Technology is championed as the solution to modern security problems, but also blamed as their cause. This book assesses the way in which these two views collide in the debate over ballistic missile defence: a complex, costly and controversial system intended to defend the United States from nuclear missile attacks. Columba Peoples shows how, in the face of strong scientific and strategic critique, advocates of missile defence seek to justify its development by reference to broader culturally embedded perceptions of the promises and perils of technological development. Unpacking the assumptions behind the justification of missile defence initiatives, both past and present, this book illustrates how common-sense understandings of technology are combined and used to legitimate this controversial and costly defence programme. In doing so it engages fundamental debates over understandings of technological development, human agency and the relationship between technology and security.

COLUMBA PEOPLES is a lecturer in International Relations in the Department of Politics at the University of Bristol. His research focuses on the question of technology and its impact on international relations and global security. He received the British International Studies Association Thesis Prize for International Studies in 2007, and has published widely in the fields of International Relations and Security Studies.
Cambridge Studies in International Relations: 112

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     Politics as ontology

100  Michael C. Williams  
     The realist tradition and the limits of international relations

Series list continued after index
Justifying Ballistic Missile Defence

Technology, Security and Culture

COLUMBA PEOPLES
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acknowledgements</th>
<th>page viii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of abbreviations</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Part One  Technology, security and culture

1. Critical theory, security and technology                  | 11        |
2. Technology and common sense in America                    | 46        |

## Part Two  Post-war missile defence

3. Defence in the missile age?                               | 77        |
4. Post-war missile defence and the language of technological fears | 99        |

## Part Three  The Strategic Defense Initiative

5. The Strategic Defense Initiative and America’s technological heritage | 125       |
6. ‘Star Wars’ and technological determinism                 | 153       |

## Part Four  Contemporary missile defence

8. The iron cage of proliferation                             | 215       |

Conclusion: common sense and the strategic use of ‘technology’      | 249       |

## Bibliography

275

## Index

294
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Most of all my thanks go to Tony, Pat and Julie Peoples for their love and support and it is to them that I dedicate this book.
Abbreviations

ABM    anti-ballistic missile
ARPA   Advanced Research Projects Agency
BMD    ballistic missile defence
BMDO   Ballistic Missile Defense Organization
BMEMS  Ballistic Missile Early Warning System
CIA    Central Intelligence Agency
CND    Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
CPB    charged particle beam
CPD    Committee on the Present Danger
CSP    Center for Security Policy
CSS    Critical Security Studies
DEW    directed energy weapon
DoD    Department of Defense
DR&E   Defense Research and Engineering
GMD    Ground-Based Midcourse Defense
HOE    Homing Overlay Experiment
ICBM   intercontinental ballistic missile
JNIC   Joint National Integration Center
MAD    mutual assured destruction
MDA    Missile Defense Agency
MDAA   Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance
MIC    military-industrial complex
MIRV   multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle
MIT    Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MTCR   Missile Technology Control Regime
NFIRE  Near Field Infrared Experiment
NIE    National Intelligence Estimate
NIPP   National Institute for Public Policy
NMD    National Missile Defense
NORAD   North American Aerospace Defense Command
NPR    Nuclear Posture Review
NRA    National Rifle Association
NSC    National Security Council
### List of abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSPD</td>
<td>National Security Presidential Directive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAC</td>
<td>Patriot Advanced Capability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QDR</td>
<td>Quadrennial Defense Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;D</td>
<td>research and development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMA</td>
<td>revolution in military affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAM</td>
<td>surface-to-air missile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBL</td>
<td>space-based laser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDI</td>
<td>Strategic Defense Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDIO</td>
<td>Strategic Defense Initiative Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLV</td>
<td>space-launch vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SORT</td>
<td>Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRI</td>
<td>Stanford Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TMD</td>
<td>Theater Missile Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCS</td>
<td>Union of Concerned Scientists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMD</td>
<td>weapons of mass destruction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>