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Research Guide Series

Military Use of Space

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The military use of space

As humanity began to explore space, the question of national security arose. The national interest of superpowers goes hand in hand with the use of space by military agencies; militarization of space accelerated during the Cold War, with the Soviet Union and the United States dominating the race. The launch of the first artificial satellite in 1957 opened a new chapter in space use for both commercial and military agencies. China's first manned space flight in 2003 confirmed that it had joined the select group of space-going nations and in 2007 China confirmed that it had shot down one of its own satellites. Space activity is becoming more and more vital not only in scientific, cultural and economic spheres, but also in military-strategic, and space exploration in the military respect may be a decisive contribution to the course and outcome of future wars and military conflicts.

This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on military use of space. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

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