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SOCIAL-CONSTRUCTIVISM AND SPACE: HOW HISTORY INFLUENCES MODERN SPACE POLICY

Abstract

Policy surrounding Space Law has been discussed since the mid 19th-century but is perhaps now more relevant than ever before. As space agencies around the world like NASA announce intent of transporting people to Mars by 2037 and private firms such as SpaceX announce ambitious goals as early as 2026, discussions of space law and policy will likely continue to grow in both relevancy and urgency. As policies surrounding space law originate from over 65 years ago, there is a benefit to evaluate how geopolitical history and chronological time may have influenced space law and its applicability today. This paper first discusses and demonstrates the benefit of social constructivism to understand current themes in space policy and law, and later develops if these space policies that originate from nearly seven decades ago are both relevant and adhered to during modern space exploration.