Space Debris & Emerging Space Powers

Presentation to

International Interdisciplinary Congress on Space Debris

Hosted by

The McGill University Institute of Air and Space Law Montreal, Canada
7-9 May, 2009

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Outline: Three Thoughts

Tragedy of the Commons Revisited

The Mice That Roared

■ Toward a Community Consensus

Tragedy of the Commons Revisited



- Global Collective Action
 - Nuclear war, climate change
- Skinny sheep v. sick sheep
 - The risk factor: aversion v. acceptance
- Big farmers v. small farmers
 - The free-rider problem
- Friendly farmers v. unfriendly farmers
 - The security dilemma

Utility = Satellite value - $(\Delta risk * \#/_{total})$ - (sensitivity)

Smaller states: lower % of total = lower risk

Adversarial states: sensitivity can be negative

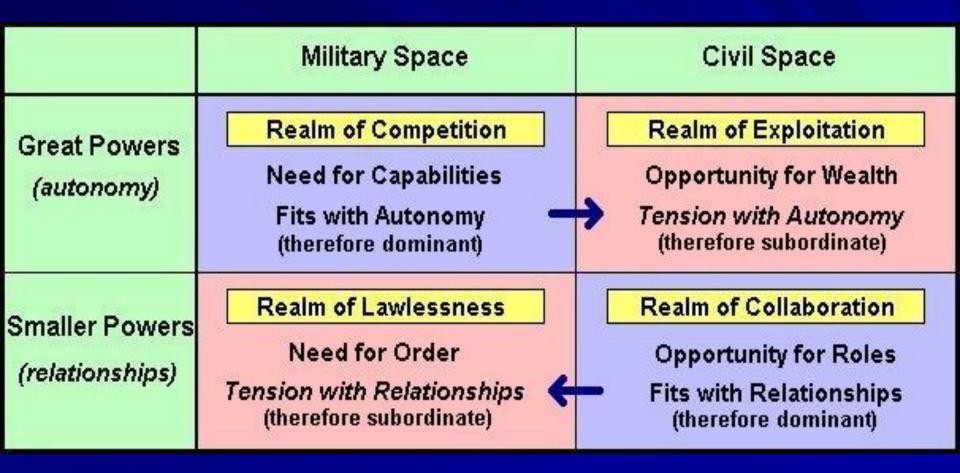
The Mice That Roared

- Space-faring community: small, apparent.
- Publicity: events visible.
 - Traceable, accountable?
 - Necessary, not sufficient
- Smaller, emerging space powers: disposition to relationships

Leading & Smaller State Perspectives

- Shared concern for interests; different outlooks
- Leading powers:
 - Focus on other great powers
 - Interactions: competitive (space security)
 - Quest for autonomy / "freedom of action"
- Smaller powers:
 - Focus also on great powers
 - Interactions: collaborative (space commons)
 - Quest for relationships (alliances + regimes)
- Distinction exacerbated on space matters
 - Asymmetries are stark
 - Proximity of the domain

Large & Smaller State Perspectives on Military v. Civil Space



Toward a Community Consensus

- Smaller States are Stakeholders
 - Emerging powers and non-space powers
- Relationship-building Capacity
 - Unique contribution
- Debris Mitigation Community
 - Clear and complete information
 - Fair and full accountability
 - Confidence in expectations (e.g. long-term compliance)
 - Publicity and the strength of norms
- Space Situational Awareness
 - Technical function + Confidence building

