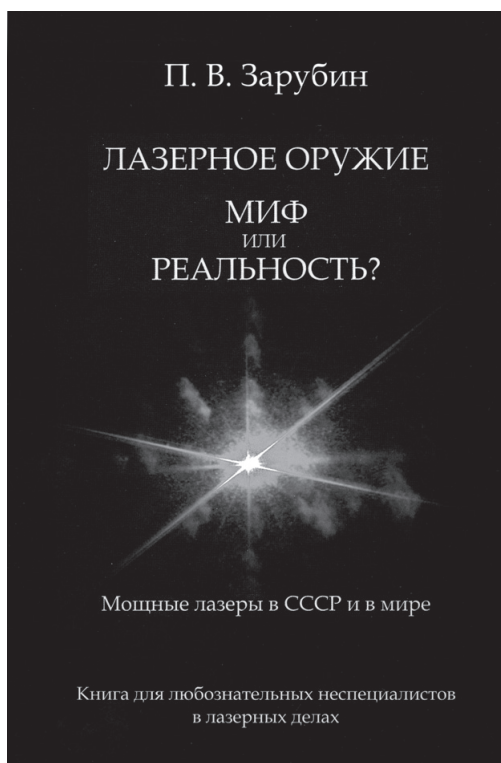


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A few words about the book

The Vladimir Publishing House 'Tranzit-X' published the book of P.V. Zarubin 'Laser weapons – myth or reality? High-power lasers in the USSR and the world' with the subtitle: A Layman's Guide to Lasers. This is the first book in Russian, dedicated to this issue. The author, from the very beginning of works on laser weapons in the Soviet Union was one of the leading officials at the Ministry of Defence Industry of the USSR – the actual customers of these works. P.V. Zarubin participated in their planning and discussion of the results obtained. That's why the book shows quite a balanced role of different organisations which participated in the works. The advantages of the book also include extensive information on similar works in the USA, collected by the author. P.V. Zarubin actually draws a parallel between the two approaches to the problems and the results obtained, despite the fact that works in this area, ongoing at that time in the two countries, were classified and had the form of a closed competition.

The author emphasises that the book does not claim to be a strictly scientific historical study of the problem. In particular, we can note that not all Soviet organisations that took part in the development of laser weapons are mentioned. Besides, the list of key participants of the works is not limited by the names mentioned in the book.

Although the subtitle of the book addresses those who are curious about yet unfamiliar with laser technology, we, on the contrary, believe that it is of great interest for laser specialists interested in the history of the development of laser technology in the USSR.

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