

Letter from the Editors

Dear Valued Readers,

Together with the American Public University System and the Policy Studies Organization, we as editors are proud to introduce this special edition of our publication, focusing on the critically important and rapidly evolving realm of *Warfare and Weaponization in Space*. As we explore the intricacies of this topic, we recognize the significant impact it carries for global security, technological progress, and humanity's future ventures beyond Earth.

Once viewed as a space for scientific exploration and discovery, the final frontier has now transformed into a stage where geopolitical rivalries and strategic concerns come to the fore. The shift from peaceful space activities to security considerations marks a notable change in policy perspective. This special edition seeks to offer an in-depth analysis of these shifts, aiming to enhance understanding among academics, decision makers, and the wider public.

The collection of articles contained in this special edition includes historical reviews that trace the evolution of space as a vital strategic arena. This entails examining early military applications of space technologies, from spy satellites during the Cold War era to contemporary advancements in anti-satellite weaponry. By assessing this historical backdrop, we gain valuable insights into the motivations and pathways that have shaped our current position as a spacefaring species.

Amid the current global political landscape, we present a collection of research articles that investigate the strategies and doctrines of leading space-exploring nations. The United States, Russia, China, and other key players have outlined their plans and capabilities in space, sparking important discussions on deterrence, defense measures, and the risk of potential conflicts. These articles offer an insightful examination of national and international strategies, shedding light on both the commonalities and differences in their approaches to ensuring space security.

The advancement of technology also plays a central role in the militarization of outer space. This edition features cutting-edge research on space surveillance and weapons technologies designed for use in future missions. The authors also explore different space technologies that serve dual purposes, focusing on civilian and commercial developments which include potential military applications. Additionally, the ethical and legal considerations surrounding these technologies are closely examined, prompting a critical discussion on how to regulate and oversee activities in space.

The international legal framework that governs activities in space is yet another crucial area under scrutiny in this special issue of the journal. Despite

existing treaties like the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, there are lingering uncertainties and gaps that could give rise to misunderstandings or conflicts between and among nations. Articles within this edition propose innovative methods to enhance global collaboration and establish robust mechanisms for preventing and resolving conflicts in outer space.

We are unendingly grateful to our *SESA Journal* authors and readers for their participation and support of this publication. We hope you find this special edition to be of unique value and interest, and we look forward to continuing our ongoing efforts at relevant and meaningful contributions to the space research community with future issues.

Kristen Miller & Gary Deel

Co-Editors in Chief, *SESA Journal*