

World Peace Through Space Law

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In this Article, Hyman ventures into the novel topic of Space Law, particularly Outer Space, and its implications on world peace. It narrates the recent significant developments in the matter of outer space, such as the launch in 1957 of Sputnik I, in 1959 of Lunik I, and so on. The Author directs the attention of the reader to the emergence thereby of valid issues of concern — among which is whether the outer space or planets shall be deemed “terra nullius” or “res communis.” He also expresses concern as to the effects of such exploration measures of both the Soviet Union and the United States (US) in the field of international politics, as well as economic and psychological affairs. The Author goes on to demonstrate the varying definitions attributed to peace, depending on whose standpoint it comes from. It was then noted that the report rendered by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as proposed by the US and adopted by the General Assembly, proves futile as it offers no solutions to the problems raised. In this light, the Author proposes that the nations of the world convene and attempt to agree on an international code on outer space, which give an assurance somehow that countries will not resort to war when confronted with indecision. He thus enumerates several things that the code may very well adopt, such as a particular definition of outer space, the prohibition of nuclear experiments, freedom of exploration, use and exploitation thereof for the benefit of all mankind, and so on. Not discounting realistic challenges that the proposal will meet, Hyman maintains that states should begin to learn how to settle their differences, saying that nation-states should now work towards becoming world-states.