

# Understanding Space Laws & Ownership

*Read. Watch. Listen.*

## READ

"Barriers to Space Commerce." Space Sciences, edited by John F. McCoy, 2nd ed., Macmillan Reference USA, 2012. Science In Context, <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CV2643750007/SCIC?u=spok67112&sid=SCIC&xid=c5349b55>. Accessed 31 May 2019.

Space telecommunication companies already help us use and service our satellites, but why don't more businesses provide tourist opportunities in space, or mine asteroids? This article lays out the barriers to affordable transportation, the cost of entry, and the high risk factors to doing business in space.

Bizony, Piers. *How to Build Your Own Spaceship*. Penguin Group, 2009.

Science writer Piers Bizony gives fast facts on the hard science, technology and major business players in commercial space travel, including quirky theoretical scenarios involving your very own space ship.

Chang, Kenneth. "If No One Owns The Moon, Can Anyone Make Any Money Up There?" New York Times, 26 Nov 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/26/science/moon-express-outer-space-treaty.html>. Accessed 31 May 2019.

A summary of what private companies are attempting to do for profit in space, and the ambiguities in international agreements that make it difficult for the U.S. government to determine what is and isn't allowed while still adhering to international law.

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

### *Science in Context*

Access this resource at [https://www.sclد.org/digital\\_downloads/science-in-context/](https://www.sclد.org/digital_downloads/science-in-context/)

### *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*

Access this resource at [www.sclد.org/opposing-viewpoints](http://www.sclد.org/opposing-viewpoints)

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## PRINT & OTHER MATERIALS IN OUR CATALOG

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“The Economist explains: Who owns what in outer space?”, *The Economist*, 12 Jun 2018, <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2018/06/12/who-owns-what-in-outer-space>. Accessed 31 May 2019.

The Economist provides a brief outline of the restrictions on countries owning property in space, and rules for private enterprise in space.

Spross, Jeff. "US Space Law Must Be Expanded to Include Private Space Exploration." *Opposing Viewpoints Online Collection*, Gale, 2018. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*. Accessed 31 May 2019.

Business and economics correspondent Jeff Spross discusses his viewpoint on the legal and regulatory problems presented by advances in space exploration and privatization, drawing connections between corporate interests in space resources in the twenty-first century to US national interest in westward expansion in the nineteenth century.

## WATCH

American Society of International Law. “Space Junk and International Law: legal issues surrounding space debris.” *Beyond National Law*, 24 Jan. 2019, <https://www.asil.org/topics/signaturetopics/BNJ/outerspace>

A pair of expert lawyers on international and space law discuss who owns (and can use) debris found in space, how often things reenter the atmosphere unharmed, what damage debris can do, and who is responsible.

## LISTEN

Carminati, Dr. Maria-Vittoria and Foerster, Dr. Michael. “Space Law: The Next Frontier for Lawyers.” *Legal Talk Network*, ABA Law Student Podcast, 2018. <https://legaltalknetwork.com/podcasts/aba-law-student-podcast/2018/12/space-law-the-next-frontier-for-lawyers/>

What kinds of laws apply in space? Will space become an arena for commercial greed, colonization and exploitation? Two lawyers theorize the possible future of property law and international law in space.

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