



Rachel Carson mistaken on DDT claims

Chris Woodward (OneNewsNow.com)

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It's been one of the more talked about books in the last 50 years, but critics of *Silent Spring* remain anything but silent.

Andrew Morriss is co-editor of the new [Cato Institute](#) volume, "Silent Spring at 50: The False Crises of Rachel Carson." In a related [podcast](#), Morriss offers various examples of things Carson did not take into account in regard to DDT use.



Morriss

"She had a very dramatic chapter entitled '1 in 4,'" he explains. "That predicted that one in four Americans would die of cancer. That didn't take into account a number of things. She was not looking at age-adjusted cancer rates, so there was not a giant increase in cancer rates when you took into account the fact that people were living more than 20 years longer by the 1960s than they had in the early part of the 20th century."

Morriss says Carson also did not take into account tobacco use, and her mentor was a doctor who denied that tobacco had any role in cancer.

"These were all things that were part of the national conversation about cancer at the time," Morriss contends. "So it's not that she was a naive journalist who just didn't know better; she was a trained scientist. She deliberately chose not to put them in the book."

The book led to essentially a global ban on DDT, at the expense of what Morriss and his colleagues claim are millions of lives in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Steve Milloy of [JunkScience.com](#) and the Competitive Enterprise Institute's John Berlau, author of *Eco-Freaks*, make similar claims in their respective works.