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CHINESE MILITARY SPACE POLICIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL LEGAL
REGIME

Abstract

China now ranks among the world's most advanced countries in some important fields of space activities and technologies. China's influence on the international space regime arises as the result of this rapid development and alliances with others. Consequently, the world is becoming increasingly sensitive to Chinese space policies and activities with military implications that could impact on the development of space law norms. After an brief introduction to the evolution of Chinese military space policies and the motivation of the Chinese government for formulating these policies, this paper will discuss how the "active defense" strategy came into being and its exact meanings; evaluate whether the relevant activities directed under this defensive strategy conform to the position of demilitarization of outer space; and address the impact of these activities on international space law, especially in respect of preventing space weaponization and protecting space environment. The conclusion part will predict the directions and positions of China's future military space policy and their possible impact on international space regime.