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POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION AS RELEVANT TO  
FUTURE MOON MISSIONS

**Abstract**

This paper looks at the evolution of the Antarctic Treaty System and what lessons may be relevant to shaping policy regarding future lunar exploration and possible human settlement. It will consider which elements of the Antarctic approach are compatible with existing space treaties, and evaluate the approach with regard to political, economic and legal aspects. In particular we consider how Antarctic exploration has evolved over the last 20 years to expand beyond government programs only to include significant private sector activities driven by tourism.

With a renewed interest in the Moon, from both national and private entities, the creation of workable policies and treaties is becoming increasingly important. By studying the strengths, and weaknesses of the international approach to exploration of Antarctica, this paper will help to clarify whether the lessons learned here on Earth may be advantageous when considering how to manage exploration and private enterprise on the Moon.