

Perspective

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Will There Be Space Wars?

Astoundingly, eighty countries have a presence in the race to space. China, Russia, and the United States are the frontrunners, joined by emerging space states who want a say in the future of space exploration. The United States has urged the future use of space be peaceful; their desire is to reject the utilization of destructive satellite systems and the deployment of nuclear weapons in space. Even so, such desires for space are likely going unheeded. The reality is, no one generally knows just what has been secretly placed out there. Does the earth have a future if there is war in space?

Star Wars may not be just in the movies

The Soviet Union began the race for space on October 4, 1957 with the launch of the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik. The following year, January 31, 1958, the United States launched its first satellite, Explorer 1, which began the venture of Americans into space. By February 1962, the space race between the United States and the Soviets was in full swing. The Soviets sent the first man, Yuri A. Gagarin, into space on April 12, 1961, executing a one-orbit flight aboard his Vostok spaceship. On Feb. 20, 1962, astronaut John H. Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth during the three-orbit Mercury-Atlas 6 mission aboard the spacecraft he named Friendship 7.

The race to space was heated up even more on May 25, 1961. President John F. Kennedy announced before a special joint session of Congress the dramatic and ambitious goal of sending an American safely to the Moon before the end of the decade. It was politically motivated in competition with the USSR. Kennedy felt great pressure to have the United States play "catch up" and surpass the Soviet Union in the space race. On July 20, 1969, the U.S. accomplished the challenge when American astronaut, Neil Armstrong, became the first man to set foot on the Moon after the Eagle safely landed on the historic Apollo 11 mission.

During the same year, October 1962, the Cuban Missile Crisis occurred. The USSR placed nuclear armed missiles on nearby Cuba. An intense 13-day standoff between U.S. President John F. Kennedy and Soviet President Nikita Khrushchev ensued. President Kennedy, in a national television address, informed Americans about the presence of the missiles, and he explained his decision to enact a naval blockade around Cuba. He made it plain the U.S. was prepared to use military force if necessary to neutralize this perceived threat to national security. At this time, many people feared the world was on the cusp of nuclear war; however, disaster was averted. Soviet leader, Khrushchev, offered to remove the Cuban missiles if the U.S. promised not to invade Cuba. Kennedy also, under a cloak of secrecy, agreed to remove U.S. missiles from Turkey.

During the 60s and on into the 80s, the fears of nuclear war was constant. The two super powers were in a standoff. The only resort was to make nuclear war so objectionable and deplorable that each adopted a mutual assured destruction doctrine. Both would be obliterated in the event of nuclear war.

The Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), which was nicknamed the Star Wars program, was a proposed missile defense system intended to protect the United States from attack by ballistic nuclear missiles. The program was announced in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan. Reagan called for a system that would render nuclear weapons obsolete and would end the doctrine of mutual assured destruction (MAD), which he described as a "suicide pact."

While the concept of SDI has become more complicated due to higher missile technologies, other technologies, such as, high powered lasers have also been developed. Only space-based lasers seemed hopeful in the short run. It became clear the idea of space-based weaponry was as important as ground-based defense initiative.

Russia and China are catching up to the U.S. in space weaponry, spacenews.com reported in 2024: “The Secure World Foundation (SWF) on April 2 released its annual report, ‘Global Counterspace Capabilities: An Open-Source Assessment,’ that sheds light on the growing space arms race between the United States, Russia and China. The report, compiled from publicly available information, details the counterspace capabilities — essentially space weapons — being developed by a dozen countries. Notably, it finds that Russia and China are rapidly catching up to the United States in key areas like electronic warfare and space domain awareness. Both Russia and China have made significant strides in developing space-based electronic warfare tools that can disrupt or disable enemy satellites, the report found. This includes technologies like electronic jamming systems and directed energy weapons using lasers or microwaves. The two countries have also caught up in the space domain awareness arena with advanced inspector satellites capable of maneuvering alongside orbiting spacecraft for up-close monitoring or attacks. Russia in particular has ramped up its space warfare capabilities over the last decade as it seeks to regain Soviet-era military advantages that were lost after the Cold War ended, according to the report.”

The article continues, “The SWF in its report briefly mentioned recent rumors of a new Russian program to develop nuclear-powered satellites that could slam the U.S. with electromagnetic pulses, potentially crippling huge portions of the military’s space asset fleet. It noted that details of this threat remain largely unknown. For China, space weapons development is being driven by a desire to counter U.S. military superiority and increase its own regional clout, the report states. Beijing views the ability to nullify American space systems as key to deterring potential future conflicts.” (spacenews.com)

As president-elect, Donald Trump, begins his second term, it will be intriguing to see how the Space Force will be used to combat potential threats in light of Russia’s and China’s space-based efforts. Created during President Trump’s first term on December 20, 2019, the Space Force has become a focal point of national security strategy with its mission aimed at countering rising space threats from China and Russia.

With the development of space stations, space shuttles, and the potential of moon bases, what will the future be? If mankind has imagined it, science has placed it within his grasp to accomplish it. It is quite possible we already have nuclear weapons set on satellites in space and a host of other technologies which have been kept top secret from the public with enough fire power to blot out all life.

Only God has the answers

There is hope ahead! The Bible reveals mankind isn’t doomed. Jesus said, “*And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.*” (Matthew 24:22)

God will intervene in human affairs and will forcibly stop the mad rush to human annihilation. It will take the intervention of Jesus Christ when He returns with great power and glory to set up His kingdom (Matthew 24:30-31; Revelation 1:7; Daniel 2:44-45). He will come on the clouds of heaven. A hostile world, already engaged in war with each other, will be angry at His appearing. They will turn all their earth and space-based weapons on Him. He will punish the nations that have dared to use their scientific arsenals for war (Revelation 11:18; 17:13-14).

When Christ, as the King of kings, rules on earth with the assistance of the saints for 1000 years, all weapons of war — including those space-based — will cease to exist. They will be destroyed or repurposed as implements of peace (Isaiah 2:2-4).

Finally, the utopian paradise long prophesied will be ushered in. Jesus will open the minds of people to the truth of God. No longer will humankind have to worry about war in space and on earth. He will then begin to show all humanity the way to have peace, and how to have happy and abundant lives.

This is my Perspective!