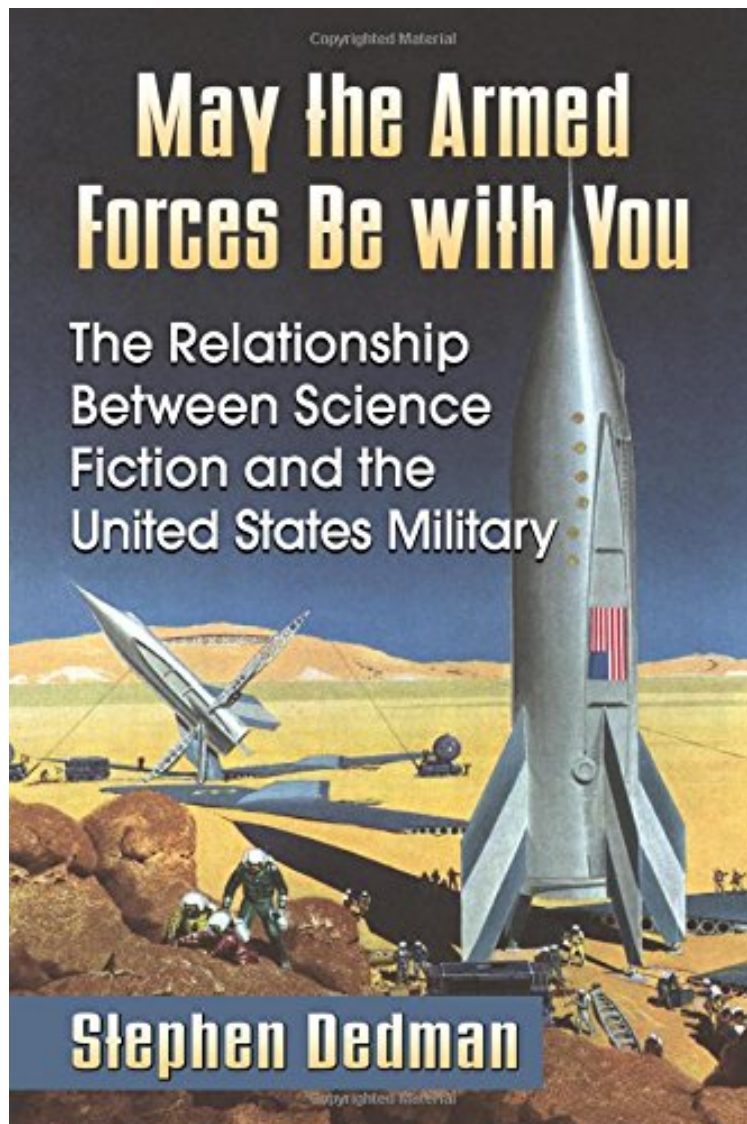


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# May the Armed Forces Be with You: The Relationship Between Science Fiction and the United States Military

*Stephen Dedman*

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**Stephen Dedman : May the Armed Forces Be with You: The Relationship Between Science Fiction and the United States Military** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised May the Armed Forces Be with You: The Relationship Between Science Fiction and the United States Military:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent book about a really interesting subject. By K. Bunker I thoroughly enjoyed this examination of the interface between the military and science fiction. Author Stephen Dedman does a great job of writing informatively and engagingly about all aspects of this interface: How SF and SF authors have influenced military policy, weapons development, and military terminology; how SF has at times predicted developments in military technology; how SF -- including written, in films and on TV -- has responded to and portrayed issues of war, the threat of war, and militarism in general. These and other topics are discussed with impressive expertise. As one might expect, nuclear weapons get a lot of attention in this book. Not only are they the classic (and rare) example of a science-fictional "super weapon" that actually became a reality, but the threat of a catastrophic nuclear war has provided the subject matter for truly countless works of SF. Another topic that gets attention is comparing and contrasting the views and works of hawkish and dovish SF creators. (Although Dedman prefers the words "Hamiltonian" (hawkish) and "Jeffersonian" (dovish), taking these terms from historian Simon Schama.) This discussion delves into a lot of interesting biographical detail about several famous SF authors, as well as examinations of their works. The many-faceted relationship between SF and war is surely one of the more interesting sub-topics of science fiction studies. Although this book focusses on the U.S. military and U.S. science fiction, I'm reasonably sure that it's the broadest, most thorough look at the subject that has been written. And it's a darn good read, too.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well researched with great background information. By Steven J. Agid Well researched and provided some interesting insights - filled in a lot of "blanks" for me on program name origins.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Weapon Shops. By Robert J. Sawyer This is a fabulous new nonfiction book by award-winning science-fiction writer Stephen Dedman. I was one of the outside examiners when an earlier version of this was Dedman's Ph.D. thesis. It's a fascinating and very important rumination, worthy of consideration in the Best Related Work category of the Hugo Awards.

Science fiction and the United States military often inhabit the same imaginative space. Weapons technology has taken inspiration from science fiction, from the bazooka and the atomic bomb to weaponized lasers and drones. Star-spangled superheroes sold war bonds in comic books sent to GIs during World War II, and adorned the noses of bombers. The same superheroes now appear in big-budget movies made with military assistance, fighting evil in today's war zones. A missile shield of laser satellites--dreamed up by writers and embraced by the high command--is partially credited with ending the Cold War. Sci-fi themes and imagery are used to sell weapons programs, military service and wars to the public. Some science fiction creators have willingly cooperated with the military; others have been conscripted. Some have used the genre as a forum for protest. This book examines the relationship between the U.S. military and science fiction through more than 80 years of novels, comics, films and television series, including Captain America, Starship Troopers, The Twilight Zone, Dr. Strangelove, Star Trek, Iron Man, Bill the Galactic Hero, The Forever War, Star Wars, Aliens, Ender's Game, Space: Above and Beyond and Old Man's War.

"The research is incredible. The value of this book is its historical documentation of creativity and innovation and its adaptation/inspiration for modern military systems. The sources are thorough, detailed and plentiful"--H-Net s. About the Author Stephen Dedman is a lecturer in creative writing at the University of Western Australia and the author of five novels and more than 100 short stories.