

as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

As Frances Fitzgerald points out in *Way Out There in the Blue*, on Reagan and Star Wars:

“From the beginning it had been clear to many experts that Star Wars technologies were much better suited to the offense than to the defense, and among SDI enthusiasts there were a number who had always thought that the goal of the program should be to establish U.S. control over space.”

Indeed, Brilliant Pebbles could be reconfigured to hit earth as well as space targets.

One of Reagan’s advisers was the omnipresent Schriever, who mused: “What I want is a radar surveillance system which allows you to spot everything that’s moving, either on the



surface or above the surface of the earth. And if we had a number of companion systems, a high-energy laser, or particle beam weapon, or something else along with the pointing and tracking ability to knock down airplanes and missiles, then you wouldn’t even need to knock out cities; you could knock out forces. You could pin your enemy down on earth. What would they do? If I control the high ground and you can’t move, what are you going to do? You’re going to negotiate a surrender. That’s what it’s all about.”

Another close Reagan adviser was Edward Teller, who pushed the idea of an X-ray laser to produce a beam a million times brighter than a hydrogen bomb. To produce this effect in space, one could simply blow up a nuclear

weapon to propel the beam to earth. Among his plans was the idea of a pop-up mini-nuke which could be launched when needed, as opposed to being stationed in space awaiting battle.

Teller told Reagan in 1981 that: “by converting hydrogen bombs into hitherto unprecedented forms and then directing these in highly effective fashions against enemy targets would end the MAD [Mutually Assured Destruction] era and commence a period of assured survival on terms favorable to the Western alliance.”

An X-ray laser, as envisioned by Teller, was most effective when shooting straight down from orbit.

A 1996 U.S. Air Force report, *New World Vistas: Air and Space Power for the 21st Century*, called for nuclear power to be used for propulsion of space vehicles.

From Reagan to Global Imperialism

By Fred H. Knelman, Ph.D., author of *America, God and the Bomb: The Legacy of Ronald Reagan* (Vancouver: New Star Books) 1987.

With a cabinet of ultra-conservatives and some key neoconservative advisers, President Ronald Reagan abandoned the policy of Mutual Assured Deterrence in favour of planning to fight and win a nuclear war. Reagan’s advisors on this policy understood that the dynamics of winning a major nuclear war involved both sword and shield. Not only would the U.S. have to have a more powerful nuclear sword than the Soviets, it would also have to build a powerful shield against a counter-attack.

To justify the former, Reagan’s advisers created “the world according to Gap.” The Soviets were alleged to have superiority in offensive nuclear weaponry. This allowed the U.S. into a major build-up far exceeding Soviet power. Meanwhile, the U.S. occupied the high ground by developing space weapons, both defensive and offensive. This was Reagan’s dream of Star Wars.

Several right-wing organizations, such as the Committee on the Present Danger (CPD), the Coalition of



Peace Through Strength (CPTS) and the American Security Council emerged. Among their key members were many current neocon advisers to George W. Bush. Army Lieutenant-General Daniel Graham, a member of CPD and the CPTS, formed a company called High Frontiers. He became a close adviser to Reagan and promoted the Star Wars program.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) had been created in 1958 and reemerged

under Reagan. Colonel Charles Heimach, a key member of DARPA, wrote *Space Survivability: A Philosophy/Policy Argument*. It became the bible for “high ground” advocates. More sophisticated space war advocates used the term Strategic Defense Initiative. By using the word “defense,” they tried to hide their policy of fighting and winning nuclear wars, including their plans to put weapons in space. By this time, Soviet President Gorbachev was making all the concessions but the U.S. was

Dr. Rosalie Bertell documents in her book *Planet Earth: The Newest Weapon of War*, that the origins of the Strategic Defense Initiative became the inspiration for Reagan's Star Wars vision. The purpose of the Solar Power Satellite Project (SPSP) was to collect solar energy in space and transmit it to earth. (Who could argue with a benign sounding project like that?) Investigators like Bertell wondered why it wouldn't make more sense (and cost a lot less money) just to collect solar energy on earth.

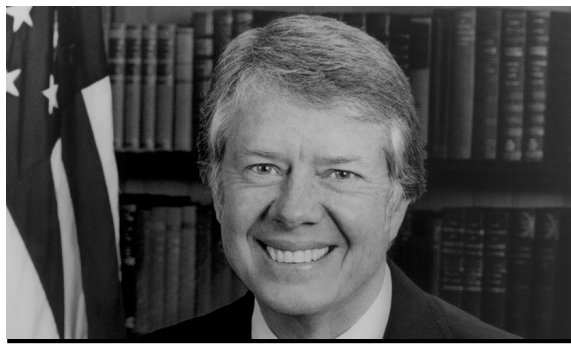
This was another "civilian" plan to militarize space. Bertell points out one potential military use of the SPSP was the development of a beam weapon which could be based in orbiting satellites. SPSP could be used as both an anti-personnel weapon and as a psycho-

not taking "yes" for an answer.

Meanwhile, High Frontiers Inc. realized that "Star Wars" was the most lucrative new opportunity for war industries. Space was annexed as the newest and deadliest battlefield in history.

On November 1, 1989, the UN General Assembly voted to urge the 66-nation Geneva Conference on Disarmament to create a committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Space. The vote was 138 to 0, with two abstentions – the U.S. and Israel, a consistent voting pair. (Canada voted in favour. It was a rare case of Canada voting *against* the U.S. on arms control resolutions!)

A key figure promoting space imperialism, from the Reagan era to the present, is Donald Rumsfeld, the U.S. Defense Secretary. Under President Bush Sr., Rumsfeld chaired The Commission to Assess U.S. National Security Space Management Organization. Its final report (January 11, 2001), recommended creating a U.S. Space Corps to defend America's space-based "military capability." It was more subdued than the earlier *Vision for 2020*, which called for "dominating the space dimension of military operations to protect U.S. interests and investments," and "deploying space weaponry [so] the United States would have the ability to control space and from this higher ground dominate the Earth below."



President Jimmy Carter approved the "Solar Power Satellite Project" which critics, like Dr. Rosalie Bertell, exposed as a potential space-based beam weapon for use against ballistic missiles and earth targets.

logical weapon. Functioning like a super microwave oven, it could be used to kill people while leaving buildings untouched, like the much-touted neutron bomb of the Carter years. (Carter did approve SPSP, but it was vetoed due to its high costs.) Bertell approached the UN disarmament committee with

Rumsfeld's appointment as Secretary of Defense was part of a deliberate plan to pursue space domination. The Air Force Space Command then issued a progress report, *Strategic Master Plan FY04 and Beyond*. In its introduction, General Lance Lord says:

"As guardian of the High Frontier, Air Force Space Command has the vision and people to ensure the U.S. achieves space superiority today and in the future. A new space corps will fight from and in space."

Lord goes on to say:

"Our vision calls for prompt global-strike systems with the capability to directly apply force through space against terrestrial targets. Space superiority is essential to our vision of controlling and fully exploiting space to provide our military with an asymmetric advantage over our adversaries."

The goal is nothing less than the complete domination of the planet. There is only one country that stands in the way – Russia. The U.S. has set out to match its perfect sword with a perfect shield, but now that sword will have a space component. The ultimate goal is to prevent any obstacle to America's global policy of domination. This means preempting any country that could challenge its global dominion.

concerns about the military use of SPSP but was told "as long as it was called solar energy, it could not be considered a weapons project."

The fall of the Soviet Union was a temporary setback for Star Wars and the weapons industry. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait (encouraged by the U.S.) was a godsend for the military industry, and while George Bush Senior envisioned the need for a "limited" star wars system to deal with "rogue states" and "narco-gangsters," it

was really President Bill Clinton who picked up where Reagan left off. In 1996, Clinton approved a six-year National Missile Defense (NMD) program: three years for research and three years to build the system.



From Clinton to Bush and Beyond

On July 22, 1999, Clinton signed the NMD Act, which committed the U.S. to deploying NMD "as soon as technologically possible." Like Bush after him, Clinton made pronouncements about nonexistent threats from rogue states and terrorists.

Ultimately, U.S. military planners wish to harness outer space to maintain their policy of pre-emptive first strike. As U.S. physicist Michio Kaku points out:

"the control of outer space would serve no purpose if mutual deterrence was the Pentagon's nuclear strategy. For deterrence, all one needs is to have an invulnerable force of relatively inaccurate submarine-launched missiles. However, the control of space becomes pivotal if one's aim is nuclear war-fighting: to fight, survive and win a nuclear war. Escalation Dominance requires that one be able to dominate every rung of the escalation ladder, including space war. The war-fighters realized that anyone controlling the 'high ground' of outer space could, at the very least, blind the enemy's early warning system, a practical requirement for a first strike."