



Final comments

Shield is a radical concept and will challenge a number of fixed ideas or so called mindsets. Those gripped by mindsets will not debate Shield - they will dismiss it: they will smother it with an avalanche of peripheral difficulties and threshold problems, none of which bears on Shield 's essential principles. History is littered with the unseemly reactions of orthodoxy to radical ideas.

Why would a well-intentioned nation not welcome Shield with open arms? It is not being asked to give up any of its sovereignty - just the reverse, it is having its sovereignty guaranteed. It is not being asked to reduce its current levels of defence, it remains free to reduce them when it feels secure under the guarantee of Shield .

The logic underlying Shield will take I, and you, just so far but no further. Its final consummation will need resolve, statesmanship and vision - and the greatest of these is vision.