very long book, and as I recall, even the bibliography is huge. It is not an easy read, but it is a fascinating look at the history of HIV and AIDS back to their earliest documented appearances. I have not looked lately to see if there is any additional information in this vein or from this author, but I will put that on my 'to do' list.

Ryan: This book was a difficult read but it was an amazing story. It's a bit like reading a doctoral thesis or a legal brief at times. Because of the controversial nature of his theory he is forced to make his case in the most detailed way possible, which results in a sometime tedious writing style.

The author's basic claim is extremely inflammatory: he explains why he believes that AIDS was inadvertently created by American and European doctors in Central Africa during the late 1950s as a result of their search for a Polio vaccine. They used "monkey kidney tissue culture" to propagate the vaccines. At this point in medical history using tissue culture was very common but, also, they had no way of testing for or identifying unknown/undiscovered viruses that might contaminate the tissue culture. At this point in time SIV (simian immuno-deficiency virus) had not yet been discovered but was apparently very common. Their theory is that monkey kidney

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tissue culture infected with SIV went undetected into the polio vaccine and mutated into HIV. The vaccine was then, in fact, given to hundreds of thousands of Africans. Interestingly it also documents the fact that the first known case of HIV wasn't in the early 1980s as is generally assumed but was in 1959.

Jean Marie Angelo: I stumbled throughout this booklet on YouTube since it obtained a sought after point out in a unfastened documentary at the starting place of AIDS. Edward Hooper offers a charming thought that the OPV vaccine constructed within the overdue Fifties unwittingly unleashed the HIV virus on humanity. His thought has been challenged and debunked, however the thought nonetheless fascinates me. If the 860 pages can be summed up with any questions it'll be, "Why now?" Hooper provides a truly targeted case if you happen to argue that HIV was once brought to humanity from consuming monkey meat, or searching primates. Hooper is going directly to write, "If (as appeared more and more likely) SIVs have been were found in African monkeys for lots of millions of years, why was once it in basic terms now that a lot of those viruses have been transferred into humans?" He contends that clinical virologists and doctors, specifically Dr. Hilary Koprowski, built their very important oral polio vaccines within the past due Fifties with tissue taken from chimpanzees contaminated with the simian immunodeficiency virus. This SIV infected vaccines have been "tested" on unwitting topics in African villages and in prisons and kid's houses within the United States. whereas Koprowski denied that he may have unleashed HIV on people along with his vaccine, he was once enormously uncooperative in published study data, notes, and previous samples of his vaccine. The global could by no means particularly confirm how HIV got here to be and the way AIDS turned the future health factor of our age. While i used to be gripped through the subject and Hooper's theories, this grew to become one long, ponderous read. What began as a simple and comprehensible tale simply because a true labor. now not for the faint of heart.

Suzanne: This publication is nearly 1493843948 pages. I learn it over the process a year, and it really is only a nice read--covering subject matters in terms of Africa, scientific ethics, research, politics, etc. i am beautiful yes the most conception proposed within the publication in regards to the foundation of AIDS has been debunked, that is a bummer, yet it is nonetheless well worth the 12 months of your life.

Linda: a desirable real-life mystery.

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