

To My Fans and Readers,

There is a lot of truth in fiction these days. Reality is crashing into Thriller Novels. “*We live in interesting times.*”

It was *spooky* when ***Privacy Wars*** (published in 2012) predicted the 2013 NSA and IRS scandals. It had won three (3) National Awards and got solid 5-star reviews, but it was harsh reality that attracted the most attention, which continues to mount.

It’s not just me. Brad Thor, the famous Thriller novelist, also predicted the NSA scandal in his novel last year. His recent book is about treachery at the Fed, and I wouldn’t bet against it.

The scandals (some say, “phony scandals”) are still unfolding and several Congressional investigations are active. The issue of NSA overreach is now fully bipartisan. Even Oregon’s liberal Democrat Senators are demanding oversight and accountability. A bill in the House to rein in surveillance of Americans was narrowly (217-205) defeated, but it saw more Democrats voting against their Party Leader than did Republicans. Sales of the old novel ***1984*** are surging.

And I think another “reality crash” just happened. My novel ***Soft Target*** is at the publisher. It won’t be on the market until September, but today the article (see image on the next page) came out from AP. I was reading the morning paper and almost dropped my coffee.

My storyline for ***Soft Target*** involves an Islamic Terrorist attack on America with a fictional bioweapon, a weapon with no cure and a high mortality rate, an engineered pathogen that I called “Encapsulated Camel Pox” (ECP) in my novel. A virus just discovered in the wild (MERS) bears a striking resemblance to the deadly weapon that I conjured up from my imagination.

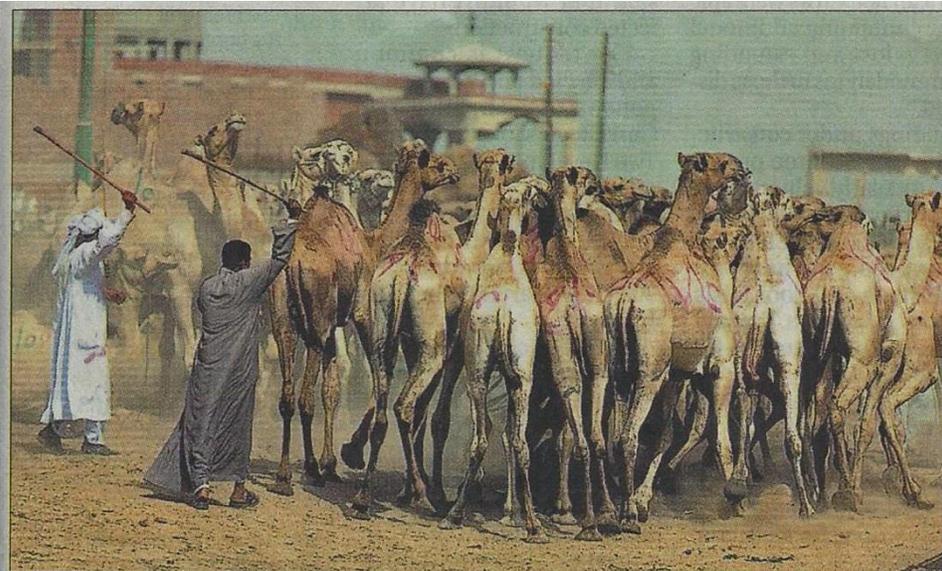
I welcome reader comments. If you like my books, reviews posted on the website where you purchased them, especially on Amazon, are appreciated. I answer all the emails that come in through my website. I will be happy to do media interviews on ***Privacy Wars*** now and on ***Soft Target*** as soon as it comes out.

I regret that Amazon does not accept early orders for Indy books, but I will put a note out to my lists and up on Facebook when it is available. Early information is on www.johntrudel.com.

Thank you for reading my novels.

John D. Trudel, August 9, 2013

[Back to Main Page](#)



HIRO KOMAE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

European scientists have found traces of antibodies against the MERS virus in dromedary, or one-humped, camels, such as these at a camel market in Birqash, Egypt.

Virus linked to Mideast camels

By **MARIA CHENG**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Scientists have found an intriguing clue that suggests camels might somehow be involved in infecting people in the Middle East with the mysterious MERS virus.

Since the virus was first identified last September, there have been 94 illnesses, including 46 deaths, from MERS, or Middle East respiratory syndrome, mostly in Saudi Arabia. Aside from several clusters where the virus has likely spread between people, experts have largely been stumped as to how patients got infected.

In a preliminary study to be published today, European scientists found traces of antibodies against the MERS virus in dromedary, or one-humped, camels, but not the virus itself. Finding antibodies means the cam-

els were at one point infected with MERS or a similar virus before fighting off the infection.

The antibodies were found in all 50 camel blood samples from Oman, compared with 15 of 105 samples from Spanish camels. Animals from Spain, the Netherlands and Chile were tested for comparison to those from Oman. No MERS antibodies were found in tests done in cows, sheep or goats.

"Finding the (MERS) virus is like finding a needle in a haystack, but finding the antibodies at least gives you an indication of where to look," said Marion Koopmans, chief of virology at the Netherlands' National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, the study's senior author. The study was published in the *Lancet Infectious Diseases*.

Across the Middle East,

camel products including milk are popular and the animals are often kept for racing and other purposes.

MERS is part of a family of coronaviruses that can cause the common cold as well as SARS, which sparked a global outbreak in 2003. Saudi Arabia health officials, in a letter this week to the *New England Journal of Medicine*, documented seven new infections of MERS in health workers, including some mild cases.

MERS is most closely related to a bat virus, leading some scientists to think bats are the natural source. Some experts think bats might be infecting other animals like camels with MERS before passing it to humans. MERS can cause symptoms including fever, cough, breathing problems, pneumonia and kidney failure. There is no known treatment or cure.