THE OUTER SPACE TREATY IN THE CONTEXT
OF 21ST CENTURY

ABSTRACT

The Outer Space Treaty is the fundamental legal document of space law and this year it celebrates 50 years since its adoption. Questions are being raised among the international community about the relevance of the Treaty in the context of 21st century mostly given the completely different conditions at the time of its adoption and at present. Reasons for such a debate is the current development in the field of space and technology, which is not covered by the Outer Space Treaty or any other relevant binding convention. New possibilities to explore space are emerging, especially among the private actors and activities vary given its nature, from commercial to military. And within the 50 years these new options also slowly contribute to serious environmental problems, which were not of such importance and priority as they are now. Besides these issues, the space law is characterized by its high fragmentation and no common standard for national legislation in this field. Given these challenges the scholars and specialist agree, that the contemporary legislation does not provide a necessary framework to ensure the peaceful use of space and its future safety. The question is, what future will have the Outer Space Treaty in context of the circumstances? This thesis introduces the space law and its legal framework, analyses the Outer Space Treaty, its history, Articles, compares the field to other laws, applies its provisions on the problematic issues of the 21st Century and addresses issues which touch the Outer Space Treaty within the international community. The possible outcomes are stated in the thesis with a presentation of the most acceptable direction for the future heading of the Outer Space Treaty preferred by the author based on the studied problematic and literature.
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KEY WORDS

Space Law - The Outer Space Treaty - Article II - Article IV - 50 Years - Future