

but are not in themselves major stand-alone systems or platforms. For example, given the well-documented shortage of funds which can be used for weapons purchases, recipients are importing upgrades in the form of newer weapons, engines and radars for old platforms already in the inventory. It is not clear how this is to be reflected in the procedures of the Register. Secondly, the Register approach is not well suited for making transparent the early warning and command, control and communication systems which are increasingly being imported as force multipliers. As for trade in the technology itself, in a sense it is being addressed in the Register. Although it is highly unlikely that a military technology register will or can be developed, if the Register does develop into one which makes transparent 'procurement through national production,' the end result of the technology will be made transparent.

The Special Case of Light Weapons. While it is true that increased attention is being paid at the subnational, national and international levels to the negative consequences of transfers of major conventional weapons, especially into areas of regional tension, the opposite is true when it comes to the trade in light weapons. Due to a systemic change in the mode of conflict, from major interstate wars to ethnic and subnational conflict, the demand for light weapons has increased. Combined with the collapse of national export control systems in states possessing a surfeit of such weapons, light weapons, including everything from rifles to land mines to artillery pieces, are now readily available for the host of subnational and ethnic conflicts raging in many parts of the developing world and in particular the former Soviet Union. By all accounts, trade in light weapons — small arms, land mines, mortars, man-portable missiles, etc. — has increased significantly in the post-Cold War era.³⁰ The end of the Cold War has unleashed ethnic conflicts long dormant and controlled by the logic of the Cold War and the concept of client states. Ironically, this increase in trade, and the accompanying negative consequences, is made increasingly visible due to the greater use of UN peacekeeping and peace-making operations, which bring along with it mass media coverage. It has always been the case that in armed conflict it is the light weapons which do most of the killing, and there can be no question that an increasing number of such weapons are getting into the hands of an increasing number of soldiers, paramilitary forces, non-state actors and civilians involved in ethnic conflicts which will not be resolved for a long time to come.

There are some obvious reasons why there is an *increase* in the trade of light weapons. First, the disintegration of the former Soviet Union (FSU) has resulted in the sudden availability of massive amounts of new and surplus light weapons. Second, the FSU is not the only country finding itself with surplus stocks of light weapons. Europe, China and many developing countries find these

³⁰ For two excellent and recent accounts, see Aaron Karp, 'Arming Ethnic Conflict,' *Arms Control Today*, September 1993, 8-13; and 'The Covert Arms Trade,' *The Economist*, 12 February 1994, 21-23.