

# STAR WARS

## US TOOLS OF SPACE SUPREMACY

*Star Wars: US Tools of Space Supremacy* provides a fresh look at the role of space as an enabler of the Bush administration's plans for endless preventive war. It debunks the benign notions of missile defence, and expands the definition of space supremacy beyond that of weapons in space, to include the unilateral misuse of space-based intelligence, communications, and targeting technologies.

Loring Wirbel shows how space militarization forms a key part of the explicit unilateral empire-building of the Bush administration. The book is also a stark reminder that preventive war theory did not originate with Donald Rumsfeld. First used as a term by Reagan, 'Star Wars' was an idea rooted in the Cold War. Wirbel argues that the seeds for the current space supremacy doctrine were sown at the end of the Cold War, in the early days of the Clinton administration. Giving a historical overview of government policies through the 80s and 90s to the present, Wirbel shows that 'Star Wars' is an idea that never went away.

Examining the evolution of space-based technology, and the way it is now used in a variety of settings including intelligence operations and on-the-ground military campaigns, this is a comprehensive critical guide to the real aims and capabilities of US space technology and the 'Star Wars' program.

Loring Wirbel has been involved in military conversion and peace work for 25 years, and has studied technical intelligence and civil liberties issues for nearly as long. He is currently editorial director for communications initiatives at CMP Media LLC, headquartered in New York and London. He has worked for daily newspapers in the U.S. southwest, and has held key positions in leading technology publications such as *Electronic Engineering Times*.

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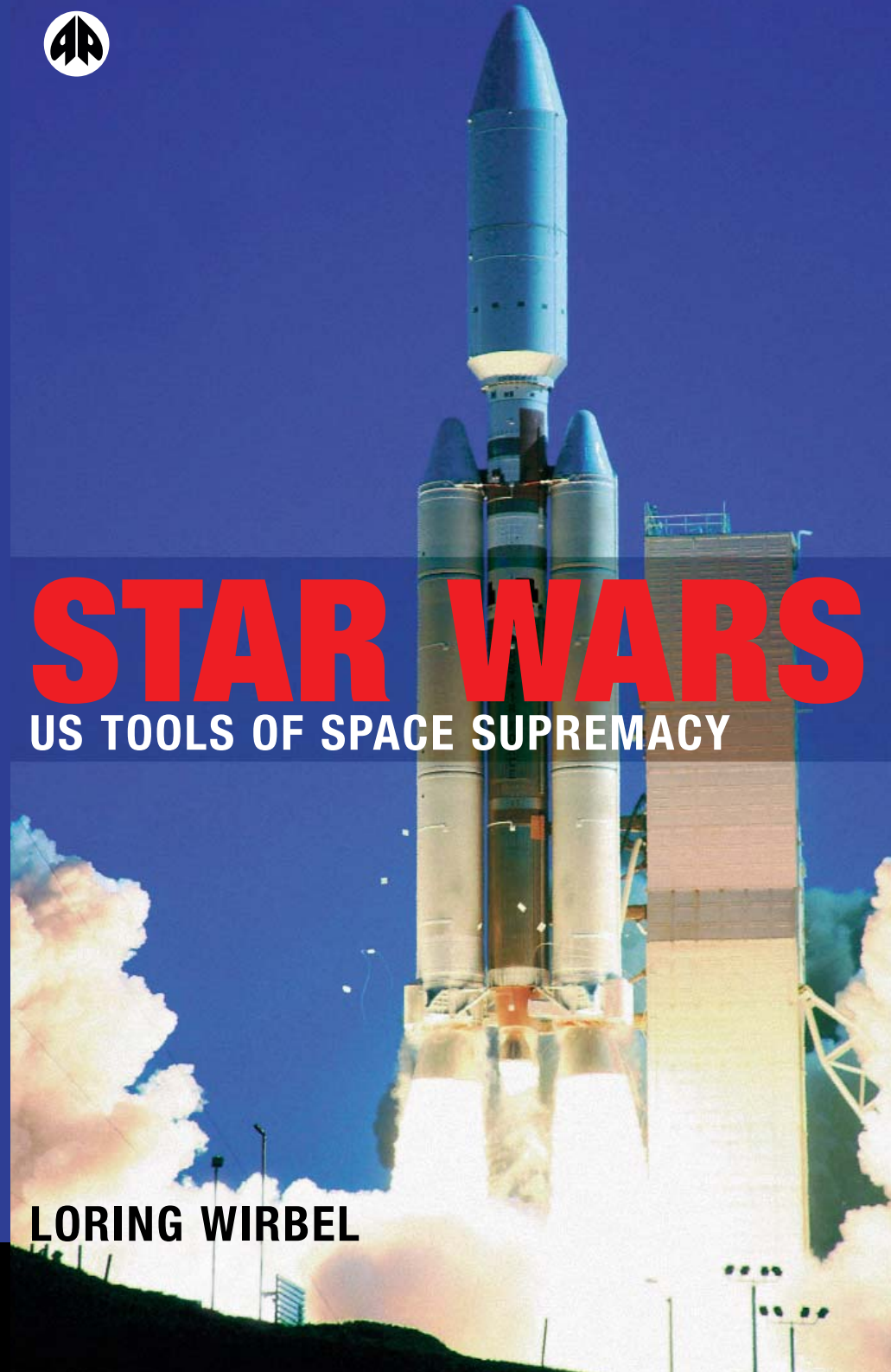
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