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New Weapon Technologies & the ABM Treaty

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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
The Johns Hopkins University

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-

ment and testing of such a system would signal America's unmistakable intent to abandon the ABM Treaty and thus make moot questions of how the treaty might be strengthened by limitations on various technological developments. Likewise, he is less concerned with the impact of "exotic technologies" (e.g., lasers and particle beams) because they have less "creep-out" potential in the immediate future.

What this book purports to do, it does well. However, its narrow focus restricts its usefulness to those interested specifically in those technological developments that threaten the viability of the ABM Treaty regime in the immediate future.

D.K. PACE
The Johns Hopkins University

Gregory, William H. *The Defense Procurement Mess: A Twentieth Century Fund Essay*. Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Books, 1989. 219pp. \$19.95

Do not dismiss this book with a "Ho hum, another one of these muckrakers." Mr. Gregory presents a skillful tutorial on the defense systems procurement labyrinth. He identifies the issues from the competing perspectives of the various participants, he provides many examples of recent procurements, and he offers prescriptive suggestions for corrective actions.

Defense procurement has been a nightmare of horror stories about

cost and schedule overruns and performance shortfalls. Everyone has heard about the toilet seats and hammers, about amphibious vehicles that can't swim and aircraft that can't fly to specification. The American people have become justifiably critical of the stewardship practiced by the Defense Department and its component military services. No one has been spared. It is scant comfort that criticism and blame also attach to the Congress and to American industry. There is the stench of scandal—of violations of the public trust—by high officials. Mr. Gregory draws apt parallels to the tawdry reputation of the sutlers who supplied and provisioned the army during the Civil War and the Indian Wars.

Mr. Gregory brings to this work a lifetime of involvement with the defense systems acquisition world as a journalist and as editor-in-chief of *Aviation Week and Space World* (a position that he held for thirty years). His presentation is evenhanded. He provides a clear description of the environment and the pressures that impinge upon people at every level. At the same time, his measured cadences of illumination land like hammer blows. How, the reader asks, can we in the United States permit this farce to continue? How indeed!

If there is a central thrust to the cures that Mr. Gregory proposes, it is to curb the penchant for overmanagemnt and overregulation. It would do the author an injustice to characterize his approach as one of