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From Space debris to asteroid strikes to anti-satellite weapons, humanity's rapid expansion into Space raises major environmental, safety and security challenges. In this book, Michael Byers and Aaron Boley, an international lawyer and an astrophysicist, identify and interrogate these challenges and propose actionable solutions. They explore essential questions, from 'How do we ensure that all of humanity benefits from the development of Space, and not just the world's richest people?' to 'Is it possible to avoid war in Space?' Byers and Boley explain the essential aspects of Space science, international law, and global governance in a fully transdisciplinary and highly accessible way. Addressing the latest and emerging developments in Space, they equip readers with the knowledge and tools to engage in current and critically important legal, policy and scientific debates concerning the future development of Space. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

MICHAEL BYERS holds the Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law at the University of British Columbia. Professor Byers co-directs the Outer Space Institute, a global network of Space experts united by their commitment to transdisciplinary research that addresses grand challenges in the exploration and use of Space.

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# WHO OWNS OUTER SPACE?

International Law, Astrophysics and the Sustainable  
Development of Space

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**For Katharine and Karen, Cameron and Fraser, and Elise  
and Noelle**

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## CONTENTS

<i>List of Figures</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
<i>Note</i>	xii
<b>Introduction</b>	1
<b>1 Space Tourism</b>	11
<b>2 Mega-constellations</b>	46
<b>3 Mega-constellations and International Law</b>	77
<b>4 Abandoned Rocket Bodies</b>	114
<b>5 Space Mining</b>	130
<b>6 Planetary Defence</b>	186
<b>7 Space Security</b>	258
<b>8 Anti-satellite Weapons and International Law</b>	300
<b>9 Conclusion: Where to from Here?</b>	359
<i>Bibliography</i>	372
<i>Index</i>	390

## FIGURES

- 1.1 A comparison between suborbital and orbital flight trajectories 18
- 2.1 Image of a star cluster with multiple satellite streaks passing through the field of view 47
- 2.2 Cumulative growth curves of artificial objects in orbit 53
- 2.3 Top: inclinations of active and defunct satellites as a function of orbital altitude; bottom: spatial density of objects in orbit as a function of altitude 56
- 2.4 Spatial density of objects in orbit as a function of altitude, including possible densities of several proposed satellite constellations 59
- 4.1 Apogee–perigee distribution of abandoned rocket bodies in orbit 116
- 4.2 Image streak due to a tumbling abandoned rocket body in orbit 117
- 4.3 Photograph of a piece of rocket that survived re-entry and landed on Earth’s surface 119
- 4.4 Casualty expectations based on abandoned rocket bodies in orbit, along with a breakdown of contributions by launching states or regions 123
- 4.5 Curves for two rocket body weighting functions, representing the fraction of time spent over each latitude 124
- 4.6 Population density curve and a total rocket body weighting function projected onto a world map 124
- 5.1 Map of the Moon’s south and north poles 133
- 5.2 Image of asteroid Bennu taken by *OSIRIS-REx* spacecraft 134
- 5.3 Orbital diagram showing Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and Bennu 135
- 5.4 Photograph of NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine, President Donald Trump, VP Mike Pence and Second Lady Karen Pence watching a rocket launch 158
- 6.1 Photograph of Lake Manicouagan, which was created by a five-kilometre-diameter asteroid 187
- 6.2 Fireball and bolide data projected onto a world map 188
- 6.3 Near-Earth asteroid discovery curves, cumulative with time 192
- 6.4 Visualisation of the minimum orbital intersection distance (MOID) between a Bennu-like asteroid orbit and Earth 194
- 6.5 B-plane figure showing simulation results of different deflection scenarios for the hypothetical impactor 2019 PDC 198



- 6.6 Comet 67P/Churyumov–Gerasimenko, in a mosaic of four photographs from ESA’s *Rosetta* spacecraft 209
- 6.7 The expected damage due to an airburst from a 60-metre asteroid 217
- 6.8 Keyhole map for the 2029 flyby of Apophis 253
- 7.1 Gabbard plot showing the apogee–perigee distribution of tracked fragments resulting from India’s ASAT weapon test 268
- 7.2 Fraction of USA 193 and Microsat-R debris de-orbited by the number of months after the events 269
- 7.3 Orbital trajectories for 340 pieces of debris from the Russian ASAT weapon test 271
- 7.4 The increase in tracked debris across different altitudes due to the Russian ASAT weapon test 272
- 7.5 Ballistic trajectories for three different profiles, showing a depressed, an efficient and a high-altitude trajectory 284
- 7.6 Simplified example of ballistic missile flight times corresponding to depressed, efficient and high-altitude trajectories 284
- 7.7 Depiction of the FTG-15 ICBM interception test 286
- 7.8 Surviving debris resulting from the catastrophic break-up of a missile during an FTG-15-like ICBM interception test 287
- 7.9 A depiction of the Lagrange points for a simple dynamical model involving two massive bodies 291
- 7.10 Artist’s illustration of plans for a new DARPA program 293
- 8.1 Density of debris in orbit as of 27 January 2022 due to ASAT weapon tests 303
- 8.2 Photograph of Indian ballistic missile defence interceptor being launched for ASAT weapon test 304

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xi

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Michael Byers and Aaron Boley

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Chapter 5 draws on ‘US policy puts the safe development of space at risk’, (2020) 370:6513 *Science* 174–75.

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