

Human spaceflight as a matter of culture and national vision

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FAQs on human spaceflight

Too expensive?

Any commercial value expectable?

Poor science due to human interference?

Hostility of space?

Respecting Earth as natural border?

Too ambitious w.r.t. problems on Earth?

→ "wrong" questions: utilitarian bias; naturalistic fallacy; ethos of transcendence!



Culture matters - recall the matters of culture

System of legitime aims and means

- Politics/law: societal contracts/peace
- Science/tech.: cognition and enhancement of human options
- Arts: visions, new perspectives
- Economy: monetary values
- → Restriction of economical reasoning: the case for trans-utilitarian reasoning



Human spaceflight as a legitimate cultural option

Cultural aims	Perspectives
Enhancing the human cultural sphere (→ "cosmic culture")	World view; technology; human exploration/presence/settlements
Contributing to a polycentric world (→ multilateral political culture on Earth)	International co-operation; national share in new options; plurality of space exploring nations
Scientific yields	Knowledge; cognition (also from unmanned activities)
Adding (economic) value	Not yet forseeable



Reasoning national visions

a.m. rationales mostly apply here, too. Evaluation of specific motives:

- Predominance (see "cold war"). No universal solution; not acceptable for the community of states
- Leadership?! Ambivalent (see above) but may be necessary for practical reasons
- Keeping existing spaceflight know-how! Burden of reasoning for shut-down and loss of capabilites



Conclusion

- Human spaceflight can be generally rational and legitimate.
- But not with absolute priority; decisions have to weigh *all* cultural aspects.
- Human spaceflight will enrich human opportunities and choices; it will overcome natural borders of human cultural development



"Bonus": Rationales of spaceflight as a continuum

markets
jobs
communications
mobility
climate / weather
disaster management
resources
management
pace-setting
technologies &
capabilities
(systems, innovation,
reliability, quality,
miniaturisation,
materials)

security / peace
welfare
international &
intercultural
cooperation
exploration
life in space
humans in space
(work, research,
tourism)

knowledge
origin / past / future
understanding
discovery / curiosity
culture / world view
fascination
emotion
inspiration
authenticity &
identification
prestige
leadership & influence

utilitarian



trans-utilitarian

