

Thee, Marek 1991. Whatever Happened to the Peace Dividend? The Post-Cold War Armaments Momentum. Nottingham: Russell Press. 113 pp.

In this little book, Marek Thee continues his decades long struggle against military research and development (R&D). Thee's dictum holds: "Stimulated by a constant race in military technology, armaments tend to proceed without interruption, irrespective of existing arms stocks and with little regard to costs" (p. 23). The root of the sin is in the laboratories rather than in government. Thee now sets out to prove that this remains the case even after the end of the Cold War. We now have "a historical opportunity for converting military R&D for civilian purposes" (p. 52), but so far there has been no peace dividend. The renewed arms race is fuelled by multipolar competition, and by the impetus of the Gulf War, a "realistic and very public arms fair" in the words of Peter Crampton (foreword, p. 1).

Marek Thee makes no attempt to falsify his main thesis, or to discuss other possible explanations for the continued arms race, and this certainly weakens his argument. But he cites a lot of examples, statistical documentation, and statements by scientists involved in military R&D, to sustain his basic proposition.

Now, is there a way out? Yes, says Thee. "...we still are at an impasse" (p. 76), but the way out goes through "openness versus secrecy" and a five stages process: 1) imposition of restraints on the testing of new weapons; 2) control of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons; 3) imposition of budgetary restraints; 4) a determined appeal to the scientists on moral grounds; 5) a broad socio-political programme for conversion from military to civilian research (pp. 106-8).