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THE FINAL FRONTIER: ALL THE WORLDS A STAGE

Abstract

This paper investigates international cooperation in the space endeavor by analyzing its history, assessing its present, and theorizing about its ascension. It observes initial motives for space exploration and the revolutionizing changes in international cooperation that occurred in the late twentieth century and led to our present situation. It then examines plans for the coming decades in order to speculate about the future and project a pathway for progress. It aims to evaluate the sustainability of the current cooperative system as the space age matures and more players, both government and non-government come into the picture. The ultimate goal is the further development of cooperative infrastructure as a byproduct of the implementation, preparation, and execution of a Human mission to Mars. The focus of this paper is the ability the space sector has to overcome geopolitical cleavages and manifest common objectives. I ultimately conclude that one of the top benefits of international cooperation on the final frontier is that it can act as reinforcement for current globalization trends and as a catalyst for peaceful international relations back here on Earth.