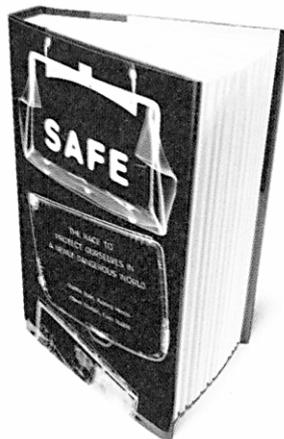


Tekst 6

BOOKS

How Safe Are We?

1 **T**HE UNINTENDED – and sometimes violent – consequences of scientific advances and technology are well documented. Since the 1950s antibiotics have saved millions of lives, but the emergence of more deadly antibiotic-resistant viruses and bacteria has been nature’s growing, not-so-subtle response. When the 9/11 hijackers turned passenger planes into missiles in 2001, the dual nature of modern technology was brought into sharp relief. “SAFE: The Race to Protect Ourselves in a Newly Dangerous World”, a new book by a cadre of former Wired magazine writers and editors, finds several more frightening chinks in the armor of our everyday technologies and science, and explains how terrorists could easily disrupt communications networks, industrial chemical supplies and public water systems.



2 The most pressing concerns lie in the burgeoning field of bio-engineering. Teenage students cut and splice genes at a scientific level only

Nobel Prize winners could achieve back in 1980, and scientists are now able to remake biological systems into anything from glow-in-the-dark fish to superstrong mice. Alongside the promise of miracle health benefits comes the possibility of rogue scientists’ usurping the past 20 years of research and using it to “weaponize” a natural pathogen that could kill millions. The authors argue that by practicing a limited “open-source” type of bio-engineering – in which many groups share information and resources – a more resilient, robust system will emerge. The pharmaceutical industry is currently too controlling of its intellectual property, making an information-sharing system that could help get vaccines onto the market faster a near impossibility.

3 “SAFE” is an ambitious book. Not only does it identify many of the major vulnerabilities that pulse through modern society, it also attempts to present practical, technologically informed solutions. The authors say they wrote the book because people “naturally reacted to the 9/11 attacks by questioning whether their faith in technology was simply and entirely misplaced.” Reading “SAFE” should help balance our fears – even while exploring them. - **AARON CLARK**

Newsweek

Tekst 6 Books

- 1p 14 Why does Aaron Clark mention the action of “the 9/11 hijackers” (paragraph 1)?
- A To demonstrate that technological progress is a mixed blessing.
 - B To illustrate that high-tech applications have become available worldwide.
 - C To support his view that the threat of terrorism was and still is underestimated.
- 1p 15 Which of the following statements is/are in accordance with paragraph 1? The book “SAFE” makes clear that
- 1 the fight against terrorism has not made a significant contribution towards a safe society.
 - 2 we cannot take the safety of our infrastructure for granted.
- A Only 1 is right.
 - B Only 2 is right.
 - C Both 1 and 2 are right.
 - D Neither 1 nor 2 is right.
- 1p 16 Noteer de **laatste** twee woorden van de passage waarin de schrijver deze bewering illustreert.
- “The most pressing concerns ... bio-engineering.” (eerste zin alinea 2)
- 1p 17 How does the sentence “The pharmaceutical industry ... impossibility.” (paragraph 2) relate to the previous sentence?
- A It adds weight to what is said in the previous sentence.
 - B It reduces the importance of what is said in the previous sentence.
 - C It sheds a different light on what is said in the previous sentence.
- 1p 18 What combination of two statements about “SAFE” sums up the content of paragraph 3?
- 1 It was written in response to historical events.
 - 2 It reassures readers as to the scale of the threats in present-day society.
 - 3 It discusses not only the dangers of technology but also the safeguards it may provide.
 - 4 It encourages people to keep abreast of new possibilities created by modern technology.
- Noteer de nummers van beide juiste stellingen.