

The Outer Space Treaty:
Rocketing to Peace through Universal Compromise

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Group Exhibit

Student Composed Words: 500

Process Paper: 500

Spanning from proxy conflicts and prominent wars to ballistic missiles and nuclear warheads, our group conceived a plethora of ideas during the plannings of our project. Evidently, all these ideas pointed to one major conflict: the Cold War. The Cold War spanned across fifty years -- too large of a topic to base our project on; therefore, we had to pinpoint one specific part of the conflict. An emblematic facet of the war, the space race captivated our group; however, it was also an extensive topic, so we looked for its more significant events. It was there that we discovered one of the most important compromises in the history of space law, and soon the topic of our project: the Outer Space Treaty of 1967.

Initially, our research consisted of learning about the historical context and information regarding our topic. *Crowded Orbits*, a book that allowed us to understand space law and conflict, provided information on tensions between the US and USSR. Additionally, the UN and Federal archives deepened our understanding of the treaty from its abundance of reliable information. Furthermore, we had opportunities to interview multiple professionals, including Mazlan Othman, the former director of the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian man in space and member of the Soviet T-11 mission. These experts' knowledge provided us with additional perspectives and research, ultimately helping us garner a detailed, complex and thorough understanding of our topic. After the affiliate contest, we revised our captions to focus more on the compromises which both countries made, while also enhancing the visual side of our exhibit. Additionally, we conducted more interviews with professionals, including Simonetta Di Pippo, whom is the current director of UNOOSA.

A project revolving around space law would be excellent for various categories, but the idea of an exhibit was most intriguing, as it presented an opportunity for us to make a resonating impact on readers and passersby. For our title board, we created models of blue (US) and red (USSR) rockets, signifying the conflicting ideologies in the Cold War. Completing our project was our multimedia timeline, which showcased the conflicts prior to the Outer Space Treaty and the impact it had on tensions between the US and USSR. Throughout this project, we tried to make the exhibit immersive, so our audience can fully understand our topic.

Our project presents a unique take on this year's theme, as treaties, fundamentally, are compromises that aim to prevent conflict. Major worldwide conflicts such as the Cold War and Space Race saw the US and USSR competing for geopolitical superiority, therefore pushing the world to the brink of disaster. It was a combination of these growing tensions and incessant conflicts that originated the idea of a compromise. This idea, dubbed the Outer Space Treaty, marked the beginning of a worldwide agreement: a compromise that would not only protect the Earth we live on, but through means of peaceful space exploration, unite the people who live on it.