

Walking on the moon, still warring on earth

Walking on the moon was a step that changed the future of mankind irreversibly. Not only did it achieve one of the oldest aspirations of our species, but it also provided a vital preventative method of war, which will undoubtedly be utilized in the future.

While humanity has historically been burdened by war based on tribalistic grounds such as ethnicity or religion, the perspective of the astronauts who gazed upon the Earth emphasizes its fragility and how ultimately our native issues are meaningless and counterproductive to the ambitions of global progress we should strive for. Frank Borman noted the moon lacked 'the same impact' as the Earth, and Mike Collins referenced how 'fragile' the Earth was, among the many other mentions of Earth's minuscule existence and the remarkable nature of humanity in its survival and relative prosperity¹ despite existing on a relatively trivial planet. However, humanity remains plagued with war which halts progress and development, which is ridiculous considering humanity exists merely in the microcosm to the macrocosm of the Universe, and hence logically we should unite in order to become stronger and develop at an accelerating pace rather than squandering time and resources through internal conflict.

The world is its most united in history, with immense transnational organizations such as the United Nations and ASEAN however unfortunately significant portions of perceived global unity are superficial, with accumulating tensions between NATO and CSTO (Plus allies, such as China or the Peninsula Shield Force), like in Caucasia² and the Middle East as well as the rise of modern warfare. While the modern era brought numerous benefits like renewable energy and swift information transfer, it simultaneously enabled more devastating warfare such as nuclear weaponry. Despite the economic globalization of many countries (rendering them disincentivized from war because their co-dependent economies would collapse), this international economic unity typically manifests in regional blocs, reducing the positive impacts of globalization and rendering global war a viable possibility and thus its abolition seemingly impossible.

However, the dream of landing on the moon was similarly perceived to be unobtainable, indicating the 'undeniable' relationship between humanity and war superficial. Space travel was first viably considered in 1903 by Tsiolkovsky³ and yet merely 66 years later (20th July, 1969), this previously unthinkable ambition was realized. The minuscule timespan during which reaching the moon occurred emphasizes the rapid speed in which dreams can first be realistically conceived and then happen in real life, which can be applied to peace.

Numerous methods have been attempted in the desire to abolish war, however one of the most successful (brought in the modern era) was economic globalism. Economic globalism is the adjustment of foreign economic policy depending on the world's status and it's so successful because it leads to the intertwining of multiple state economies. If China and Russia have heavy economic ties, it's extremely unlikely they'll enter conflict because it would cause their own economies (and thus state) to collapse. This form of globalism has been encouraged repeatedly in the India-Pakistan conflicts because it would hinder any warmongering tendencies of either nation. Despite arguments existing claiming economic interdependence instead promotes one-sided conflict, such as the manipulation of European countries by Russia because of their control of the majority of Europe's gas supply, the overwhelming academic consensus is that it promotes peace instead. Further,

economic interdependence should go both ways in order to ensure international peace instead of a one-sided relationship such as Russian-EU gas trade. It simultaneously tackles dictatorships because they are forced to allow a stream of external goods into their nation upon trade occurring, which often leads to an influx of foreign media. Hence, citizens are exposed to the poor state of their respective dictatorial nation and thus the regime's popularity falls; this leads to wider discontent and triggers revolution. Thus, those suffering under authoritarian regimes have their lives improved and the dictators cannot engage in warfare to distract their populace from home conditions which otherwise often occurs (such as Argentina's Falklands war). Economic globalism is gradually accelerating and hence our planet is inching closer to the utter abolishment of war annually.

Interestingly, the moon provides an opportunity for this to occur; The pooling of resources from multiple nations, such as COSPAR5, to invest into space agencies generates pan-humanist sentiments throughout the planet. With transnational projects, conflict is disincentivized because it hinders their united progress in a widely popular space mission. This idea of transnational unity to minimize conflict has existed for decades, such as the Atlantropa project (1928)⁶ which intended to rally all major European powers to a common cause and thus prevent a potential WW2. While that project failed to materialize, it demonstrates the idea has existed in a semi-realistic manner significantly longer than the concept of landing on the moon. Additionally, with the wide expanses of space LEDCs can utilize resources external from earth in order to equalize their international status, equalizing economic relationships, minimizing potential economic manipulation and further protecting world peace.

To conclude, humanity has been considered to suffer from the essential illness of greed, which dictates a large portion of our actions. Wars over land and wealth, which compose a significant (if sometimes unseen, due to veiled excuses regarding ethnicity or religion for war) quantity of historical wars. However, this greed is evaporating as global ethnic and religious tensions decline in correlation with racism, and even tensions between Wahabbis and other Islamic sects and other religions are immensely less than historical tensions (such as during the Crusades) which provides evidence that humanity can achieve and gradually are achieving the aim of permanent world peace. Despite a lack of instant solution, the movement towards peace, like global warming, has slowly been occurring but is accelerating as modern inventions and economies become increasingly interconnected, especially with the new space frontier serving as a uniting factor for the entirety of earth. Ultimately, moon landing seemed impossible a century before it happened which parallels war's entire abolition, which is gradually beginning to happen, one day at a time.

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References

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