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On the Defensive? The Future of SDI

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tractors mounted a major campaign to keep the program going, with people assigned to "cover" each congressman, track his votes and opinions, and inform him of the benefits to his district. Although North American Rockwell made lavish use of its several vacation retreats, Kotz does not offer any evidence of corruption. What he describes is simply the less attractive side of the defense business when big dollars are at stake.

At first glance, the B-1 affair seems to have strong parallels to the scandals which surrounded the Navy's construction of the 688 and *Ohio* class submarines. Not so, for none of the players in the B-1 affair had the kind of picturesque and personal venality that was rampant in the submarine matter. Instead, they seem to have been driven by nothing more interesting than ordinary and predictable institutional imperatives.

For those who still believe that the acquisition of major defense systems is based on pure reason, this book will be a depressant. For the cynical, it will be a reaffirmation. For the experienced, there is little new here.

FRANK C. MAHNCKE
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Nye, Joseph S., Jr., and Schear, James A., ed. *On the Defensive? The Future of SDI*. Lanham, Md.: Univ. Press of America, 1989. 222 pp. \$12.75

This book is a "must read" for those who want a comprehensive, balanced, and authoritative discussion of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

The Aspen Strategy Group, which produced the book, is a bipartisan committee organized under the auspices of the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies. William J. Perry, former undersecretary of defense, and Brent Scowcroft, now President Bush's national security advisor, serve as co-chairs for the group and contributed to the book's introduction. The other contributors, including a former director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, are also eminently qualified to discuss the complex aspects of SDI with a depth of understanding that can only be obtained by a very broad perspective about SDI and the issues related to it.

There has been a great deal of heated and misinformed or distorted discussion of SDI. The delightful aspect of this book is the calm, thorough way that it covers nearly all the important aspects of the program. In addition, the book is well written, concise, extensively documented, and contains a good index.

The purpose of this book is to identify and explain the key security issues raised by the SDI program. These issues include questions such as, What changes in Soviet strategic policy are likely to occur in response to SDI through the early 1990s, or What impact will the pursuit of SDI

have on the overall U.S. defense posture? The book's answers to such questions address both the obvious and the not so obvious considerations. For example, some defense research programs would suffer if SDI were accelerated significantly and began to consume a much larger portion of the limited pool of scientific talent; on the other hand, other defense research programs would benefit from SDI spin-offs.

Many books get so bogged down in detail that one cannot see the forest for the trees. Others are so general that they leave one uneasy that conclusions and assertions may not be based on fact. This book avoids both extremes and allows the reader to see both the forest and the trees. The significant issues it identifies are the real ones.

Constraints on future defense spending will cause many questions to be raised about SDI and its relation to other U.S. forces. This book will help those within the defense community to be in a better position to address these questions by enabling them to understand the real issues about SDI.

D.K. PACE
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Lin, Herbert. *New Weapon Technologies & the ABM Treaty*. New York: Pergamon Press, 1988. 95 pp. \$12.95

The Antiballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty of 1972 is regarded by many as the most important arms control

agreement currently in force between the United States and the Soviet Union. The premise of Lin's book is that certain weapons developments since 1972 may erode the effectiveness of this treaty unless the United States and the Soviet Union explicitly take these developments into account in the future. He describes how these developments could impact the treaty and suggests actions that could be taken to retain the treaty's benefits. An appendix of the book contains the treaty along with agreed statements and common understandings about it.

Herbert Lin holds a doctorate in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has been involved in its Center for International Studies, which cooperated in the publication of this book. He has a good grasp of the technological issues and is currently working with the House Armed Services Committee.

The basic problem addressed by this book is that surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems as well as antisatellite weapon systems have progressed to the point where these systems could have ballistic missile defense (BDM) capabilities. In Lin's view, this situation would have a deleterious impact on the ABM Treaty's continued utility. He therefore suggests ways that verifiable limits on these developments could be used to retain the benefits of the treaty.

Lin spends little time on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), since he believes that the develop-