

ISPI - Quaderni di Relazioni Internazionali

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Editorial by *Boris Biancheri*

Dossier: Space Strategies

Global Commons, Space Power and Strategy

Colin S. Gray

Today, it is an uncontested commonplace to claim that space power is a military and commercial necessity. It is rather less commonplace to argue that the contemporary global economy, and military operations by modern states have become irreversibly dependent upon space systems enablers. The global economic and security systems have become addicted to, and dependent upon, their access to the benefits of space systems. The human race has entered a space age from which there can be no exit.

Security in Space: Moving toward a New Paradigm for Cooperation

Theresa Hitchens

The past year and a half has seen a confluence of negative and positive trends for space security. The Chinese and the U.S. militaries sit poised at the edge of an ASAT arms race that might cause others to follow suit. Chances for an actual space weapons ban seem as remote as ever. On the other hand, the political forces – led by the Europeans – urging restraint have grown much stronger and there is an emerging consensus about the need to protect the space “environment” for future use. It is highly possible that both these trend lines will continue for some time, without either coming fully to fruition.

China’s Space Capabilities and Security Interests

Ashley J. Tellis

This article provides an overview of Beijing’s space efforts. The first section assesses the key characteristics of China’s space program writ large. The second section briefly describes China’s military space capabilities in different dimensions and provides summary evaluations of their significance. The third section appraises the impact of China’s space and counter space investments on U.S. national security and its military operations.

International Space Law and its Perspectives

Marco Pedrazzi

In the aftermath of first space activities, the international space law knew a great development. In the last three decades changes in space uses and activities have had an impact on international space law. Nowadays law has to be made consistent with new developments and requirements. New rules and international constraints more effective than the existent ones have to be created.

Economic Issues of Space Policy

Henry R. Hertzfeld

The article presents an overview of some of the important and often overlooked economic and management aspects of the space economy and the economics of the space industry. There is a complex interrelationship between technology and economics in the space arena and because engineers and scientists dominate, the economic questions are often marginalized. The article demonstrates that even though the annual expenditures on space are relatively small the impact of space has grown and changed.

Diplomazia

European Space Policy: the Galileo Program

Alberto Cutillo

Galileo is a global network satellite system that will compete with the U.S. and Russian existing systems. Both the UE and member states have great expectations on the program success. Nevertheless, it is a long term challenge above all because of Galileo’s complex governance.

Osservatorio internazionale

From Balkans to Caucasus. The Succession wars and New Regional Systems

Alessandro Colombo

International politics has been characterized and continues to be characterized by conflicts or succession wars caused by the fragmentation of the Soviet Union, the Yugoslav Federation, the British and Ottoman empires. The core of fragmentation processes is the transformation of a domestic society in an international society. The road to international post-imperial systems is a “differentiation” and “disintegration” process.

The Chechen Conflict at 18: Historical and International Perspectives

Matthew Evangelista

This article seeks to put the origins of Chechnya’s conflict with the Russian Federation into historical and international perspective, some eighteen years after the region’s declaration of sovereignty. The conflict is still far from over, even though most of the major military action has ended. Superficially, Putin’s policy of “Chechenization” has been a success. But it has undoubtedly sown the seeds of future conflict.

Documentazione

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European Space Policy