**Resolved: The appropriation of outer space by private entities is unjust.**

**AFF**

**V- Morality**

**“the degree to which something is right and good : the moral goodness or badness of something”**

**C- Minimizing Structural Violence**

**“occurs whenever people are disadvantaged by political, legal, economic or cultural traditions.”**

https://theconversation.com/old-vs-new-the-next-generation-of-the-space-industry-64793

(Merriam-Webster)

**Definitions**

**NewSpace: Agile, responsive, and accepting of risk, and therefore far less expensive. ex: SpaceX, BlueOrigin**

**OldSpace: It develops the systems that NASA and other government agencies ask for, and is made up of the large heritage aerospace companies. Ex: NASA, Boeing, Airbus**

**Private entity: "any entity other than a State, local government, Indian tribe, or foreign public entity. (cornell.edu)**

**C1: Corporate totalitarianism**

[**https://thebaffler.com/salvos/dawn-of-the-space-lords-pein**](https://thebaffler.com/salvos/dawn-of-the-space-lords-pein)

**Pein 22**

**Yes indeed, there’s a new space race on. The stakes are the expansion of military, economic, and political dominion. As in the Cold War, this contest is ideological as well as technological. China has replaced Russia as America’s cosmic bogeyman. But nations are no longer the only leading actors. A new class of spacefaring oligarchs, most notably Musk and Amazon’s Jeff Bezos, whose space company is called Blue Origin, have been granted a kind of royal charter by Congress, the White House, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The personality cults around these billionaire space lords make the nationalistic spectacle of the Apollo program seem stodgy. More significantly, an endeavor once led by rule-bound bureaucrats now champions the dubious values of Silicon Valley: cost-cutting, disruption, disdain for regulations, and boundless monopoly.**

**Astronomer Lucianne Walkowicz, who organized a 2018 conference on “Decolonizing Mars,” says Musk’s plan would mean giving up on discovering the history of Earth’s neighbor. If there is life on other planets, human settlement could easily destroy it. But who cares about some lousy extraterrestrial microbes? The privatized space race is all about control.**

**Space privatization is a recipe for corporate totalitarianism, and not only inside the hypothetical off-world colonies. The costs involved are so great, and the stakes so high, that moving forward with such plans necessitates a de facto capture of the public sector by private interests.**

**Predictably, the space lords’ colonies would be governed as fiefdoms dressed up as libertarian paradises. An O’Neill Cylinder or an uninhabited planet might seem to satisfy the colonial fantasy of a blank canvas for economic and political expression. But no. The easel, the palette, the pigments, and the brushes will belong to the space lords, not to mention royalties in perpetuity from any intellectual property created using their space technologies.**

**Musk, audaciously, says existing laws won’t apply in his Martian sandbox. The terms of service for SpaceX’s Starlink specify that “the parties recognize Mars as a free planet and that no Earth-based government has authority or sovereignty over Martian activities. Accordingly, disputes will be settled through self-governing principles, established in good faith, at the time of Martian settlement.” Musk says he favors “direct democracy” on Mars. Sure, OK. No democracy can exist where one company controls the life support systems. Vote against the boss? No rations for you. Labor unrest? Try striking without oxygen. Musk claims Mars will be “the planet of opportunity,” promising “an explosion of entrepreneurial activity, because Mars will need everything from iron foundries to pizza joints.” Like many awful bosses, Musk imagines intolerable working conditions can be smoothed over with pizza on Fridays.**

**Contention 2: We need to stop capitalism**

[**https://www.victorshammas.com/blog/2019/12/17/capitalism-and-outer-space**](https://www.victorshammas.com/blog/2019/12/17/capitalism-and-outer-space)

**Shammas 2019**

**Our working hypothesis has been that outer space represents the next logical step for capital’s expansion. We can think of capital as a machine that wants to blanket the world. There is no end to what capital would like to profit from, no limit to which realms of life it wants to insinuate itself into. Capital is by its very nature voracious. It has a limitless appetite. The problem, of course, is that Earth is finite and fixed. Logically, then, capital must try to push beyond Earth’s frontiers into a limitless domain, namely the universe as such, which mirrors capital’s own boundless ambitions. Capital is like a virus, and outer space represents an infinite selection of fresh hosts awaiting infection.**

**In some ways, NewSpace signals the emergence of capitalism in space. The production of carrier rockets, placement of satellites into orbit around Earth, and the exploration, exploitation, or colonization of outer space (including planets, asteroids, and other celestial objects), will not be the work of humankind as such, a pure species-being, but of particular capitalist entrepreneurs who stand in for and represent humanity. Crucially, they will do so in ways modulated by the exigencies of capital accumulation. These enterprising capitalists are forging a new political-economic regime in space, a post-Fordism in space aimed at profit maximization and the apparent minimization of government interference.**

**Monbiot 2019**

**Capitalism’s failures arise from two of its defining elements. The first is perpetual growth. Economic growth is the aggregate effect of the quest to accumulate capital and extract profit. Capitalism collapses without growth, yet perpetual growth on a finite planet leads inexorably to environmental calamity. Those who defend capitalism argue that, as consumption switches from goods to services, economic growth can be decoupled from the use of material resources. Last week a paper in the journal New Political Economy, by Jason Hickel and Giorgos Kallis, examined this premise. They found that while some relative decoupling took place in the 20th century (material resource consumption grew, but not as quickly as economic growth), in the 21st century there has been a recoupling: rising resource consumption has so far matched or exceeded the rate of economic growth. The absolute decoupling needed to avert environmental catastrophe (a reduction in material resource use) has never been achieved, and appears impossible while economic growth continues. Green growth is an illusion.**