Security and Space
A Quasi-Historical Perspective

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Abstract

Technology and economics lead to better lives for all. Also give dangerous tools of destruction. Space no exception. Weaponisation of Space in a narrow sense unlikely for a few decades. But now Space has been intricately connected to national security and therefore aggression as well. Also closely linked to Nuclear Weapons delivery. This talk attempts a quasi-historical perspective. Many worries about Space from developing nations and other thinkers during 1970's and 1980's, have now been proved wrong. Now much higher resolution pictures are easily available and world has many TV channels. No great worries about national sovereignty violations.

However, the nuclear non-proliferation concerns have spilled over to Space technology. Therefore highly regulated by Missile Technology Control Regimes (MTCR) by a small group of possessors of technology are in operation. Many civilian benefits benefits are blocked in the process. The paper also points out how control on technology diffusion by denial regimes are bound to fail. It also points out with examples as to how much the Space technology has revolutionized military affairs. So those who possess these technologies directly or through allies, desire to have a great lead over others. So denials increase. Tensions increase.

So Space assets can be attacked or damaged. Some discussion on these items.

The paper explores a direction through which a balance of aspirations of national sovereignty and fear of military proliferation can be approached. Existing examples of WTO, frequency spectrum and orbit allocations etc are cited. Some ideas about a way forward and new domains of thinking are given with a hope to have a balance peace.

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