

The Power of the Space Club

Why do nation-states choose to develop national space programs? How can they justify national efforts to acquire capabilities by arguing for membership of the space club? This book presents a unique and insightful perspective on the factors that drive states to indigenously develop world-class space technology in the past, present, and future of space exploration and technological development in world politics. Based on a rich and detailed analysis of a range of space programs in states that are not usually at the focus of world politics and its research, the author shows that joining the space club is a legitimate and rational decision. A country that sees itself as a power deserving of a seat at the table of world governance is expected to race for space. This book provides a different way of looking at international relations through a relatively understudied area of policy – the space club.

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To my grandparents, Holocaust survivors who rebuilt their lives in Israel and were a source of inspiration for their will to overcome, live, and do, precisely because it is hard; and to my sons, the shining stars of my life.

I sent the club a wire stating, PLEASE ACCEPT MY RESIGNATION.
I DON'T WANT TO BELONG TO ANY CLUB THAT WILL
ACCEPT ME AS A MEMBER.

Groucho Marx, 1959

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