

to safety," it did succeed in producing large quantities of deadly agents that were used.<sup>16</sup> Simple artillery systems, light weapons, armoured vehicles, and chemical weapons technologies would be close to "technological maturity"; short-range missiles, light jet aircraft, primitive biological weapons, and crude nuclear weapons (of early designs) are somewhat mature; and long-range ballistic missiles, advanced fighter aircraft, cruise missiles and stealth technologies are far from technological maturity. The implications for non-proliferation are obvious. It is considerably more difficult to control the proliferation of mature technologies, for which the production techniques and basic scientific and technical knowledge are well-understood and widely available.

### **Recent Developments and Significant Trends in Conventional Arms Transfers and Production**

The end of the Cold War marked a transformation of some aspects of global arms production and transfers, although several of the fundamental elements of the system remained in place. This section will sketch the significant short- and medium-term trends in conventional arms production and transfers, thus setting the stage for a discussion of the implications of this for proliferation control policies and options.

#### **Short-Term Trends**

Three specific short-term developments have been catalyzed by the end of the Cold War. The first has been a rapid and dramatic decline in demand for arms from states who were privileged clients of the superpowers and who obtained weapons on concessional terms. The changes that accompanied the end of the Cold War resulted in the curtailing of arms imports to several regional conflict zones (Nicaragua, Angola, Ethiopia, Iraq, Cambodia), the elimination of concessional terms for Soviet and some American weapons clients (this affected primarily India, Pakistan, North Korea, Algeria, Vietnam and Syria), and the drop in arms procurement by Eastern European/Warsaw Pact states (Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Rumania and Bulgaria). Together, the seventeen states in these three groups accounted for 36 percent of total arms imports in 1987, but only 9.5 percent in 1991. Hence these states accounted for more than one-half of the decline in the arms trade experienced between 1987 and 1991, and their greatly diminished role in the arms market is unlikely to be replaced by new consumers in the immediate future.

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<sup>16</sup> John Walker, "The UNSCOM Experience: Orientation," in Steven Mataija and J. Marshall Beier, eds., *Multilateral Verification and the Post-Gulf Environment: Learning from the UNSCOM Experience* (Toronto: Centre for International and Strategic Studies, 1992), 91.