






The art of war, according to Sun Tzu's 2,000-year-old text of the same name, is largely a matter of strategy, but the science of war begins squarely with weapons. Physics and engineering—and more often today, chemistry and biology—drive the creation of new military tools, from smart bombs and stealth aircraft to nerve gases and plastic explosives. Thus it is with a collection of articles about weapons that we are launching online a special anthology of *Scientific American's* recent coverage on war.

In this issue, scientists share their expertise on one terror of the ancient battlefield, the trebuchet, as well as several modern-day scourges, including land mines, third world submarines and biological arms. Additional articles feature in-depth research by staff editors on more futuristic threats—in the form of swift subsea systems and so-called non-lethal weapons. The complete table of contents appears below.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2  **ANCIENT WEAPONS | The Trebuchet**
BY PAUL E. CHEVEDDEN, LES EIGENBROD, VERNARD FOLEY AND WERNER SOEDEL; SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, JULY 1995
Recent reconstructions and computer simulations reveal the operating principles of the most powerful weapon of its time.
- 6  **BLACK MARKET WEAPONS | Third World Submarines**
BY DANIEL J. REVELLE AND LARA LUMPE; SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, AUGUST 1994
The proliferation of submarines may be a threat to established navies and regional stability, but to arms manufacturers it is a market opportunity.
- 12  **HIDDEN WEAPONS | The Horror of Land Mines**
BY GINO STRADA; SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, MAY 1996
Land mines kill or maim more than 15,000 people each year. Most victims are innocent civilians. Many are children. Still, mines are planted by the thousands every day.
- 17  **BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS | The Specter of Biological Weapons**
BY LEONARD A. COLE; SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, DECEMBER 1996
States and terrorists alike have shown a growing interest in germ warfare. More stringent arms-control efforts are needed to discourage attacks.
- 22  **NON-LETHAL WEAPONS | Fighting Future Wars**
BY GARY STIX; SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, DECEMBER 1995
U.S. military planners hope to rely on improved versions of the technologies tested in the Gulf War to help fight the next Saddam Hussein. They may be preparing for the wrong conflict.
- 28  **SWIFT SUBSEA WEAPONS | Warp Drive Underwater**
BY STEVEN ASHLEY; SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, MAY 2001
Traveling inside drag-cutting bubbles, secret torpedoes and other subsea naval systems can move hundreds of miles per hour.