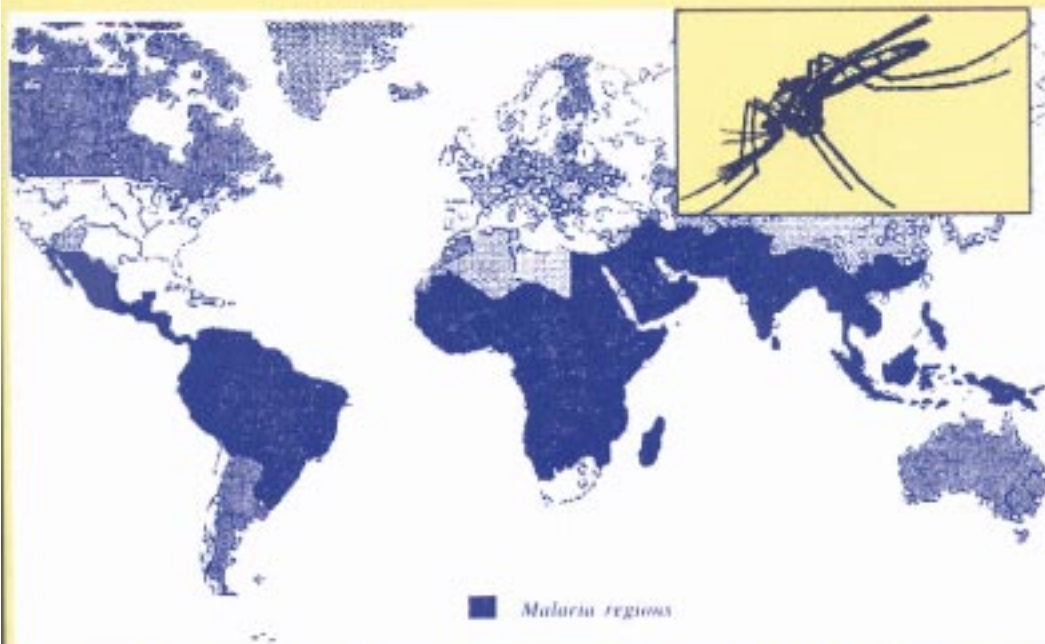


# When Politics Kills

## MALARIA & THE DDT STORY

RICHARD TREN & ROGER BATE



Liberty Institute

Occasional Paper 7

# When Politics Kills

## *Malaria and the DDT Story*

RICHARD TREN

ROGER BATE

### **How preoccupations of the rich could harm the poor**

Most of the preoccupations of rich westerners arise from the modern paradox: while their longevity, health and environment has never been better they spend more time than ever before worrying about all three. Numerous scares (e.g. Alar, Saccharine, Breast implants, passive smoking and nuclear power) attest to these pre-occupations. But even if these scares had more validity it may be inappropriate for poor countries to be worried too much about them.

The classic example of this phenomenon is the current attempt by western governments to ban globally the pesticide DDT. But although DDT can be environmentally harmful, it is still required for malaria control in some developing countries. Furthermore, since it is only sprayed indoors it is unlikely to cause any environmental problem at all, and will save thousands of lives.

The authors discuss the proposed United Nations treaty to globally ban DDT, the status of malaria around the world and the impact of a global ban. He will draw parallels with other less obvious, but still harmful, western policies, and discuss the strategies by which the developing world can retain the right to use products/processes we in the west have long discarded.