

Part IV

Planning for a Future War in the Nuclear Age

‘We have lived with a balance of military power, which also governs other areas of politics, for much of modern history and we are going to go on living with it for the time being. But the calculus of military power is changing. Of the three traditional functions that it served, to promote the economic power of a nation, to promote its ideological objective and to protect the security of itself and its allies, only the third is now accepted as legitimate.’—Alistair Buchan

The relationship between peace-time contingency planning for a future war, and the manner in which the plans proved relevant in the actual conduct of war can be tested for the first half of the twentieth century. For the second half, one can only look back to the experience of the past as nations deal with the changing calculus of military power.