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## Space Security

### Laws

#### Americans and Russians on Space Weapons

January 30, 2008

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A large majority of Americans and Russians would support a treaty banning the weaponization of space, finds a recently-released poll. This was a joint study of WorldPublicOpinion.org and the Advanced Methods of Cooperative Security Program, at the Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland (CISSM).

#### The Bush National Space Policy: Contrasts and Contradictions

October 13, 2006

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On Oct. 6, the Bush administration released a revised U.S. National Space Policy (NSP), superseding the previous 1996 policy crafted by the Clinton administration. While much of the previous policy's language has been incorporated into the new version, an analysis of the two texts reveals a number of subtle, but important, differences. Taken together, the changes in wording aggregate to a much more unilateralist vision of the U.S. role, particularly its military role, in space. CDI Director Theresa Hitchens explains.

Author(s): [Theresa Hitchens](#)

#### Congress Limits Space-based Interceptor, Supports Ground-based Missile Defense

October 4, 2006

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Congress recently passed the National Defense Authorization Act which emphasizes near-term missile defense capabilities and restricts space-based interceptors. The Act also allocates continued funding for the Cooperative Threat Reduction program as well as ground- and sea-based missile defense systems, explains CDI Research Assistant Tim Murphy in a recent analysis.

Author(s): [Tim Murphy](#)

#### Engaging the Reluctant Superpower: Practical Measures for Ensuring Space Security

April 1, 2005

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Address in Geneva by Theresa Hitchens, CDI Vice President and Director, CDI Space Security Project, before a UN Institute for Disarmament Research conference on "Safeguarding Space Security: Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space." Hitchens argues that now is the time for launching concerted and constructive dialogue among the space-faring powers to undertake initiatives that promote cooperation in areas where they have mutual interests – as well as constructive criticism of emergent activities that could threaten the security of global space assets.

Author(s): *Theresa Hitchens* 

### **The White House National Space and Technology Council Fact Sheet: National Space Policy**

January 22, 2003

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Access to and use of space is central for preserving peace and protecting U.S. national security as well as civil and commercial interests. The United States will pursue greater levels of partnership and cooperation in national and international space activities and work with other nations to ensure the continued exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. *Originally released by the White House Sept. 19, 1996.*

### **Existing Legal Constraints on Space Weaponry**

January 15, 2001

[▶ PRINTER-FRIENDLY VERSION](#)

Three treaties restrict the development, deployment, and use of weapons in outer space. Even considered together, international law leaves open vast opportunities for space weaponry.

### **Excerpts from the Report of the Commission to Assess United States National Security Space Management and Organization**

January 12, 2001

[▶ PRINTER-FRIENDLY VERSION](#)

The Commission was established pursuant to a provision inserted in the FY 2000 National Defense Authorization Act. The Commission met from May-December 2000 and issued its report on Jan. 11, 2001.

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