winds too tricky for them to be effective in the battle field. However, they would be quite effective as weapons of terror against civilian populations.

What would a chemical attack be like? There are two major kinds of chemical weapons, mustard gases or "blistering" agents, and the nerve gases. Blistering agents damage the skin, eyes, and lungs. Blindness, severe burns, and death can occur. Most of WW I's chemical casualties were victims of mustard gas. Nerve agents are the most lethal and attack the nervous system. Victims experience drooling, sweating, vomiting, loss of bladder and bowel control, headache, confusion, blindness, convulsions, coma, and death. Inhalation or skin contact with even one drop can kill an adult.

Nobody knows the long term effects of a biologic weapons attack with tularemia, anthrax, plague, or botulism. Some microbes, such as anthrax and plague, can infect an area for years making it dangerous for troops or civilians to move into a contaminated area. Acute illness caused by these organisms can be devastating, with high death rates if untreated. Symptoms include high fever, acute respiratory stress, and shock, leading to death.

Israel has the ability to unleash a large, unconventional counter-attack against civilian or military targets in Iraq. It is also generally known that Israel has nuclear capabilities and can deliver such weapons anywhere in Iraq. Either possibility could be devastating from troops and civilians.

Finally, there is the question of U.S. nuclear weapons. Tactical nuclear weapons are deployed in the Gulf area, in Turkey and on warships. Americans have not been told the circumstances in which our military would use these weapons in a Persian Gulf war. We do know U.S. military policy includes using nuclear weapons.

The level of tension and hatred between Israel and much of the Arab world is extremely high. We should not expect rational behavior in the presence of such hatred - Self-destructive or spiteful use of weapons of mass destruction is possible.

War in the Persian Gulf may produce massive military and civilian casualties, as well as unpredictable medical, ecological, economic, and political consequences for the region and the world. These are the costs - are the benefits worth these costs?

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