

STAR WARS RESEARCH:

Some Thoughts about Military-Industrialism



Ted: (*arms crossed, staring out at the rain*) Most people understand as much about advanced military research as they do about particle physics. Which is to say—almost nothing. They see a headline about directed-energy weapons or autonomous kill systems, maybe watch a grainy video of a test, and they think they get it. (*turns to face his friends*) They don't. They can't. The complexity is beyond our human capacity to comprehend.

Terri: (*looking up from her screen, eyes bright with nervous energy*) Exactly! And that's what keeps me up at night: the thought of what kind of future are we cooking up. (*gestures at her laptop*) I'm running models on emergent behavior in swarm drones, and even I can't predict half the outcomes. The anxiety isn't theoretical anymore, Ted. It's baked into the code, and much of that is written by AI.

Tim: (*carefully separating an orange slice, maddeningly calm*) Be fearless, Terri. Progress requires risk. Always has. (*pops the slice in his mouth*) Look, diplomacy and militarism both have their place in the ecosystem of power. Balance. Deterrence. It's ancient wisdom, really. Isn't that why the Romans said Mars must be married to Venus? War tempered by love, force balanced by negotiation. Yin and yang. (*slight smile*) We're just applying old principles with new tools.

Ted: (*frowning, voice sharp*) And why does that sound like a vapid, worn-out cliché? (*steps away from the window*) Mars and Venus. Jesus, Tim. You're talking about mythology while we're engineering weapons systems that can make autonomous kill decisions in microseconds. There's no marriage happening here—there's a hostile takeover. Mars is stripping Venus for parts and calling it "strategic balance."

- T Newfields

Beg.: 2000 Nagoya ☆ Fin.: 2025 Shinjuku

