
Economic and Societal Benefits of Peace In Space: Today and Tomorrow

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The Role of the Outer Space Treaty in Maintaining Peace In Space

- Outer Space Treaty (OST) is the basic legal framework for international space law
 - Articles proclaim that
 - space shall be used for peaceful purposes
 - no national sovereignty in space
 - nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction prohibited in space
 - no military bases, weapons testing or military exercises on Moon or other celestial bodies
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The Role of the Outer Space Treaty in Maintaining Peace In Space (cont)

- Articles proclaim that (cont.)
 - countries exploring space are responsible and liable for damage they cause
 - States Parties are responsible for activities conducted by non-governmental entities and must authorize and supervise them
 - States Parties are to conduct activities with due regard to corresponding interests of other States Parties
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Economic and Societal Benefits of Peace in Space

- Preserving peace in space has allowed its utilization to flourish.
 - A “Space Economy” has grown over the past 50 years and in 2008 was valued at \$257 billion according to the Space Foundation’s “Space Report 2009.”
 - OECD says that while space is small by comparison to other sectors, “its dynamism...and its significance, gives it importance beyond its size.”
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Examples of Economic Benefits

- Communications Satellites
 - Positioning, Navigation and Timing Satellites (e.g. the Global Positioning System – GPS)
 - Remote Sensing of Earth
 - Technological Developments
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Examples of Societal Benefits

- Space Science
 - Human Space Flight
 - International Cooperation
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Potential Future Benefits if Space Remains Peaceful

- Energy to Feed Our Insatiable Demand
 - Space Solar Power Satellites (SSPS)
 - Helium-3 for Nuclear Fusion Reactors
 - Requires governance mechanism for mining lunar resources. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) or World Trade Organization (WTO) possible models?
 - Space Tourism
 - Potentially profit-making but real value may be in many people having new perspective about Earth
 - May need governance mechanism – avoid “flags of convenience”
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Conclusion

- If space becomes a venue for conflict, all these benefits will be imperiled
 - The Outer Space Treaty has stood the test of time and needs to remain in force
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