

1990

The Technology Trap Science and the Military

D.K. Pace

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Recommended Citation

Pace, D.K. (1990) "The Technology Trap Science and the Military," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 43 : No. 1 , Article 19.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol43/iss1/19>

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nology advanced by the familiar twins of "technology push" and "requirements pull," but it also is impelled forward by the financial and institutional interests of both industry and the military R&D community. This insight is reflected in the editor's analysis of the SDI program, which addresses political, military, technological, and philosophical factors, including the geographic and organizational distribution of SDI contracts.

For me, the primary value of this book was its stimulation to think more deeply about the relationships among the varied forces and factors that drive armament dynamics. I also found a number of its anecdotes fascinating.

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Garden, Timothy. *The Technology Trap: Science and the Military*. New York: Brassey's Defense Publishers, 1989. 148pp. \$31.50

The title of this book intrigued me. I had hoped it would be a hard-hitting, candid, rigorous examination of those instances in which the military had bought operational concepts based upon faulty technological premises, from which insights could be gained about how to avoid such traps in the future. But that is not the book the author intended. Instead, he explores the past importance of science for the military and suggests some areas in which technology may influence future

warfare. Instead of the lion I had hoped to meet, I encountered only a rather tame pussycat.

Air Commodore Timothy Garden appears well qualified to write a book on science and the military. A pilot with degrees in both physics and international relations, he was Director of Defense Studies for the Royal Air Force from 1982 to 1985. Garden begins the book with lessons from the past about science and warfare. He then discusses science today: high energy physics, computing science, nuclear physics, space technology, chemistry, materials science, biotechnology, and electronics; and concludes with a consideration of warfare in the future: the sea-air battle, the land-air battle, and the aerospace battle.

Although *The Technology Trap* covers a lot of topics and has a number of useful insights, the book is bland. It lacks the detailed discussions which one expects in a serious treatment of the interactions between science and the military. Instead, it reads more like a newspaper article filled with platitudes.

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Spector, Leonard S. *The Undeclared Bomb: The Spread of Nuclear Weapons 1987-1988*. Cambridge, Mass.: Ballinger Publishing Company, 1988. 499pp. \$12.95

Many in the defense community are concerned about the possibility of nuclear war, yet we focus our