

Hobe

Space Law



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by

Stephan Hobe

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To the memory of my parents

Foreword

Why another book on space law? This is a very legitimate question. There are many good books on the market, which range from a depiction of space law from the early days of space-law making to the present day. This book represents an attempt to portray space law in a handy form and to provide the reader with the essential tools to understand the legal framework of human activities in outer space. With this, it is hoped that this work will complement the other treatises on space law in a welcome way.

Born out of the experience of my teaching in Beijing, Beirut, Cologne, Gujarat, Dhaka, Paris, Pretoria, Sofia, Vienna and Warsaw where I am regularly engaged, I thought it may be useful to draft something based on the relevant technological and scientific background of space law and to describe the history of space law and its central concepts in a concise way. In doing so, emphasis was given to describing the general legal picture in as complete a way as possible rather than following each argument of the discussion in full depth. The entire book thus is an attempt to highlight the “grand dessin” of the legal framework for human activities in outer space.

The endeavor to write a book of this caliber requires helping hands. First and foremost, I would like to thank my assistant Ms Rada Popova who, with her in-depth knowledge and extreme dedication as well as her enthusiasm, was very helpful in the process of writing and completing this book from the beginning. Regarding the technical part, namely the astrophysical details, Dr. Christian Fromm, University of Frankfurt, has conducted the necessary checks, which I gratefully acknowledge. Finally my secretary, Ms Daniela Scholz, has typed up the entire manuscript with her usual diligence. Student assistants Ms Hanna Keller, Mr Jonathan Badstieber, Mr Niklas Kaupert, Ms Lara Gräwe, Mr Michel Küppers, Ms Lisa Schöttmer and Mr Julian Zschke also assisted in proofreading the text. It is, however, important to mention that I alone take full responsibility for any flaws and inaccuracies.

The book is dedicated to the memory of my parents who with their love laid the basis for everything. Unfortunately, I cannot undertake the promised trip to the Moon hotel with them anymore.

Critical and constructive comments can be directed to Stephan Hobe, Institute of Air Law, Space Law, and Cyber Law, University of Cologne, Albertus-Magnus-Platz, 50923 Köln, stephan.hobe@uni-koeln.de.

Cologne, February 2019

Stephan Hobe

Contents

Foreword	VII
Literature	XV
List of abbreviations	XVII
Table of figures	XXI

CHAPTER 1

SOME ASTROPHYSICAL AND MECHANICAL FACTS: 5 MINUTES PHYSICS AND MECHANICS

I. Outer space, the universe and what man can regulate	1
1. The universe — it is incomprehensibly big	1
2. Our Earth space environment — the Sun and its planets	3
3. Space medicine	3
4. What can we learn from this? (outer space as an environment adverse to humans)	5
II. How to go to outer space (orbital mechanics)	5
1. Orbital mechanics	5
2. Problems by leaving the Earth	7
3. Launching a rocket into outer space	7
4. Launchers	10
5. Reusable launch vehicles	11
6. Spaceports	11
III. Outer space in the legal sense — an attempt of a definition	12
1. Where does outer space begin?	13
2. The grey area: mesospace	14
3. Outer space — a proposal for a definition	15

CHAPTER 2

CONCRETE APPLICATIONS

I. Space transportation/launchers	17
II. Satellites	19
1. Broadcasting by satellites/satellite communications	20
2. Navigation satellites	20
3. Remote sensing by satellites	22
4. Small satellites and CubeSats	23
III. Space stations	24
IV. Space tourism	26
V. Unmanned spacecraft	26

CHAPTER 3

HISTORY OF SPACEFLIGHT

I. Before 1957	29
II. After 1957	32

CHAPTER 4
HISTORY OF SPACE LAW

I. Early writings	40
II. Space law making in UNCOPUOS	41
III. The three phases of space law making	42
IV. Space law making outside the United Nations	45
1. Conference on Disarmament	45
2. UNIDROIT Space Assets Protocol	46
3. Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines	46
4. National space legislation	47
V. Other normative sources of space law	47
VI. The characteristics of space law	47
VII. The history of space law in a contemporary perspective	49

CHAPTER 5
SPACE LAW AS SELF-CONTAINED REGIME OR PART OF PUBLIC
INTERNATIONAL LAW (ARTICLE III OST)?

I. Self-contained regimes and international law	51
II. Space law as <i>lex specialis</i> to general international law	53

CHAPTER 6
SOURCES OF SPACE LAW

I. The first phase of space law making (until 1979)	58
1. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 (107 ratifications as at 1.1.2019)	58
a) The freedoms of outer space	59
b) Legal status of outer space	59
c) Applicability of general international law	59
d) Peaceful uses of outer space	59
e) Article V OST	59
f) Article VI OST	59
g) Article VII OST	60
h) Article VIII OST	60
i) Article IX OST	60
2. The Rescue Agreement of 1968 (96 ratifications as at 1.1.2019)	61
3. The Liability Convention of 1972 (95 ratifications as at 1.1.2019)	61
4. The Registration Convention of 1975 (68 ratifications as at 1.1.2019)	62
5. The Moon Agreement of 1979 (18 ratifications as at 1.1.2019)	62
II. The second phase of space law making: UN GA Resolutions on particular human activities in outer space (1982–1996)	62
1. UN GA Resolution on Direct Broadcasting by Satellites	62
2. UN GA Resolution on Remote Sensing by Satellites	63
3. UN GA Resolution on Nuclear Power Satellites	63
III. The third phase of space law making: UN GA Resolutions as means of interpretation of existing principles/concepts entailed in the treaties on space law (1996–2013 and ongoing)	63
1. The Space Benefits Declaration of 1996	63
2. UN GA Resolution on the “Launching State”	64
3. UN GA Resolution on Registration Practice	65
4. UN GA Resolution on National Space Legislation	65
5. The UNCOPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of 2007	66

6. The Space Assets Protocol of March 2012 to the 1999 Cape Town Convention	67
7. Other documents with relevance for normative regulation	67

CHAPTER 7
MAIN LEGAL CONCEPTS OF SPACE LEGISLATION

I. The Non-Appropriation Principle (Article II OST)	69
II. The Freedom of Exploration and Use (Article I, para 2 OST)	74
III. The Freedom of Scientific Investigation (Article I, para 3 OST)	75
IV. The Principle of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (Article IV OST)	76
V. The Principle of Astronauts as Envoys of Mankind/Astronauts in Distress (Article V OST and the 1968 Rescue Agreement)	77
VI. Activities of Non-Governmental Entities (Article VI OST and UN GA Resolution 68/74 on National Space Legislation)	78
VII. The Principle of Liability for Space Activities (Article VII OST and the Liability Convention and UN GA Resolution 59/115 on the “Launching State”)	79
1. International liability	82
2. Ultrahazardous activities	82
VIII. The Principle of Registration (Article VIII OST, the Registration Convention and Resolution 62/101 on Registration Practice)	85
IX. The Principle of Jurisdiction and Control (Article VIII OST)	87
X. Environmental Protection of Outer Space (Article IX OST)	88

Annex:

On-orbit transfer: A legal challenge for the existing main legal concepts of space legislation	90
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CHAPTER 8
SPECIFIC LEGAL REGIMES

I. The legal regime for commercial uses of outer space	93
1. General aspects	93
2. Examples	96
3. The legal regime contained in the Moon Agreement of 1979	97
II. Military activities in outer space — the principle of peaceful uses as contained in Article IV OST	100
1. Use of military systems in outer space	100
2. The legal regime for the military uses of outer space	103
3. Other relevant instruments	106
III. The legal regime of environmental protection in outer space	107
1. An overview on the sources	107
2. The use of nuclear power sources	109
3. The problem of space debris	111
IV. Trade and finance aspects of space activities	118
1. International trade aspects of space activities	119
2. Legal mechanisms for facilitating the financing of space activities	121
3. Satellite applications and investment law	123

Contents

CHAPTER 9 NATIONAL SPACE LEGISLATION

I. Article VI, para 1, sentence 2 OST and UN GA Resolution 68/74 of 2013 as the legal basis for national legislation	127
II. Examples for national space laws	130
1. France	131
2. Russia	132
3. USA	132
III. Possible model legislation	133
1. The ILA model law of 2012	133
Annex:	
The ILA Model Law as adopted by the Biannual ILA Conference 2012 in Sofia	134
2. UN GA Resolution 68/74 on National Legislation	142

CHAPTER 10 LEGAL REGULATION FOR SPECIFIC SPACE APPLICATIONS

I. Satellites	143
1. Direct broadcasting by satellites	143
a) The allocation of frequencies by the ITU	143
b) The legal regime for direct broadcasting by satellites	147
2. Remote sensing by satellites	149
3. The use of nuclear power sources on board satellites	153
4. Navigation satellite systems (GPS, GALILEO, GLONASS, BEIDOU)	154
a) Organizational structure of the different GNSS systems	155
b) The Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS)	156
c) GALILEO	156
d) The Chinese BeiDou-2 System	157
5. Other navigation systems	157
6. Some liability issues	158
II. The legal regime for the recovery of resources from celestial bodies	158
1. Current development	158
2. The basic legal order for recovery of the resources from celestial bodies	159
3. National initiatives	164
a) USA	164
b) Luxembourg	164
c) Assessment	165
4. The Solution: Creation of an International Legal Order	165
III. Space tourism/non-orbital flights	166
IV. The use of the International Space Station	169
1. The Beginnings	169
2. Legal basis	170
3. Legal elements of cooperation in outer space	170
a) Jurisdiction, control and property rights	170
b) User regime	171
c) Intellectual property	171
d) Crew: obligations and responsibilities	171
e) Criminal jurisdiction	172
f) Liability	172
4. Assessment and perspectives	172

V. Launching services	173
1. National launch acts	173
2. Launch service agreements	174
a) Cross-waivers of liability	175
b) Best efforts clauses	176
c) Insurance clauses	176
VI. Spaceports	177
1. Factual background and examples	177
2. Legal regulation for spaceports	178

CHAPTER 11
INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONALIZED
COOPERATION IN HUMAN ACTIVITIES IN OUTER SPACE

I. The United Nations	181
II. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	183
III. The World Trade Organization (WTO)	187
IV. The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)	188
V. Intelsat/Inmarsat/Eutelsat/Intersputnik/Arabsat	188
VI. The European Space Agency (ESA)	191
VII. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)/the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO)	193
VIII. Arianespace, Airbus and (ex-)Spot Image	194
IX. Non-governmental organizations with relevance for space law making	195
1. The International Institute of Space Law (IISL)	195
2. The International Law Association (ILA)	195
3. The European Centre for Space Law (ECSL)	195

CHAPTER 12
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

I. Dispute settlement as the ultimate goal for the regulation of conflicts	197
II. Dispute settlement mechanisms in space law	198
1. The Cosmos 954 Case of 1978	199
2. Provisions in the treaties on space law relevant for dispute settlement	202
3. Other instruments	203
III. Conclusion	207

CHAPTER 13
PERSPECTIVES

I. Uncertainty about the legal sources — a basis for the future?	209
II. Increasing commercialization — a change of the (legal) perspective — of space legislation?	212
III. From space tourism to space transportation as an upcoming activity	213
IV. Guaranteeing a clean environment for the future — the problem of space debris remediation	214
V. Space traffic management as the main challenge of the immediate future	216
VI. Cyber law	218
VII. Exploration of the universe and space colonization	220

Contents

UNITED NATIONS TREATIES ON OUTER SPACE

A. Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies	225
B. Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space	231
C. Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects	235
D. Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space	243
E. Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies	248
F. United Nations treaties depositary information	256
Index	257

Literature

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The following list encompasses the literature that serves at giving a comprehensive description of the development of space law.

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List of abbreviations

ACAS	Airborne Collision Avoidance System
Art.	Article
ASAT	Anti-Satellite Weapons
BITs	Bilateral investment treaties
CFR	Code of National Regulations
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union
CNES	Centre National d'Études Spatiales
CoD	Conference on Disarmament
DLR	German Aerospace Centre
Doc.	Document
DSB	Dispute Settlement Body
e.g.	for example
EAC	European Astronaut Centre
EASA	European Aviation Safety Agency
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights
ECSL	European Centre for Space Law
ed./eds.	Editor/editors
edn	Edition
ELDO	European Launch Development Organization
ENMOD	Environmental Modification Convention of 1976
ESA	European Space Agency
ESAC	European Space Astronomy Centre
ESCAT	European Centre for Space Applications and Telecommunications
ESOC	European Space Operations Centre
ESRIN	European Space Research Institute
ESRO	European Space Research Organisation
ESTEC	European Space Research and Technology Centre
etc.	<i>et cetera</i>
EU	European Union
EUMETSAT	European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites
EUTELSAT	European Telecommunications Satellite Organization
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
ff.	the following pages
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GEO	Geostationary orbit
GGE	Group of Governmental Experts
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HAPS	High Altitude Pseudo Satellites
IAA	International Academy for Astronautics
IADC	Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee

List of abbreviations

Ibid.	<i>Ibidem</i>
ICBM	Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia
IGA	Intergovernmental Agreement
IISL	International Institute of Space Law
ILA	International Law Association
ILC	International Law Commission
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IMSO	International Mobile Satellite Organization
IRBM	Intermediate-range ballistic missiles
ISS	International Space Station
ITLOS	International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
ITSO	International Telecommunications Satellite Organization
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
JAXA	Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
LEO	Low Earth orbit
lit.	<i>litera</i>
MEO	Medium Earth orbit
mn	Marginal number
MRBMs	Medium-range ballistic missiles
no.	number
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NPS	Nuclear power sources
OST	Outer Space Treaty
para	paragraph
PAROS	Proposed Prevention of an Arms Race in Space
PCA	Permanent Court of Arbitration
PCIJ	Permanent Court of International Justice
PNTBT	Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
p./pp.	page/pages
Rep.	Report
Res.	Resolution
ROSCOSMOS	Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities
SDR	Special Drawing Rights
SETI	Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence
SRBMs	Short-range ballistic missiles
SSA	Space Situational Awareness
STM	Space Traffic Management
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNCOPUOS	United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly

List of abbreviations

UNIDROIT	International Institute for the Unification of Private Law
UNOOSA	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
USA	United States of America
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
VCLT	Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WRC	World Radiocommunication Conference
WTO	World Trade Organization

Table of figures

Chapter 1

The Solar system:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_System#/media/File:Planets2013.svg

Ground tracks for different satellite orbits: by kind permission of Dr. Christian Fromm

The main elements of a launcher: Kalina Hristova

ESA Vega rocket:

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vega_\(Rakete\)#/media/File:Sentinel-2_and_vega.jpg](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vega_(Rakete)#/media/File:Sentinel-2_and_vega.jpg)

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Sojuz rocket:

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Sojuz_TMA-9_into_flight.jpg#file

Launch sites (active and historic ones): by kind permission of Dr. Christian Fromm

Chapter 2

The V-2 rocket:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/V-2_rocket#/media/File:Fus%C3%A9_V2.jpg

Space Shuttle Challenger:

https://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fil:STS-51-L_-_Space_Shuttle_Challenger_on_the_Crawler-Transporter.jpg

Falcon 9:

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon_9#/media/File:Iridium-1_Launch_\(32312419215\).jpg](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon_9#/media/File:Iridium-1_Launch_(32312419215).jpg)

Exemplary earth observation satellite: Kalina Hristova

Navigation satellite constellation (averagely with approx. 24-30 satellites): Kalina Hristova

International Space Station: Kalina Hristova

Skylab space station:

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skylab#/media/File:Skylab_\(SL-4\).jpg](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skylab#/media/File:Skylab_(SL-4).jpg)

The MIR space station:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mir#/media/File:Mir_Space_Station_viewed_from_Endeavour_during_STS-89.jpg

Chapter 3

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Konstantin Tsiolkovsky:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konstantin_Tsiolkovsky#/media/File:Tsiolkovsky.jpg

Robert Goddard:

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Goddard#/media/File:Dr._Robert_H._Goddard_-_GPN-2002-000131.jpg

Table of figures

Wernher von Braun:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wernher_von_Braun#/media/File:Wernher_von_Braun_1960.jpg

Schematic of a V2-A4 rocket:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:V-2_rocket_diagram_\(with_English_labels\).svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:V-2_rocket_diagram_(with_English_labels).svg)

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Soviet engineer Sergei Korolev with the first satellite Sputnik 1 in 1957:

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Juri Gagarin:

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Neil Armstrong on the Moon working at the Apollo 11 lunar module "Eagle" on July 20, 1969, photographed by Buzz Aldrin:

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollo_11#/media/File:Apollo11-Aldrin-Ausstieg.jpg

Edwin E. 'Buzz' Aldrin on the surface of the Moon during the Apollo 11 extravehicular activity (EVA) photographed by astronaut Neil Armstrong whose reflection can be seen in the reflection on Aldrin's helmet:

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buzz_Aldrin#/media/File:Aldrin_Apollo_11.jpg

Skylab 4 during its last mission in 1979:

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Skylab_\(SL-4\).jpg](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Skylab_(SL-4).jpg)

The Space Shuttle fleet: Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis, Endeavour:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Shuttle_orbiter#/media/File:Shuttle_profiles.jpg

The International Space Station:

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SpaceShipOne and WhiteKnight One in flight, 2004:

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Chapter 4

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Chapter 8

Three stage Intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM): Kalina Hristova

Parabolic trajectory of an ICBM: Kalina Hristova

The UN Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, where the sessions of UNCOPUOS and its two committees are taking place annually:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Office_at_Vienna#/media/File:Vienna_International_Centre.jpg

Chapter 10

The mechanism of remote sensing: Kalina Hristova

An exemplary satellite navigation system: Kalina Hristova

Launch sites (active and historic ones): by kind permission of Dr. Christian Fromm

Chapter 11

Overview: Rada Popova

Overview: Rada Popova

Overview: Rada Popova

Chapter 12

PCA Rules: Rada Popova

*“To confine our attention to terrestrial matters
would be to limit the human spirit.”*

Steven Hawking