I negate the resolved: The appropriation of outer space by private entities is unjust

Our standard for the round is Progress, defined as achieving a better, higher, and more advanced state. From the Stanford Encyclopedia of Progress, “progress assert[s] that the human condition has improved over the course of history and will continue to improve.”

You prefer this for 2 reasons:

1. By advocating progress, you advocate for improvement of conditions for all regardless of in or out group, and by nature of betterment is a prerequisite to all standards.
2. Mindset progress allows for increased morality of intent, and with mindset shift comes the capacity for greater moral value.

Cont 1: Space Travel is inevitable- we cannot ignore its reality

Sub. A: The New Frontier, Just or Not- We have reached a point in social and economic development where we have turned our eyes to the stars. With the ever present threat of climate change, and with the rapid expansion of technology in the past century, space travel is not just possible, it is reality. We cannot view the resolution as a maybe- it is now. Companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin are already above us. If we refused to make any progress until every action had been weighed, if every movement was judged by archaic rules of ancient philosophy, we never could have gotten Laika into orbit, or walked on the moon. To argue justification, what is moral and not, cannot exist in a hypothetical future. It's now. “The human species, as well as all other animal and plant life on Earth, needs room to grow and multiply. Earth has a **finite** supply of land, air, and water, for which humans, animals, and plants must compete. Of all Earth species, only humans have or can acquire and utilize the knowledge to create new habitats on other worlds or in space from the raw materials of moons and asteroids.” Vaughn, 15 We talk about space, we talk about unlimited potential, one that is already in our hands.

Sub. B: Cost Of No Progress: Humanity is unsustainable in its current state. “We can’t keep subdividing Earth’s resource pie; we need to make the pie bigger. It is the promise of resources from the Moon, Mars, asteroids and the Sun that makes space such a hope for our future. World population is likely to double within 40 years and re-double shortly after that; world resources will not. In space, solar power is infinite (reducing the need to use forests and oil and coal merely for fuel, and eliminating the pollution they cause), as are asteroid metals. These unlimited resources would enable us to reduce the plundering of our planet.” Liss, 11 Case and point, we need to utilize the resources above us, or the cost is heinous.

Cont. 2: Nation States appropriating outer space would be worse than private entities

Sub. A: The Outer Space Treaty of 1967- Appropriation is inevitable, and a reality. However, appropriation by nation states would be worse than private entities. The last major space treaty by most major governments was in 1967- and it is remarkably flawed. Signed during the Cold War, it aimed to stop governments from doing much of anything on planets or celestial bodies. It’s goal was to prevent warfare in space, but due to the remarkably vague wording- the treaty in its modern interpretation may have the opposite effect. “The lifeblood of military communications and control now runs through space, meaning we’d see humankind’s first battles for the heavens.” Singer and Cole, 15 So governments are trapped in a gridlock. They can’t do anything worth their time in space, and the only thing they want to do is go to war.

Sub. B:

Nation states are already gearing up for some form of ‘space war’ “With space becoming more congested, asset protection will contribute at least $5.5 billion (dollars) to the US Defense budget over the next five years. This amount is likely to be allocated within the classified budget, and will create new opportunities for defense names. US Space Command has already grown to roughly the same size as the Coast Guard with about 2.5 times the budget. Because space spending is closely linked to national security threats from near-peer countries, we see the resurgence of Russia and rise of China as important tailwinds to Pentagon spending in space. Both countries have successfully tested anti-satellite weapons, exposing the risk to US space assets.” Poponak, 16 It's clear that the US, as well as other former space travel juggernauts see space as an avenue for warfare, pumping their budget into war games rather than realistic and rewarding avevenes. Private companies, while perhaps competitive, don’t have large arsenals of missiles they can launch at the snap of a finger. By allowing private entities to bring about this new era of humanity, we can avoid expanding our warzones above our heads.

We, as people, have decided space is our next calling. We made movies, stories, playground games about our need to progress into the stars. We will not let our dreams die in vain, (we will not let Laika die in vain.) And private entities are getting us there, and without them, the cost is insurmountable. So we take the leap. Like JFK said- Not because it’s easy, but because it's hard.