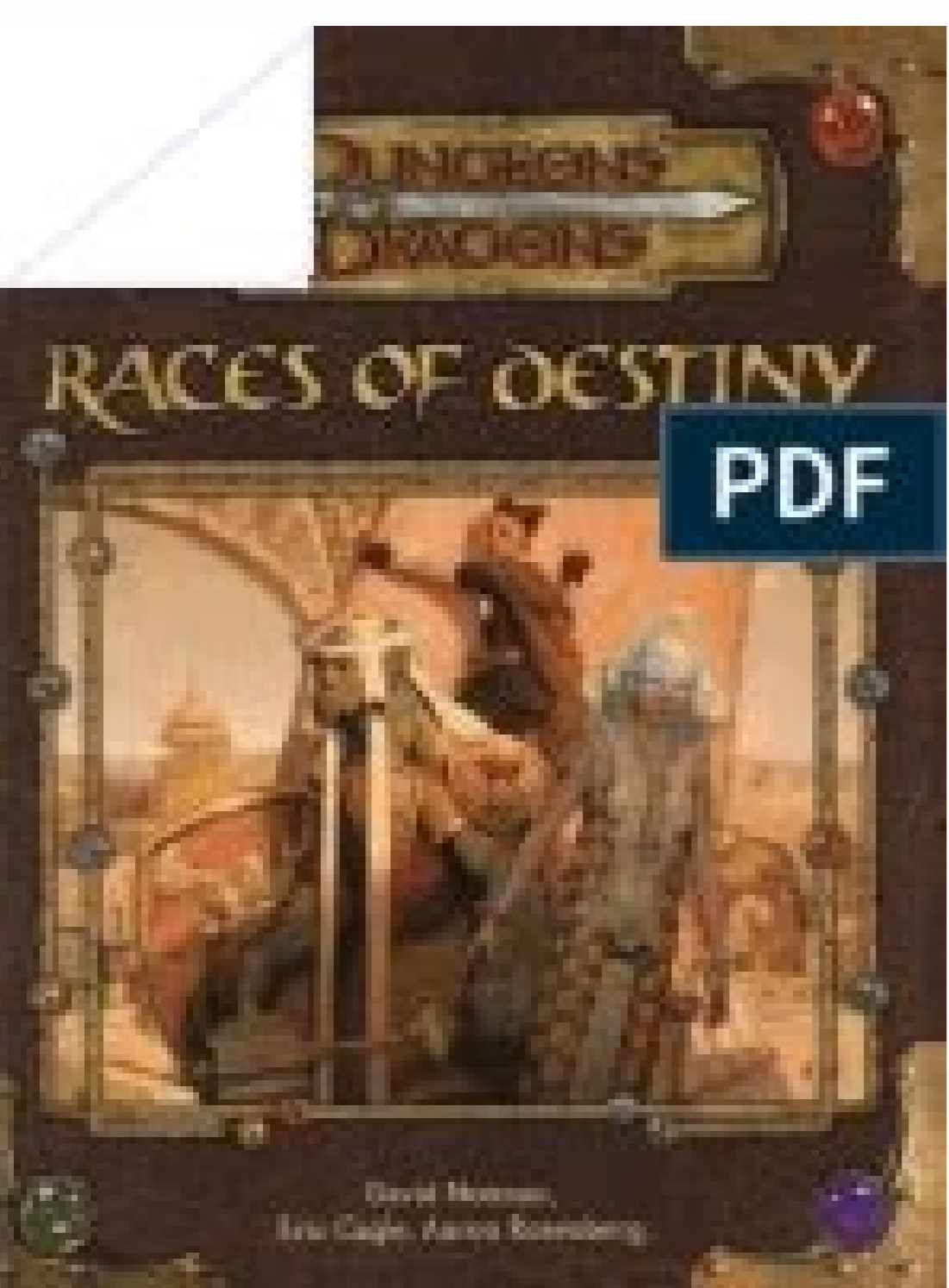


SUBMIT



Technical Aspects of Chemical Weapon Proliferation 2

Of the three categories of weapons of mass destruction, chemical weapons are the most likely to be used in warfare, and they remain a serious threat in regional conflicts despite the end of the Cold War. Although well-equipped troops can defend themselves against existing chemical agents with detectors, decontamination equipment, gas masks, and protective garments (albeit at a some cost in military effectiveness), chemical weapons can still have devastating effects when employed against defenseless civilians or poorly equipped or unprepared armies or guerrilla fighters. This fact was starkly demonstrated during the 1980s by Iraq's use of chemical weapons against Iran and its own Kurdish population.



