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Defense Technolgy

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Clark, Asa A., IV, and Lilley, John F., eds. *Defense Technology*. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1989. 304pp. $49.95

This book is the result of the 22nd Annual Senior Conference of the United States Military Academy, an informal seminar designed to facilitate an open exchange of ideas on important defense issues. Those experienced in military research and development (R&D) will find this book largely tutorial and remedial, but others may find very valuable its brief, cogent descriptions of how weapons research and procurement have evolved in this country, and how military, technological, and political interests interact with military R&D.

The book provides definition of and context for defense technology, treats the implications of technology on both strategic and conventional forces, (including those of the Nato alliance), and then addresses management of defense technology. Abundant notes and an excellent index will prove valuable for students, but the selected bibliography contains a large amount of old material (apart from the historical classics) and nearly omits all of the contemporary (i.e., mid-1980s and later) work on advances in military technology.

The editors of the book and some of its authors are current or former members of West Point's faculty. The book is therefore oriented toward Army interests, although it attempts to treat defense technology as a generic entity instead of focusing

upon individual service R&D. Surprisingly, few of the book's 18 contributors could be classified either as technologists or senior R&D managers or advisors. The flavor of the book is that cautious perspective of the military operator or strategic planner who knows the repeated disappointments from only partially fulfilled technological promises.

Although those intimately involved in defense technology will be familiar with much of the material covered in this book, even they will find their thinking stimulated and deepened by Colin Gray's chapter on the implications for defense technology of the United States' strategic culture. It is far too easy for technologists and defense planners to ignore the bigger picture within which they work. In the changing world in which we live, this may no longer be a viable way of doing business. As Gray puts it, "the United States has only recently perceived the necessity to live by its wits in an unforgiving security environment." The entire defense community must come to appreciate this reality.

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Brauch, Hans Gunter, ed. *Military Technology, Armaments Dynamics, and Disarmament: ABC Weapons, Military Use of Nuclear Energy and of Outer Space and Implications for*