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SPACE RACE FOR PEACE? A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS AND RELATED POLICY
RECOMMENDATION ON THE EFFECT OF COLLABORATION AND COMPETITION IN SPACE
ON CONFLICT DETERRENCE**Abstract**

Outer space serves as a forum for peaceful competition, international diplomacy, and collaboration between state powers, a role it has held since the conception of the Space Age. The most famous example of this is the well-documented Space Race between the United States and Soviet Union. During this period, the two states maintained communication and various degrees of collaboration in space, despite multiple challenges to peace terrestrially. The greatest achievement of relations in this era may be seen in the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, a physical manifestation of the symbolic end to the Space Race in peace and collaboration, rather than conflict. This collaboration developed into the Shuttle-Mir era, and further to the International Space Station to keep Russia 'in the fold' after the collapse of the USSR. Today, this theme of space collaboration despite Earthly conflict continues through the ISS, as NASA and its partners continue to work with Roscosmos to operate the space station in spite of the conflict in Ukraine. The purpose of this paper is twofold. Firstly, through a historical analysis in space between state actors, the utility of past and present collaborations and friendly competitions (i.e. the Space Race) on the prevention of conventional conflict between those actors or their allies will be explored. Today, it appears as though projects such as the ISS did not prevent Russia from invading Ukraine against the will of its partners in the project, but both this direct collaboration and the concept of 'Space Races' as deterrents deserve examination. Secondly, the conclusions taken from this section will be applied to provide an abstract policy recommendation relating to the interactions between the US led coalition of powers and China in future space exploration and development.