

## Naval War College Review

---

Volume 36  
Number 5 *September-October*

Article 15

---

1983

# The Shape of Wars to Come

Richard Ned Lebow

David Baker

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

---

### Recommended Citation

Lebow, Richard Ned and Baker, David (1983) "The Shape of Wars to Come," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 36 : No. 5 , Article 15.  
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol36/iss5/15>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu](mailto:repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu).

the reader must keep in mind his variance from the Soviet communist line and his eventual expulsion from the American communist movement in 1928. This series of events, which culminated in a personal confrontation between Wolfe and Stalin, had a marked effect on his views about the future of the Soviet system. In several passages, Wolfe indulges in diatribes against Stalin and the system he created. Weighed against the value of the rest of his work, though, these do not seriously taint his credibility as a historian. This book, because of the experience of its author, warrants the attention of anyone seriously interested in studying the origin and fate of the Soviet system.

Cadet David M. Oaks  
U.S. Military Academy

Baker, David. *The Shape of Wars to Come*. New York: Stein and Day, 1982. 262pp. \$19.95

This is yet another book trying to cash in on growing public fear of nuclear war and growing interest in warfare in space. It may be the worst of its genre that this reviewer has encountered.

The cover entices the reader with the claim that inside he will find "The inside story of the secret weapons that are being designed and tested now." He finds instead a dreary recitation of satellite launch after satellite launch beginning with the first American efforts in space. No theme, no analysis, no scientific purpose guides this catalog of technical details. At the end of the book the reader still awaits

enlightenment about the shape of wars to come.

Even more disturbing than the misleading title and false cover claims is the political message of the author. In the introduction and conclusion Baker recites the gospel according to George Keegan: the Soviets are well advanced in laser and particle beam research, the American intelligence community is unwilling to face the facts in this regard, and crash programs are necessary for the United States to maintain a credible deterrent. No evidence whatsoever is adduced anywhere in support of these claims. Keegan himself has written the introduction to the volume in which he states that "while the West sleeps, a chilling body of evidence and basic scientific research data continues to be produced which the highly politicized CIA, along with its richly subsidized stable of Left-leaning pro-disarmament consultants, refuse to accept lest such acceptance put at risk their utopian hopes for SALT, détente and the diplomacy of appeasement."

This reviewer who has worked in the CIA's Office of Strategic Research, can attest to the fact that most of the leading figures in that office are retired military officers whose outlook on the Soviet Union is considerably more conservative than any other "group" of analysts in the Agency. The consultants they work with generally hold similar views. To see these strategic analysts and consultants as "Left-leaning pro-disarmament" requires an unusual

perspective, probably somewhere to the right of Attila the Hun. This seems to be where George Keegan has positioned himself. As for Baker, allowing this book to become a vehicle for such McCarthyite charges, is both a disservice to the public and a discredit to his scientific training and background.

Richard Ned Lebow  
Cornell University

Broadhurst, Arlene Idol, ed. *The Future of European Alliance Systems: Nato and the Warsaw Pact*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1983. 316pp. \$22.50

Nato has endured for more than thirty years, and should be commended and admired. It is, however, experiencing considerable strain. There has always been strain in Nato and there probably always will be. The current strain may be attributed to two factors. First, there has been a shift in relative power between the United States and the European allies. The United States is no longer dominant in all aspects of political, economic and military matters either in the world, or the alliance. Second, the differing interests of Europe and the United States often make policy consensus difficult if not impossible.

A large portion of the first seven chapters of this work edited by Arlene Idol Broadhurst, discuss those interests from various perspectives or focuses. Unfortunately, the differing perspectives and focuses are sometimes not differing enough.

Although each of the articles individually is well presented and makes relevant points, together they become repetitious. With the current "crisis in Nato," and the abundance of literature that it has produced, analysts in the area must strive for uniqueness, and that does not happen here. It seems in some chapters that the authors could not resist the temptation to quickly dispense with or circumvent their designated topics and proceed to their own interpretations of the causes of and cures for Nato's crisis. This is not to say that inclusion of crisis analysis is inappropriate. Indeed it would be inappropriate not to include it. What is wrong is the frequency with which arguments and lines of analysis recur and overlap between articles.

In the sections on European Security Perspectives and Nato, some authors do manage to make interesting differentiating points and arguments which are more than nuances in perspective. Pierre Lellouche focuses on intra-European differences in viewpoint regarding Nato, and then looks at the US-European strain in the context of such. Further, he explores the concept of decoupling as having political interpretations as well as nuclear interpretations in a most interesting manner. Marten van Heuven looks at the influence of the press on Nato strain. As press influence in all arenas of international affairs has been steadily recognized, this is an area which we cannot afford to neglect. Derek C. Arnould suggests some