

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE

VACCINES & BAYONETS:

Fighting Smallpox in Africa amid Tribalism, Terror and the Cold War A Historical Memoir by Bee Bloeser

1. How much did you already know about smallpox or US gov't foreign aid programs before you read the book? What new thing did you learn that most surprised you?
2. In light of our experience in the COVID-19 pandemic, what factors do you think helped the success of the smallpox campaign? What triggered the emotional response the author saw in Nigeria when the USAID trucks arrived?
3. Does this book contribute to the conversation about US humanitarian aid or about authoritarianism? Did the book change your mind about anything?
4. Did any part of this book strike a particular emotion in you? Which part and what emotion did the book make you feel?
5. Did the settings advance the story?
6. Did the author relate medical and historical facts in a way that made this book an enjoyable read?
7. What aspects of the author's story did you relate to most?
8. What's your opinion of the decision to take two young children, one four years old, the other only 18 months, to West Africa?
9. Why do you think the author's husband agreed to move to Equatorial Guinea?
10. Do you have a favorite quote or quotes from the book? What are they?
11. If this book is adapted into a movie who will play the lead roles?
12. Rate this book on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest. Why did you give the book this rating? Did the book club discussion change your rating from how you felt directly after finishing the book?