



## Security Council (2022)

The UNSC is the premier U.N. organization to tackle the most crucial geopolitical threats. During this session, you will try to mediate solutions for problems with no easy answers. You will help create solutions to help vulnerable people in regions like Ethiopia, which has suffered from a year of civil war that has displaced over 3 million residents. You will create dialogue and communication for regions that are not currently at war but suffer from political instability, like that in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Finally, you will look to the future and open meaningful dialogue on preventing the armament of outer space.

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### Defusing and Stabilizing the Situation in Ethiopia

#### Topic Background

The Horn of Africa is one of the planet's youngest sovereign regions, with most of its nations only earning true independence in the last 70 years but has a rich culture dating back to humanity's origins. With the Arab League encompassing the region and tensions reaching all-time highs since 2020, Ethiopia has found itself in a stage of armed conflict with civilians stuck in the middle.

An armed conflict – the Tigray War – rages in Ethiopia. Prime Minister Addis Ababa has sought to offer concessions and wind down the conflict, but observers agree that a negotiated peace settlement is still dim<sup>1</sup>.

#### Current Situation

With a 65% Christian population, Ethiopia contrasts heavily with its Arab neighbors. While most states in the area subscribe to the Alexandria Protocol or a heavy relationship between state rule and Pan-Arab ideology, Ethiopia's Prime Minister [Abiy Ahmed](#) wanted to address Ethiopia's growing ethnic-nationalist movement. The state of Tigray is home to a robust and left-wing movement. Controlling 95% of Tigray's local parliament is Tigray People's Liberation Front, a unified, Marxist group interested in maintaining the rich ethnocentrism within Ethiopia's mainland. The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) leads the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), a syndicate of parties that controls over 80% of Ethiopia's vote in and out of the Tigray region.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/horn-africa/ethiopia/b171-ethiopias-tigray-war-deadly-dangerous-stalemate>

After the last head of the EPRDF left and resigned from the Prime Ministry, the TPLF wanted to appoint [Shiferaw Shigute](#) as the new Prime Minister. However, within the EPRDF, which dominated most if not all of parliament, other parties opposed the TPLF, and in a joint effort, appointed Abiy Ahmed. Since taking office, Ahmed has been the architect of thought in unifying the parties within the EPRDF and other opposing parties under a 'Prosperity Party.' The hope of the Prosperity Party is to diffuse tension from the TPLF, arguably the most far-left within the EPRDF.

As a result of the unification efforts, the TPLF, led by its chairman [Debretsion Gebremichael](#), decided to defy the federal government and allowed [regional elections in Tigray](#) to proceed. The federal government declared this Tigray election illegitimate and illegal. This was the spark that marked the beginning of the Ethiopian civil war. In November 2020, the TPLF attacked the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF), and the country has been engulfed in armed conflict since.

Tigray's ousted leadership has retreated to rural areas and has drawn support from the local populace. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has mustered forces from other regions and sought to use overwhelming force against the ousted opposition leaders in Tigray.

The International community, and primarily the U.S., E.U., and African Union, have sought a ceasefire to allow for aid delivery to the region as well as a pursuit of a negotiated settlement. The international community has also been critical of reported humanitarian conflicts, including targeting civilians and free media. Numerous war crimes and human rights violations have been documented on both fronts across both old and new media and show no sign of stopping. Up until February 2021, the federal government had banned foreign media and aid agencies from accessing the region. Though that restriction has nominally been lifted, both aid and media groups still face obstacles entering the Tigray region.

Right now, both sides have reached a stalemate of sorts. The Tigrayan forces have the support of the local population as well as the Tigray Defence Forces (TDF), a local armed resistance group. In contrast, the Prime Minister has the support of the establishment of defense forces. The Prime Minister has until now refused to engage the Tigray leaders in any negotiated settlement, calling them violent traitors.

"What I would like to tell the people of Tigray, the friends of Tigray and the honorable parliament, is that the TPLF has now become like grain powder that has been dispersed by the wind. We can't collect it again and make it edible powder" - PM Abiy Ahmed.

The humanitarian crisis facing civilians caught in the crossfire will become much direr over the next few weeks if action is not taken. Normal agricultural practices have ceased as a result of hostilities, and the region is in danger of losing a whole growing season. Critical infrastructure has been targeted and destroyed to the detriment of local towns. Aid agencies estimate that "4.5 Million people in the region ... needed emergency food supplies." Countless more "have been

without access to electricity, communications, and other essential services.” A focus on the conflict has meant an increase in looting and crime in the region and throughout the country. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission has accused Eritrean forces of mass killings of civilians, an accusation that has further increased support behind the Tigray opposition forces.

In March 2021, the U.N. High Commissioner of Human Rights stated that “serious violations of international law, ... possibly war crimes... have been committed by multiple actors in the conflict. The U.N. Security Council should act to provide help and support in ending this internal civil war.

### **Discussion Questions:**

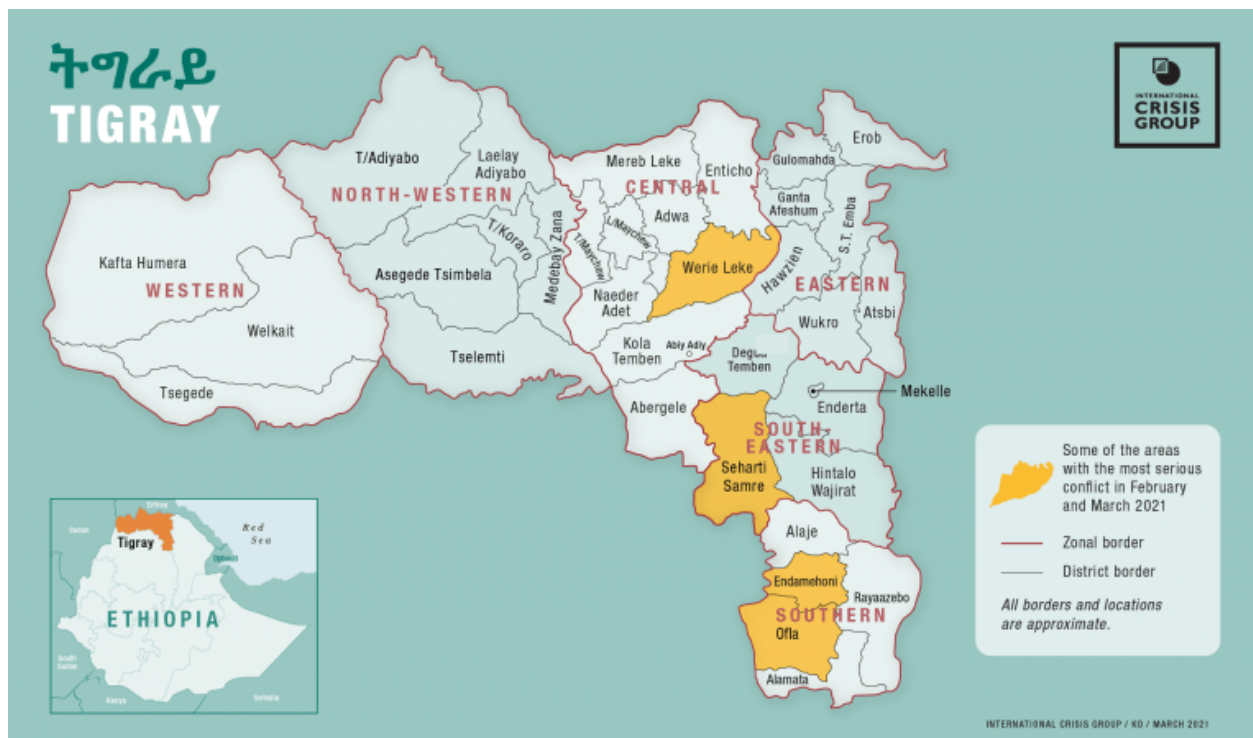
- How should the U.N. Security Council and the international community at large respond to the claims of human rights violations and potential war crimes committed by Eritrean, Ethiopian, and Opposition Tigray Leaders?
- This conflict shows no signs of slowing. How can the U.N. Security Council facilitate aid into the region and allow for the care of civilians who are in danger of lacking basic human resources?
- The Tigray Opposition forces have sought to push government forces out of Western Tigray, opening up a supply chain from neighboring Sudan for food and other aid supplies. How will Sudanese-Ethiopian ties react if this happens and how can the UNSC prevent the conflict from reverberating throughout the Horn of Africa?

### **Key Terms:**

- Tigray People’s Revolutionary Front (TPRF): Marxist, Left Wing group known for leading the EPRDF and dominating the Tigray local parliament.
- Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF): A larger syndicate of parties, including the TPRF, OPDO, and ANDM.
- Ethiopian Defense Force: National Army of Ethiopia, backed by Turkey, and Iran, Eritrea, and the United Arab Emirates
- Tigray War
- Tigray Defense Forces (TDF)

## Key Sources:

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## Ensuring Political Stability in Bosnia-Herzegovina

### Topic Background

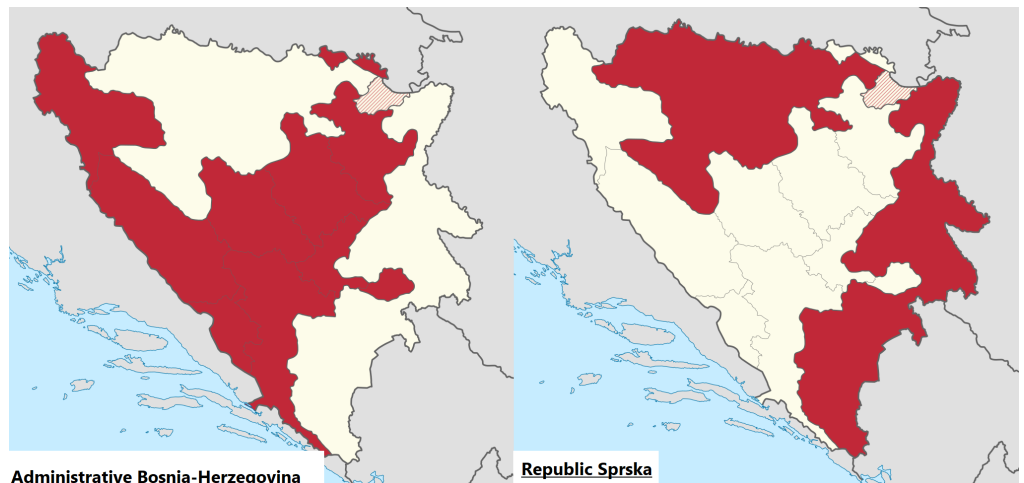
Twenty-six years after the end of the Bosnian War, the country of Bosnia-Herzegovina faces perhaps the biggest threat to its stability and continued existence. The 1995 Dayton Peace agreement created a power sharing system between the country's three main ethnic groups. The leader of the Serbian-affiliated political party, which is currently in power, has threatened to establish a Bosnian-Serb army and cut ties with key central institutions, essentially creating a secession movement. The international community looks on with varied emotions. Europe fears a geopolitical crisis so close to its backyard. The U.S. sees yet another example of a democracy flirting with authoritarianism. Russia and Turkey have fostered close ties with the ruling Bosnian-Serb party and could benefit from a Bosnia-Herzegovina that is pivoting away from Europe and the West.

### Historical Background

After the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia dissolved in 1992, its 100,000 square miles of land, just 40% that of

Texas, was to be allocated to a diverse range of ethnic groups. Serbs, Croats, Montenegrins, Slavoks, and Slovenes, torn apart and away from their homes amidst the Yugoslav wars, didn't know where to call home. While Montenegro, Slovenia, have found strong, U.N. recognized roots, Kosovo, Bosnia, and Herzegovina continue to struggle with concrete borders and discrete international respect for borders and autonomous rights. Bosnia-Herzegovina itself is host to three larger ethnic groups: The Serbs, Croats, and Bosniaks. 2022 marks 30 years since roughly 100,000 people were killed in what became a [proven case of genocide](#) by the Bosnian Serb army prior to Bosnia-Herzegovina honoring a Serbian vote with the new format of Presidency.

The Constitution of the country allows for each ethnic group to elect a president, with the Serbs and Bosnians electing within the primary Bosnia-Herzegovina territory, and the Croats electing their official within the Croat representative president elected by Republika Srpska.

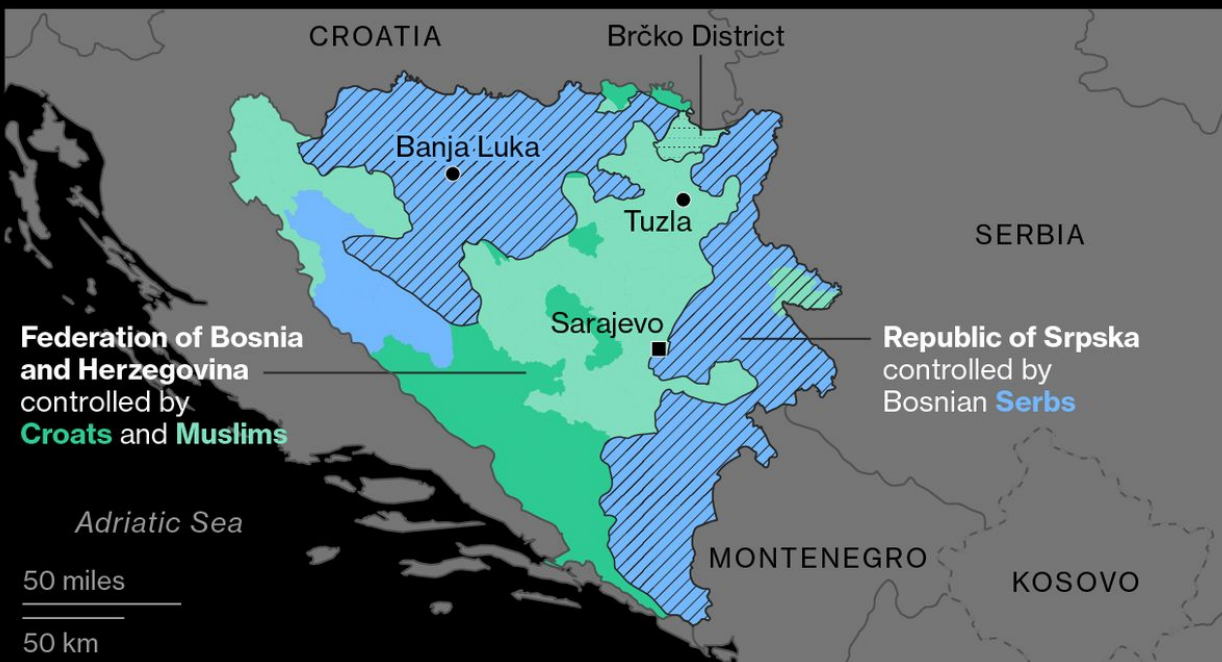


## Current Situation

### An Uneasy Peace

Bosnia has held together since 1995, though ethnic tension has never been far away

■ Bosnian Serbs ■ Bosnian Muslims ■ Bosnian Croats



Source: 2013 Census in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bloomberg

As of 2021, The Bosniak presidency is held by [Šefik Džaferović](#), the Croat is [Željko Komšić](#), and [Milorad Dodik](#) for the Serbs. The latter, since late 2021, has made public motions of his intent to remove Republika Srpska's contributions and obligations to the nation's armed forces, judicial system, and internal revenue engine (taxes). These threats prove an issue not only to the native Croat and Bosnian population, but also to the stability of the region given the heavy level of dispute of territory not only within the country, but also in the surrounding nations.

The Dayton Accords, the power-sharing agreement in the country, creates a triad of presidents, one Serb, one Bosniak, and one Croat, to represent the ethnic groups within the country and to rule. Each president serves as head of the country for a period of time before passing it to the next triad president in line. Late last year, Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik sparked fears of a succession bid when he said Republika Srpska would pull out of three key Bosnia Herzegovina state institutions — the armed forces, the top judiciary body and the tax agency. This would in essence create a “de facto” secession, if not a “de jure” one. Republika Srpska was angry over passage of a law banning genocide denial. He and his party have repeatedly denied assertions of



any genocide committed by Serbs in the country after the dissolution of Yugoslavia and claim that the Dayton Accords are just a way of keeping Bosnia-Herzegovina dependant on the West. They see the accords as an unfair balance of power and an overreach by the international community. The E.U. and the U.S. have released statements condemning the rhetoric from Milorad Dodik, threatening sanctions if the situation continues. Turkey for it's part has always been a close ally of the Bosnian-Serbs and of Milorad's Party. This is potentially an opportunity for Bosnia-Herzegovina to pivot away from the West and towards closer relationships with Turkey and Russia.

As members of the European Union, these States have obligations and currently face threats of economic sanction should they fail to reconcile the State. The United States has already cited Dodik for violating the Dayton accords, a summit held in Dayton, Ohio under President Bill Clinton to properly recognize and reconcile remaining borders in the former Socialist Yugoslav Republic.

### **Key Terms**

- *Bosnians*: An ethnic group, primarily Muslim, native to the region
- *Serbs*: An ethnic group, primarily Eastern Orthodox, native to the region, related to the neighboring 'Serbia'
- *Croats*: An ethnic group, primarily Roman Catholic, related to the neighboring Croatia to the north.
- Milorad Dodik: Legally elected president representing the Serbs (and Republika Srpska) shares the role with Zeljko Komsic and Sefik Dzaferovic.
- European Union: Trade body of Europe
- Dayton Accords: 1995 Ohio Summit to draw borders and acknowledge legally binding peace treaties, since violated by Dodik.
- Srebrenica Massacre

### **Discussion Questions**

- Some observers in Europe have accused Russia and Turkey of amplifying this political crisis by providing resources and influence to the ruling Bosnian-Serb Party. What potential motives would Turkey or Russia have in creating a succession close to their borders?
- One key point of tension is a law outlawing genocide denial. The ruling party continues to deny that the Srebrenica massacre falls under the category of genocide and have used this law as an example of federal overreach. Are there lessons the international



community can learn when dealing with past historical atrocities and the right way to come to terms with our past actions?

### Sources and Additional Reading

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<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/7/11/remembering-srebrenica-two-decades-on>
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## The Space Race, Arms Proliferation Beyond the Stratosphere and Preventing Armament in Space

### Topic Overview

October 4th, 1957 was the launch of the first Soviet Union's *Sputnik I*, the first-ever satellite to successfully launch and achieve low Earth orbit. The oft-cited start of the *Space Age*, *Sputnik*'s launch catalyzed the *Space Race*, a decades-long period of competitive innovation in space flight between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Since then, humanity has achieved incredible feats in spaceflight—numerous humans from various nations have since stepped foot on the moon; the International Space Station maintains a continuous human presence in space for the advancement of space research and humanity as a whole; and even private organizations (e.g. Lockheed Martin, Boeing, SpaceX) dedicate resources to research on the colonization of Mars.

The amount of progress in spaceflight and space travel since 1957 is commonly regarded as a testament to the power of 20th and 21st Century human innovation, where the broad strokes contribute to the motivations and aspirations of young people around the world seeking careers as academics and professionals in engineering.

However, as the documentation of spaceflight research becomes more readily accessible to the scientific community at-large, new opportunities regarding the weaponization of outer space are becoming increasingly tenable for entities that wish to pursue it.

The following document intends to inform the delegates of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) of the context, history, and state of a weaponized outer space. Additionally, as delegates in an agency tasked with the promotion of international peace and security, this document also calls upon delegates to consider key questions and issues regarding the trajectory of the current research and the fundamental moral obligation of nations regarding the implementation of spaceflight technology.

### Historical Background

## Terminology, Clarifications, and Overview of Space Weapons

This topic concerns the proliferation, armament, and disarmament of *space weapons*, that is, weapons or arms with the intent of facilitating *space warfare* (which excludes space systems for the purpose of surveillance, communication, or espionage). A common misconception regarding space warfare is that it concerns battles that take place exclusively in outer space. Rather, *space warfare* is any sort of warfare where the target is in space. This consists of two (2) categories: *space-to-space* warfare and *Earth-to-space* warfare. Within this definition, *space-to-Earth* warfare is technically *not* space warfare, as the targets of space-to-Earth attacks are terrestrial.

On the other hand, space weapons are any weapons used for any of the three categories of space-related warfare. And so, within the context of this document, the term “space warfare” will informally include space-to-Earth warfare to accommodate the subject matter of this topic. The remaining portion of this section further defines and provides examples for each variety of space weapon.

*Space-to-space weapons* are weapons used in outer space to attack other systems in space. A common example of space-to-space weaponry is the former Soviet Union’s *R-23M Kartech*, a cannon installed on the secret *Almaz* space station in the 1970s that can allegedly hit targets within a two-mile radius with a rate of fire of 950 to 5,000 rounds per minute<sup>2</sup>. Examples of space-to-space weapons in recent history are less well-documented, with the R-23 being the only known active deployment of a weapon intended for defense in space.

*Earth-to-space weapons* are the most common form of space weaponry describing weapons used from Earth’s surface (*i.e.*, land or sea) or atmosphere that attack systems in space. Earth-to-space weapons are commonly also referred to as *anti-satellite* weapons, as targets are generally satellites in the Earth’s orbit. Examples of these weapons can be found in recent development initiatives from both the U.S. and China.

*Space-to-earth weapons* are the least common category of space weapon, limited exclusively to theoretical or scientific implementations. Space-to-Earth weapons largely include *orbital weaponry*, which is any weapon that is in orbit around the Earth or other large astronomical object (*e.g.*, a planet, moon, or asteroid). Space-to-Earth weapons are prohibited per the Outer Space Treaty (see, “Existing Space Treaties”), as this category of space weapon holds significant liability, and also encompasses ICBMs and other Space-to-Earth nuclear weaponry.

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<sup>2</sup> Anatoly Zak, “Here Is the Soviet Union's Secret Space Cannon” (*Popular Mechanics*, 2015) <https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/a18187/here-is-the-soviet-unions-secret-space-cannon/>

## Existing Space Treaties

Currently, five treaties are agreed upon by the United Nations on activities conducted in outer space. These are the “Outer Space Treaty,” the “Rescue Agreement,” the “Liability Convention,” the “Registration Convention,” and the “Moon Agreement.” The following section summarizes details from the Outer Space Treaty, as it forms the foundation of the subsequent treaties. The other treaties comprise the entirety of Space Law as defined by the United Nations, and generally establish a precedent for peaceful operations and accountability for spacefaring nations. For more information regarding these treaties, please reference the “Citations and Relevant Sources.”

### *The Outer Space Treaty (1967)*

The “Outer Space Treaty” (formally, “Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies”) is the primary treaty defining present-day “space law”. The treaty provides guidelines for peaceful uses of outer space, written in part as a response to the development of ICBMs whose ranges could theoretically reach outer space.

The principles of the treaty, as summarized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs<sup>3</sup>, include the following principles:

- “the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries and shall be the province of all mankind;
- “outer space shall be free for exploration and use by all States;
- “outer space is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means;
- “States shall not place nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in orbit or on celestial bodies or station them in outer space in any other manner;
- “the Moon and other celestial bodies shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes;
- “astronauts shall be regarded as the envoys of mankind;
- “States shall be responsible for national space activities whether carried out by governmental or non-governmental entities;
- “States shall be liable for damage caused by their space objects; and
- “States shall avoid harmful contamination of space and celestial bodies.”

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<sup>3</sup> “Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies” (*United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs*).  
<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/introouterspacetreaty.html>

The treaty was agreed to in 1967 at the 1499th Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly after the adoption of Resolution 2222 (XXI).

### **Present-day Space Defense Projects**

After decades of collaboration and innovation, many nations and private organizations are now capable of operating orbital space systems. However, select space-capable nations now operate independent space forces or aeronautical departments for space defense purposes. Additionally, there are also joint / multilateral space commands, which integrate multiple branches of a nation's military or armed forces to maintain a space defense program. These programs and their respective nations are enumerated below:

#### *Dedicated Space Forces*

- (U.S.) United States Space Force

#### *Aerospace / Air & Space Forces*

- (PRC) PLA Strategic Support Force Space Systems Department
- (France) French Space Command
- (Iran) Iranian Space Command
- (Russia) Russian Space Forces

#### *Multilateral / Joint Space or Defense Commands*

- (U.S. & Canada) North American Aerospace Defense Command
- (India) Space Defense Agency
- (Italy) Space Operations Command
- (Mexico) Mexican Secretariat of National Defense
- (NATO) NATO Space Centre
- (Peru) National Commission for Aerospace Research & Development
- (ROK) Agency for Defense Development
- (U.K.) United Kingdom Space Command
- (U.S.) United States Space Command

These space forces and programs vary in the level and scope of their activities in outer space, but generally focus on performing activities of espionage, surveillance, or communication using satellites, as well as development of anti-satellite technology and operations. In the previous decade, space weapon research has dwindled significantly relative to the Cold War-era.

### **Discussion Questions**

While known active space-related operations all adhere to the five United Nations treaties on outer space (see, "Existing Space Treaties"), the future of activities in outer space is becoming increasingly uncertain as more advancements in space technology research are made. As a result, the following topics and questions are included in the conversation surrounding the militarization or weaponization of space:

- *The right to space exploration for all states.* As the number of space-capable nations increases, the accessibility to outer space exploration for nations without the resources of exploring space is worth considering. Should states be entitled to explore space, even without their own space-capable infrastructure and systems?
- *Creating distinct guidelines concerning both the militarization and weaponization of space.* While activities in outer space are limited exclusively to operations that promote peace, should the Security Council make formal distinctions and recommendations surrounding the militarization of outer space? Naturally, the weaponization of outer space is generally perceived as threatening, but should nations' military personnel be restricted from spacefaring projects?
- *Formally establishing airspace past the stratosphere* - As aerospace technology becomes more advanced, rocket-powered aircraft capable of exiting the Earth's stratosphere will become increasingly more accessible. Currently, airspaces are defined as the space controlled by nations *within* the atmosphere. Should formal recommendations be made as to where nations' aircrafts may operate outside of the Earth's stratosphere?
- *Regulation on armament and movement of 'fleets'* - Considering the possible creation of space weapons independent of current space law, what recommendations must the Security Council make regarding the ethicality and legality of various space weapons? That is, are certain space weapons 'worse' than others? Such weapons may include, but are not limited to: space-to-space cannons, ICBMs, anti-satellite and anti-spacecraft technology, orbital weaponry, etc.

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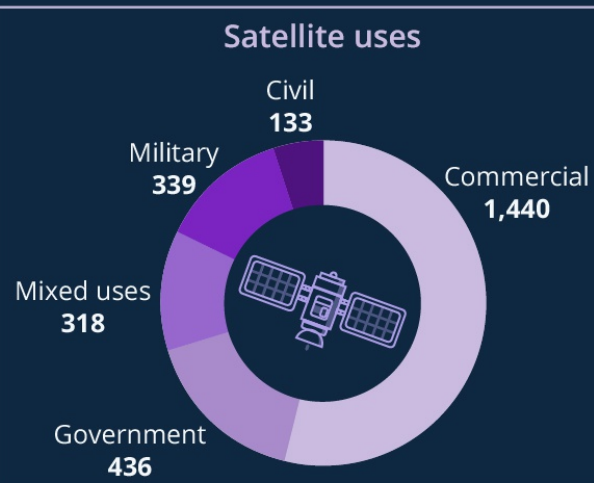
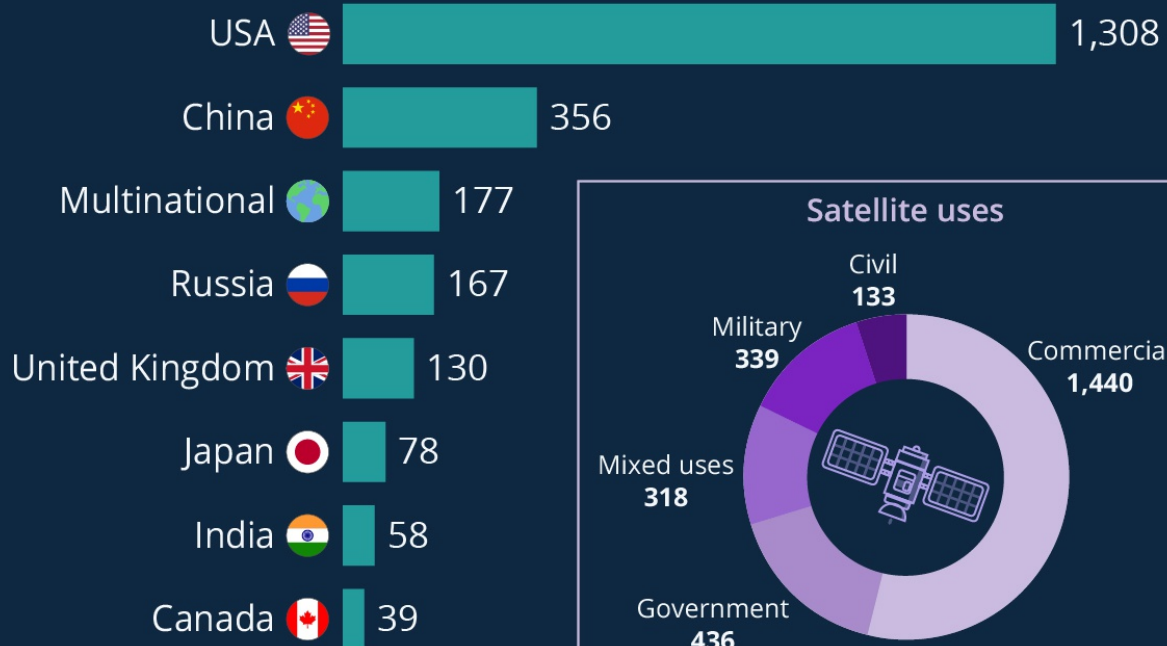
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- The Rescue Agreement (Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space) - <https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/introrescueagreement.html>
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- The Moon Agreement (“Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies”) - <https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/intromoon-agreement.html>



# The Countries With the Most Satellites in Space

Satellites currently orbiting Earth by country\* (as of April 2020)



\* Country of operator/owner

Source: Union of Concerned Scientist Satellite Database



# NEW SPACE RACE

Hayabusa	2003	returned asteroid sample to Earth in 2010
SELENE (Kaguya)	2007	orbited Moon for nearly 2 years
Chang'e 1	2007	first Chinese Moon probe
Chandrayaan-1	2008	discovered water on Moon
Chang'e 2	2010	orbited Moon for 8 months, then flew by asteroid
Mars Orbiter Mission	2013	India's first interplanetary mission
Chang'e 3	2013	lander on Moon with rover Yutu
Hayabusa2	2014	will return to Earth with asteroid sample in 2020
Chang'e 4	2018	first probe to land on far side of Moon
Chandrayaan-2	2019	orbited Moon; and rover and lander attempted to land
Chang'e 5	2020	planned to return lunar sample to Earth
HX-1 (Mars Global Remote Sensing Orbiter and Small Rover)	2020	first Chinese mission to Mars
SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon)	2022	will land near lunar lava tube entrance
Chang'e 6	2023	planned to return lunar sample to Earth
Chandrayaan-3	2023	lander (India) and rover (Japan) at Moon's south pole
Mars Orbiter Mission 2	2024	orbiter will perform detailed observations
MMX (Martian Moons Exploration)	2024	will return sample from Martian moon Phobos