grids as they retreat, wanting to complicate the Coalition advance and forcing the Germans and the Turks to divert resources to shipping heavy electrical storage units to the battlefield. Those lines of supply are exactly what will be most vulnerable when the counterattack comes in the summer of 2052.

When the American armored infantrymen arrive on the battlefield, with their sophisticated, space-linked systems, the Coalition will realize that Poland is not going to fall quickly. The Coalition will also see that the electrical generation plants are the foundation of allied power and that unless they are taken out—and the Americans reduced to shipping electrical storage units to the battlefield from their own country—the United States will be victorious. Therefore, in the summer of 2051, the Coalition will begin to destroy the Polish electrical system, hitting plants as far east as Belarus. Poland will go black.

The Coalition will wait for two weeks, forcing the United States and its allies (the Alliance) into continual combat to make them use up available electricity. Then they will attack on all fronts simultaneously, expecting Polish and American troops to be out of power and out of luck. Instead, they will not only meet intense resistance but also find that the U.S. troops are calling in air strikes that are devastating Coalition lines. Allied command will send British air forces into combat, and the superbly coordinated space-based reconnaissance systems—coupled with a new, more sophisticated Battle Star management system—will identify, target, and destroy the German and Turkish armored infantry.

It will turn out the United States will have learned not to put all its eggs in one basket militarily, particularly in terms of space-based systems. Before the war begins, the United States will have another Battle Star—a next-generation system—built but not yet launched due to a lack of funds. Congressional inaction will for once be a godsend. The station will be secret, and on the ground. It will be launched into space just months after the surprise attack and the destruction of Japan's lunar base. The jury-rigged architecture created immediately after the war began will be replaced by one centered around the new Battle Star, stationed near Uganda but capable of rapid maneuver to new points along the equator as needed, as well as tactical maneuvering to avoid attacks such as those that destroyed its three pred-

ecessors. The United States will restore its command of space—to a de
that will far surpass its space dominance of several years before.

The Turks and Germans will be stunned by one thing. Having dec
to destroy Polish electrical generation and distribution, they will expec
sistance to weaken dramatically, as their own forces run out of juice. Ye
Polish and American armored infantry will be going full blast. It will
impossible that the Americans are flying in enough batteries to maintai
troops. The question will be, where is the power coming from?

The Japanese won't be the only ones experimenting with the comme
uses of space. During the first half of the century, a consortium of Ame
entrepreneurs will have spent a great deal of money both developing th
expensive, plentiful launchers the Americans will be using and trying
hand at electrical generation in space, beaming energy to earth in m
wave form, then reconverting it to usable electricity. As the U.S. mil
commanders game out the problem of defending Poland, they will ur
stand from endless war games that the problem will be maintaining ele
cal power. When the Turks take only a few weeks to overrun southea
Europe, the United States will realize that defeating them depends or
supply of electrical power to Alliance forces and the destruction of Coal
electrical supplies. The key to victory will be keeping Poland supplied
electricity.

The core technology will have been developed. The space launchers
be able to be built quickly, as will the solar panels and microwave bea
systems. The real challenge will be to get the receivers built and out to
field, but once again, with unlimited budget and motivation, the Ameri
will be able to perform miracles. Unknown to the Coalition, the new B
Star will have been designed for two purposes: battle management and
aging the construction and operation of enormous arrays of solar panels
their microwave radiation systems. Mobile receivers will have been deliv
to the battlefield.

When the switch is flipped, thousands of receivers on the Polish sic
the front will begin receiving microwave radiation from space and con
ing it to electricity. In a way this will be like cell phones replacing landl
The entire architecture of power will change. That will be important