

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2010



For more information, to obtain a review copy, or to arrange an interview please contact:

Kerry Kilmartin

University of British Columbia Press

2029 West Mall

Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z2

Tel: 604.822.8224 | E-mail: kilmartin@ubcpres

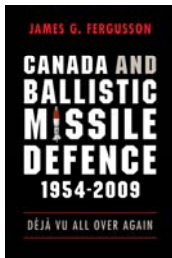
www.ubcpres.ca

Canadian Defense Policy Fails to Defend Canadian Interests: Missile-defense expert reveals longterm, repetitive inadequacy of policy on ballistic missile defence (BMD)

Vancouver – In an enlightening new book, national security expert James G. Fergusson – Canada's "Mr. BMD" – presents the first history of Canada's fifty-year policy dance with the question of ballistic missile defence. Beginning with a discussion of the earliest of the US missile defense plans in 1954, Fergusson traces how successive Canadian governments of various political stripes have all failed to protect uniquely Canadian interests, choosing instead to prioritize either US or international concerns about nuclear proliferation and defence.

Drawing on recently released government documents, personal interviews, media archives, and the author's own extensive knowledge, *Canada and Ballistic Missile Defence 1954 – 2009: Déjà Vu All Over Again* demonstrates that Canada's stance on missile defense has never actually been about Canada's distinct strategic defence needs. Rather, it has been based on concerns about how to ensure Canada's good relations with both the US – our elephantine neighbour to the south – and the rest of the world, for whom Canada sees itself as an important middle power and peacemaker. "To choose the world," writes Fergusson, "is to reject Canada's most important friend, ally, and trading partner, with significant consequences to follow. To choose the Unites States is to reject the world, with fears of significant domestic consequences of being seen as subservient to the United States." The story of Canadian missile defence policy is thus also a story about Canada's sense of sovereignty and what its implications are for Canadian strategic interests in the event of nuclear attack.

Arguing that every government that has grappled with the question of participation in US missile defence plans has lacked the necessary leadership to truly defend Canada's interests, Fergusson offers a crucial correction to Canadian policymaking. *Canada and Ballistic Missile Defence 1954 – 2009* is both lesson and a cautionary tale that clarifies an understudied era in modern defence policy – and one that our country ignores at its peril.



Canada and Ballistic Missile Defence 1954 – 2009: Déjà Vu All Over Again

James G. Fergusson

Published by UBC Press

ISBN 978-0-7748-1751-6 | pb \$34.95



Dr. James Fergusson is the Director of the Centre for Defence and Security Studies, a Professor in the Department of Political Studies at the University of Manitoba, and a Senior Research Fellow with the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute. He teaches a range of courses in the areas of international relations, strategic studies, and foreign and defence policy, with an emphasis on Canada. His recent publications include *Canada and Ballistic Missile Defence 1954-2009: Déjà vu all over again*, in the

Canadian War Museum Studies in Canadian Military History Series with the University of British Columbia Press; and Wilson Wong, *Military Space Power: Current Issues*, Praeger Security International; *Beneath the Radar: Change and Transformation in the Canada-US North American Defence Relationship*, Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, and Steve James. *Canada, National Security and Space*. Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute.

In addition to his academic publications, Dr Fergusson has been commissioned to write several reports for the Department of National Defence and the Department of Foreign Affairs. He lectures to a wide range of military audiences, including the Canadian Forces College. Dr. Fergusson has testified on several occasions to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Standing Committee on National Defence and Veteran's Affairs. He has also a member of the Defence Science Advisory Board, and the Honorary Colonel of the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Studies.