
by
Valentin Leskovsek
Senior Bibliographer, Foreign Affairs
Library Services Division

February 1988
ABSTRACT

The Strategic Defense Initiative has become one of the most controversial American defense programs in both domestic and foreign policy. This bibliography of selected books and articles assesses the technical feasibility of the SDI, its role in the U.S. nuclear strategy, surveys its implications for the NATO alliance, considers its impact on the U.S.-Soviet relations and strategic stability, and analyzes the compatibility of strategic defense with the ABM Treaty.
Abrahamson, James A.
The Strategic Defense Initiative and its relationship to deterrence.
Director of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization in the Defense
Department discusses "the area where strategic defense can make its largest
contribution, namely the control of escalation and, in the process,
prevention of nuclear war."

Adragna, Steven P.
On guard for victory: military doctrine and ballistic missile defense in the
LRS87-10959

Contents.--Framework for analysis.--American strategic nuclear policy:
deterrence vs. defense?--Soviet military doctrine and strategy.--Pillars of
military doctrine and strategy.--Ballistic missile defense: a Soviet
political-military imperative.--Military doctrine, ideology, and arms
control.--The Soviet ballistic missile defense program: an action-reaction
phenomenon?--The Soviet campaign against the Strategic Defense Initiative.--
SDI and the Soviet military.--Denials of a "Soviet SDI": separating myth
from reality.--Into the future: Soviet policy options.--Soviet military
doctrine: what does it portend?

The American strategic defence initiative: implications for West European
presented by Graeme P. Auton ... et al.. The Hague, Netherlands Institute

Contents.--The strategic defense initiative, by G. C. Berkhof.--The Soviet
view of the strategic defence initiative and of ballistic missile defense,
by P. H. Vigor.--Ballistic missile defence and strategic stability, by Ian
Bellany.--Soviet ballistic missile defense and European security, by David
S. Yost.--Strategic defenses and stability, by Dean Wilkening.--Ballistic
missile defence and NATO doctrine, by Graeme P. Auton.--The strategic
defense initiative and European security, by Gambiez.--The American
strategic defense initiative and West European security, by G. C. Berkhof.--
Western European security and the strategic defense initiative, by Philip
Williams.--Outer space, the strategic defense initiative and arms control,
by Wolfgang Mallmann.

Anti-missile and anti-satellite technologies and programs, SDI and ASAT. Park

The Strategic Defense Initiative and American security; an Aspen Strategy
LRS86-13451

Partial contents.--The policy context of the SDI program.--The SDI
technology program.--SDI and America's interests abroad.--SDI and arms
control.
Biddle, Wayne.


Reports on the plausibility of an early deployment of the Strategic Defense Initiative. Scientists and politicians most informed about SDI know that "death rays in space will be science fiction for a long, long time."

Blechman, Barry M. Utgoff, Victor A.


"In the extensive and sometimes heated debate that has followed the President's speech of March 1983... relatively little attention has been paid to either the cost of a strategic defense system or to the economic implications of such a decision. This study is intended to initiate a process of continually improving assessments of the potential costs of strategic defenses."

Bluth, Christoph.


"At the December 1985 hearing of SDI experts before the foreign and defence policy committee of the Bundestag, a large majority of the experts were extremely sceptical about SDI and German participation in research. Although the hearing had no influence on the subsequent government decision, it does seem to mark a widening and intensification of the debate in Germany on all aspects of SDI."

Bowman, Robert.


Brooks, Charles D.


"In March of 1983, President Reagan announced his plan for the Strategic Defense Initiative. The President offered U.S. allies the opportunity to participate in the SDI endeavor. In Israel, the U.S. invitation to participate in SDI was met with great interest."

Brown, Harold.


"This article will assess the prospects for the various defensive technologies for both the near term (10 to 15 years) and the longer term. It will include recommendations on how to proceed with a realistic research and development program. It will also make tentative judgments on the technical feasibility of various SDI objectives, though definitive answers are not yet possible."
Browne, Malcolm W.
Spinoffs from SDI may find their way into a variety of civilian fields, but critics of SDI "point out that the technological side benefits of Star Wars research could be had much more cheaply and efficiently if they were pursued directly rather than as the unintended offshoots of an extravagant military spending program."

Chalfont, Arthur Gwynne Jones, Baron.
SDI in context. United States Naval Institute proceedings, v. 112, Apr. 1986: 70, 72-76. LRS86-1790
"The semi-hysterical, topsy-turvy rhetoric that has greeted the unveiling of the Strategic Defense Initiative cannot obscure the fact that space is already part of our strategic thinking--and will inevitably continue to remain so."

Charlton, Michael.
"Is President Reagan's vision that the ballistic missile might be made 'impotent' and 'obsolete' evidence only of the longing to escape from an intolerable yet permanent military dilemma? . . . In the 1960s the Americans took the view that defence should be all but abandoned . . . . My purpose in these articles is to review the intervening years . . . . Why, now, do the Americans believe the time has come to reconsider the stand they took nearly two decades ago, and to pursue an alternative to 'mutual assured destruction'?"

Codevilla, Angelo M.
How eminent physicists have lent their names to a politicized report on strategic defense. Commentary, v. 84, Sept. 1987: 21-26. LRS87-6545
"The report consists of a network of assumptions overlaid upon scientific filler materials . . . . Because these assumptions are either erroneous or arbitrarily tendentious, or both, the report as a whole offers a particularly striking illustration of the principle of garbage in, garbage out."

----
How SDI is being undone from within. Commentary, v. 81, May 1986: 21-29. LRS86-3658
The author examines "how and why the U.S. government over the years has spurned the means at hand to develop antimissile defenses in favor of utopian arms-control initiatives."

"The Soviet Union now possesses enough intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) . . . and warhead yields to eliminate the vast majority of our own forces in a preemptive attack. By doing so, the Soviet Union could well prevent a militarily meaningful retaliation by the United States . . . . Since the Soviets have the missiles for such a strike, and will not give them up, we have no choice but to prepare to make sure that, if they ever launch them, we will be able to destroy them in flight."

Cohen, Samuel.

"More recently, the Soviets have claimed that the purpose of SDI is to build a shield behind which the U.S. might launch a first strike on the Soviet Union. Although this is part of the Soviet propaganda campaign against SDI, some U.S. opponents of SDI echo similar views. These arguments are without merit. SDI is a defensive shield, not an offensive sword."

Cooper, Jeffrey. Pena, Charles. Bue, Kara.

Contents.--Introduction.--How defenses work.--Boost/post-boost defense.--Midcourse defense.--Terminal defenses.--How defenses work.--Mission requirement for defense.--Implications for strategic defense architectures.

Cordesman, Anthony H.

"Provides an overview of the 'theatre' implications of SDI. Looking at both the US and European points of view, he argues that SDI and theatre defense are inseparable and must be developed on a co-operative basis."

Crawford, Robert J. Hildreth, Steven A.

The Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) is an advanced research and technology development program whose stated purpose is to examine the feasibility of developing effective and survivable defenses against ballistic missile attack. SDI is highly controversial in Congress and elsewhere because it raises many fundamental questions about national security, nuclear deterrence, arms control, and U.S.-allied and U.S.-Soviet relations. This report summarizes congressional action on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) since 1984, when the Reagan Administration made its first request for SDI funding. It is intended to provide Members and Committees with a comprehensive and comparative overview of legislation affecting the SDI program, as well as other action taken by Committees or one House that did not become law.

Daalder, Ivo H.
Davis, William A., Jr.
Study "presents an overview of the contention between various approaches to deterrence, and examines the emergence of the assured destruction concept as the philosophical underpinning of U.S. nuclear thought. The author then explores the impact of this development on U.S. arms control policies and on domestic BMD Ballistic Missile Defense research and development. He concludes by arguing that the current focus of SDI research must be modified, so as to place greater emphasis on the development of near-term, rapidly deployable options for the defense of American strategic assets."

Davydov, V.
The author, a Soviet military analyst lays down a well-documented and logical argument against SDI. Translation from the Russian.

Deschamps, Louis.
Contents.--Defense in the nuclear age.--Defense or deterrence: the limits of Western consensus.--The Euro-American debate on the SDI.--European concerns and American responses.--The political consequences of the debate.

Diaz, Tom.
Contents.--Soviets lead in laser beam weapons for space shield.--Soviet space age weaponry is central to U.S. research.--The accidental launch: atomic age nightmare.--Building of a 'star wars' system poses high drama for scientists.--If nothing else, 'star wars' got Soviets to resume talks.

DiMaggio, Cosmo.
The Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) is designed to investigate the feasibility of defending the United States and its allies against nuclear ballistic missiles. The research program includes weapon concepts to destroy attacking ballistic missiles and nuclear warheads from space. Questions have been raised over the potential for offensive use of SDI space weapon technologies that prove feasible.

Din, Allan M.
Addresses the problem raised by SDI and its future strategic and political implications, arguing that such projections cannot be adequately made without a clear and careful study of technologies involved.

Ennals, J. R.


Fenske, John.


"The official French answer has been 'No' to the request for political support as well as to the offer of cooperation. But there are also political and industrial voices in France saying 'Yes'. Moreover, all France is agreed that the SDI is a challenge to French and European claims to be able to run in the same technological race as the superpowers in the coming decades."

Field, George. Spergel, David.


"The authors 'estimate the cost of maintaining the effectiveness of a BMD system relative to that of proliferating the additional missiles necessary to overcome it."

FitzGerald, Mary C.


"Soviet writings since Reagan's so-called 'Star Wars' speech has yielded both objective Soviet concerns and regressions to psychological warfare. . . . In general, the Soviet response to SDI is that its offensive aspects outweigh its proclaimed function as a defensive system."

Froman, Michael B. Gardner, Anthony L. Mixer, Scott R.

France and SDI. Naval War College review, v. 30, spring 1987: 37-43. LRS87-9192

"Critics who argue that the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) will divide the Atlantic alliance, frequently cite the French Government's opposition as evidence. The French view of SDI, however, is neither simple nor monolithic. While President Francois Mitterrand has been consistently critical of SDI, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac is far more supportive, at least rhetorically. Key members of the defense establishment, both in government and in the private sector, moreover, favor a national antimissile system to defend France's military installations."

Garthoff, Raymond L.


The author presents an alternative course of action that might be accepted to both the U.S. and the Soviet Union while both countries resolve the national security dilemma and decide on the future role of ballistic missile defense (BMD).

Garwin, Richard L.


In this article and the dialog which follows, former Presidential advisor examines the SDI system and its effectiveness.
Gellner, Charles R.

The Reagan Administration is currently considering whether to adopt a new interpretation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty concluded by the United States and the Soviet Union in 1972. The new interpretation would legally permit the Administration, according to its contention, to carry out testing and development of certain technological projects vital to the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), a program to determine whether a nationwide defense system for the United States can be developed and deployed.

Gentles, R. G.
Keeping an open mind on the implications of strategic defence. Canadian defence quarterly, v. 16, autumn 1986: 8, 11-14, 16.

The uncertain implications surrounding the outcome of the SDI research programme has made it very difficult for allied Governments ... The difficulty is to decide the basis on which a decision should be taken: Should it be based on an assessment of likely technological developments? From a moral point of view?" The author presents quantitative and qualitative assessments from which some general conclusions can be drawn.

Gerasimov, Gennadii.

Glaser, Bonne S. Garrett, Banning N.

"The Chinese leadership began to focus on the Strategic Defense Initiative of the United States sometime in late 1984 or early 1985. Beijing instructed various ministries and research organizations to examine SDI and its implications for China. Leading analysts at foreign policy institutes and defense, science, and technology organizations held conferences and wrote position papers on this important topic. What has emerged from these efforts is a picture of informed and diverse opinion with as wide a range of views on SDI as is found in the West."

Godson, Dean.

Contents.--Overview of European opinion on SDI.--U.S. public diplomacy, at home and abroad.--A prospective public diplomacy strategy for SDI in Europe.

Goldman, Andrew.

Explores the problems, legal or theoretical, that the SDI would seem to pose to the ABM Treaty, and if the treaty, as it stands today, permits development testing and deployment of certain ABM systems.
Goldman, Nathan C.  
"This paper analyzes the legal implications of the multilayered defense against nuclear weapons proposed by SDI. The analysis suggests that present SDI endeavors are mostly compatible with treaty obligations, although ultimate deployment of the system would violate many provisions."

Graham, Daniel O.  
Blacks and SDI, an introduction by Roy Innis.

Graham, Thomas W. Kramer, Bernard M.  
"Despite changes in the US-Soviet nuclear balance, several attitudes toward active defenses against nuclear weapons have been remarkably stable."

Cromoll, Robert H.  
The author "considers the likely impact of enhanced strategic uncertainty under ballistic missile defenses contemplated in SDI. He contends such defenses would multiply conceivable U.S.-Soviet strategic relationships, creating some possibilities for greater stability, but even more possibilities for instability."

Contents.--SDI in 1986: technology versus policy--an analysis.--Launching the SDI program.--Surveillance, acquisition, and tracking.--Directed energy weapons.--Kinetic energy weapons.--Systems analyses and battle management.--Survivability, lethality, and key technologies.--Related programs.

Hadley, Stephen J.  
Thinking about SDI. Washington, Foreign Policy Institute, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 1986. 30 p.  
(FPI policy briefs)  
Contents.--The nature of SDI.--Guidance for near-term decisions.--SDI and arms control.

Hamm, Manfred R.  
"Although the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative has gained formal approval from the Bonn Government, the SDI issue continues to be enmeshed in the politics of the coalition under Chancellor Kohl. It has also become a prime target-of-opportunity for the opposition Social Democratic Party, which has sought to rally the other European socialist parties against the Initiative."
Hamm, Manfred R. and Weinrod, W. Bruce.
Surveys European attitudes toward SDI and the impact of this new strategy on the NATO alliance. Concludes that "by providing a more solid foundation for allied security, SDI can strengthen NATO while it could also have a highly divisive effect on allied relations . . . Whether the Alliance will survive these challenges may depend less on SDI's objective opportunities than on the way the allies cope with its multiple ramifications."

Herres, Robert T.
"Taken together, already operational and future Soviet space capabilities are a cause for genuine concern . . . . If, on the other hand, we continue to compete, we must accept that military capabilities must be met with military capabilities. Nothing would be more dangerous or de-stabilizing than a situation in which the Soviets perceived a clear military advantage over us in any regime--land, sea, air or space. We must struggle not for superiority, but to retain a balance", argues Commander in Chief, U.S. Space Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command.

Holmes, Kim R.
The case for deploying SDI in the 1990s. Washington, Heritage Foundation, 1987. 10 p. (Backgrounder no. 570)
"The Reagan administration should capitalize on the rapid technological advances in its Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) by deploying the new defense system in stages, as they become available," concludes the author.

Examines "how deployed strategic defenses by the world's superpowers could affect the global and regional strategic balances of power."

How to proceed with SDI. National interest, no. 7, spring 1987: 68-79.
"The Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) has become one of the most controversial American defense programs of the postwar period . . . . Yet the future of the program is very uncertain. SDI faces growing opposition and hard budgetary choices . . . . Research on the strategic defense technologies is clearly in our national interest. How, then, should we manage the serious tensions that persist between SDI and our other policy objectives?"
Contents.--Realistic priorities, by William J. Perry and others.--Deploy now, by Jack Kemp.

Hunter, Robert E.
"As debate about SDI has developed during the past two and a half years and has become more intensely political, in both domestic and foreign terms, it is worth trying to create a basic benchmark of strategic analysis against which to measure particular proposals . . . . Strategic theory provides the critical test--whether Reagan's original idea . . . should be pursued, or whether SDI should simply be foresworn."
"Small, accurate nuclear weapons make it possible to carry out a surgical first strike—a surprise attack that decapitates the opponent's command structure and destroys the bulk of his forces . . . . Space-based defenses, even if their effectiveness is limited, have a toxic effect on first-strike planning."

"The first three sections of this paper will discuss certain US weapon systems and their capabilities for performing ballistic missile defence (BMD) functions. The remainder of the paper discusses relevant portions of the programme of the US Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)."

Contents.--Introduction.--The context of Soviet directed-energy development.--Pulsed-power technology.--Electron beams.--The electromagnetic energy beams.--Conclusions.

Discusses strategic defense in the context of deterrence and arms control, and its destabilizing effects on arms control and strategic stability.

"Published in cooperation with the Center for Space Law and Policy, University of Colorado at Boulder."

Loebs, Grant. Strategic defense: how much will it really cost? Washington, Heritage Foundation, 1987. 9 p. (Backgrounder no. 607) LRS87-11020
"While it is unlikely that SDI will be as cheap as the $40 billion claimed by some SDI backers, the price tag probably will be in the range of $115 billion to $120 billion spread out over ten years."

"The hope is to make nuclear weapons obsolete, thus promoting a nuclear disarmament . . . . The SDI programs means a change in investments from material-intensive to knowledge-intensive production . . . . It may enforce the conditions of the open society by technical means, where negotiations fall short, due to ideological prejudices." The article is followed by comments by Gordon L. Anderson, John T. Blackmore and rejoinders by the author.

"The prospect that Europe can gradually be pulled into SDI raises critical but generally overlooked questions about the future of Europe itself . . . SDI could in the years ahead push Europe onto the path of increasing militarization at the expense not only of East-West security but of transatlantic relations as well."


"Each side must recognize that neither will permit the other to achieve a meaningful superiority--attempts to gain such an advantage are dangerous as well as futile. The forces pushing both sides in the direction of first strike postures, at least from the standpoint of the adversary, must be reversed", argues the author.


"Examines the technological capabilities of BMD, and outlines the threats . . . posed by the Soviet Union to the assured destruction capability of the United States. It then analyses limited BMD of inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBM), Strategic Air Command (SAC) airfields, the National Command Authority (NCA), and command, control, communications and intelligence (C3I) facilities." The terminal BMD is the focus of this article.


"Few friends or opponents of President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative expect it to survive his presidency, at least not without significant changes."


"A report on the myth of a 'trillion dollar' cost for SDI with a review of alternative cost estimates for defending America from nuclear missiles."


"In recent months, debate over the technical feasibility of the Strategic Defense Initiative, or Star Wars, has focused on its software. The software dispute became public last June 28 when a member of the SDI Organization's Panel on Computing in Support of Battle Management resigned on the grounds that the software portion of the system could not be successful built."
Nimroody, Rosy.
LRS88-174

Patel, C. Kumar N. Bloembergen, Nicolaas.
LRS87-10730
A summary of the findings of an American Physical Society panel which met in November 1983 "concerning the developmental gap that stands between the laboratory and a decision to display" directed-energy weapons. "The evaluation focuses on the potential of lasers and particle beams in strategic defense."

UG743.P47 1987

Pressler, Larry.
UG743.P75 1986
"Praeger special studies. Praeger scientific."
Contents.--The search for a perfect defense.--Congress reviews the antisatellite program.--Congressional antisatellite hearings and reports.--The House debates antisatellite systems.--The Senate continues the antisatellite weapons debate.--The President speaks.--Congressional actions on the Strategic Defense Initiative.--Treaty limitations on military space operations.--Strategic implications.--Technology.--Strategic Defense Initiative and the European allies.--The role of Congress in assessing a new strategic program.


Reed, Fred.
LRS86-2953
"The key to a strong national defense being to get enough people on payrolls before Congress starts to think, the Pentagon and its contractors will make sure that Star Wars spends money in as many states as possible, creating lots of jobs and, therefore, a grass-roots constituency for continuing the project; this process is the equivalent of a national attention span."

Rhinelander, John B.
LRS86-5270
"This article reviews the key provisions of the ABM Treaty, . . . US and Soviet ballistic missile defence programmes are summarized and the major US and Soviet compliance issues, including the Krasnoyarsk radar, are reviewed."
Rivkin, David B., Jr.
"The Reagan Administration's Strategic Defense Initiative faces increasingly rough political waters. The initial 'SDI coalition' has splintered, and opponents of the program have rallied around a 'narrow' interpretation of the ABM Treaty of 1972."

Robinson, Clarence A., Jr.
"Rapid technological advances have changed the entire debate."

Schroeer, Dietrich.
Contents.--Directed-energy beam weapons.--Directed-energy weapon systems.--Other issues in DEW strategic defences.--Conclusions.

Washington, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1987. ca. 100 p. in various pagings.
Contents.--Overview: the military use of outer space.--Treaty restrictions on the military use of outer space.--Evaluating space weapon technology.--Impact of space weapons on U.S. national security.--Resources.

Contents.--The militarization of basic research, by Husimi Kodi.--What technology does the U.S. want? by Emura Yoshiro.--The politics of participating, by Takase Shoji.


Slater, Jerome. Goldfischer, David.
The authors "assess the various arguments that have been made for the Strategic Defense Initiative against hostile ballistic missiles. They contend that only one argument is not flawed--the SDI's capacity to provide limited population defense within the context of a new and major arms control regime."
Contents.—The gold mine, by Lew Gurman.—Science and conscience, by Karen Klinger.
"Money is pouring into the state's schools, labs, and companies as science and business chase the Star Wars dollar."

Contents.—Star Wars pork barrel, by W. Hartung.—SDI funds costly for scientists, by P. Gollen.—Taking the pledge against Star Wars, by J. Kogut and M. Weissman.

The article is followed by a roundtable discussion, p. 220-234.


Contents.—The challenge.—Can it be done?—Should it be done?—World opinion.

"Ever since the President's speech, the Arms Control Association has been keeping track of key statements on Star Wars . . . . This work documents the positions of Reagan Administration officials and identifies inconsistencies and differences of opinion on Star Wars within the executive branch. It also includes views on Star Wars among Members of Congress, former officials, scientists, allied leaders and Soviet officials."


Contents.—Overview—the new strategic defense debate.—The U.S. research program.—The Soviet research program.—Arms control implications.—The SDI and strategic doctrine.—Strategic defense and the European Allies.

News, commentaries, features.


Sweet, William.

Contents.--Scientists divided over Star Wars.--Nuclear age heralds weaponry debate.--Technology choices behind Star Wars.

Taylor, Trevor.

"British policy towards SDI has had a hesitant and even disjointed look, slow to emerge and not particularly well coordinated when it did appear. Up to the end of 1985, British policy in this area was marked by four features, two of style and two of content, to be discussed."

Teller, Edward.

Towell, Pat.
"President Reagan's efforts to accelerate his Strategic Defense Initiative, has provoked open partisan warfare on Capitol Hill, with both Democrats and Republicans digging in for what may become the most significant defense policy battle of the decade."


----
Hearings held May 29, June 4, and 5, 1986.


----
Examines "the nature of forthcoming SDI research agreements with our allies as well as . . . the view of how SDI research agreements will take into account compliance with ABM."

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Armed Services. Subcommittee on Strategic and Theater Nuclear Forces.
"The intent of these hearings is to create a record based on a broad spectrum of views from both inside and outside of the administration."
U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Governmental Affairs. Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management.


"A proposal by the Defense Department to establish a new Federally-Funded Research and Development Center, or FFRDC, devoted solely to the Strategic Defense Initiative Institute, or SDII."

U.S. General Accounting Office.


---


GAO's objective was "to determine if adequate management controls were in place to identify, plan, review, approve, and notify the Congress of SDI-funded construction projects."

---


---


"The report attempts to provide some perspective on the progress achieved to date in SDI and the challenges that lie ahead."

"JPRS-TAC-87-001-L, 15 January 1987"
At head of title: Worldwide report.
Contents.--Hypothetical space-based components of a ballistic-missile defense.--Space-based battle stations.--Some technical issues of terminal defense.--Potential uses of space-based weapons against air and ground targets.--Support components.--Countermeasures.--Strategic and political aspects.--Legal aspects.--Spin-offs of SDI research efforts.

White, Andrew.
"The purpose of this article is to outline and evaluate some of the key arguments about the implications of the SDI for Europe . . . to show how crucial issues are not being seriously addressed at all."

Whittier, Charles H.
This brief overview summarizes ethical, moral, and religious arguments commonly used for and against the Strategic Defense Initiative, including the relationship between feasibility and actual effect with reference to deterrence and its proposed alternatives. Finally, it notes the diversity of views that marks opponents and proponents alike in relating moral and ethical issues to public policy decisions affecting defense and security concerns.

Windmiller, David E.
SDI: a strategy for peace and stability or the end to deterrence? Parameters, v. 16, summer 1986: 16-25. LRS86-3995
The article describes "the political and philosophical genesis of the concept of SDI, presents a brief synopsis of the Soviet threat which creates the need, and then describes the system and its theoretical objectives."

Zraket, C. A.
"Building a strategic defense against nuclear ballistic missiles involves complex and uncertain functional, spatial, and temporal relations. Such a defensive system would evolve and grow over decades. It is too complex, dynamic, and interactive to be fully understood initially by design, analysis, and experiments."

Zuckerman, Solly Baron.
A critique of the SDI program and of the idea "that a space shield that would make America citizens invulnerable to a nuclear onslaught is a real possibility."

-----