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MILITARIZATION OF SPACE: A LEGAL AND STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

Abstract

The militarization of Space, once confined to science fiction, has emerged as a vital component of contemporary combat and global security. This study, "Militarization of Space: A Legal and Strategic Analysis," examines the intricate relationship between the legal frameworks regulating space activities and the strategic motivations behind militarization. Even with international agreements such as the Outer Space Treaty (OST) of 1967, which advocates for the peaceful utilization of Space, legal deficiencies persist. Countries, including the United States, China, Russia, and India, now regard Space as a "warfighting domain," as demonstrated by the establishment of military branches like that of the United States United States Space Force.

The absence of explicit international norms governing conventional weapons in Space and the escalating rivalry for space supremacy highlight the necessity for a legal and strategic reevaluation. Space-based military applications are regarded as vital for national security, comparable to nuclear deterrence on Earth. This study employs a qualitative, comparative research technique to critically evaluate the inevitability and necessity of space militarization for sustaining global security, with a detailed analysis of the prevailing international legal framework. The article will primarily examine four significant issues of Space as an Instrument for Geostrategy, the Obscured Vision of militarization of Space, the International Legal Void on the Use of Space for militarization and Weaponization and the core issues of Insufficient Interdisciplinary Collaboration.