



Space Renaissance International - 2nd World Congress - September 2016
Theses 2: SPACE, Not War! / Space For Peace
Developing the SPACE, Not War! / Space for Peace Congress and Theme

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1 Premises

1.1 Scope of this document

The scope of this document is to provide an assessment of the **Space For Peace** topic and the “**SPACE, Not, WAR!**” congress planned for (2016) 2017.

1.2 List of revisions

revision	date	author	reason for review
1.0	August 15th 2016	A. Woods	First issue
1.1			



1.3 SRI 2nd Congress Documentation Tree

SRI 2nd World Congress 2016 – Documentation Tree

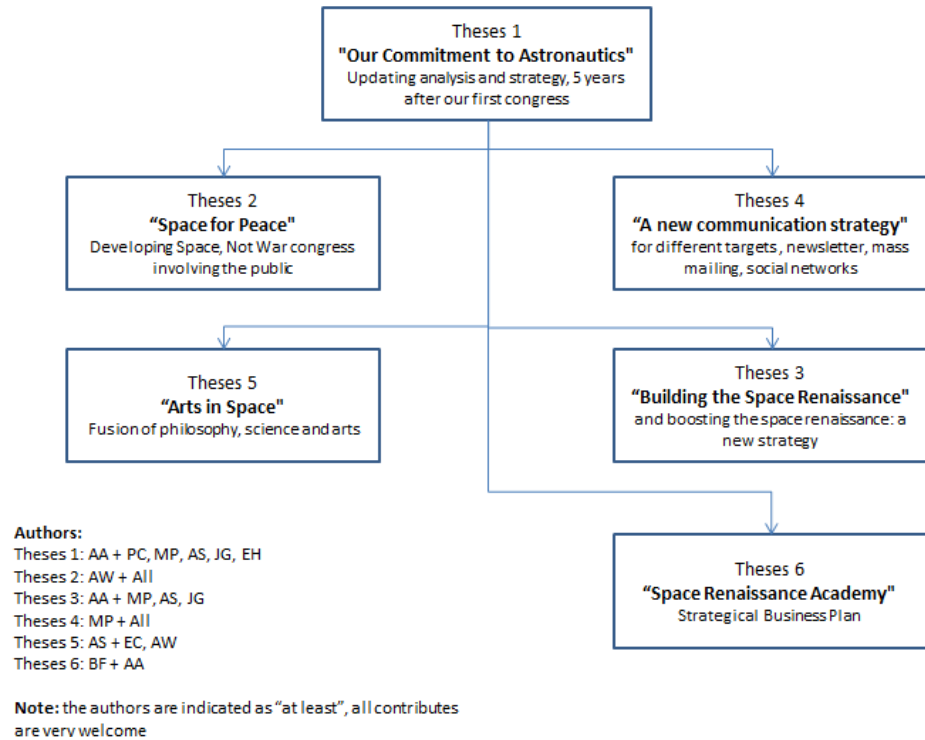


Figure 1. The Congress Documentation Tree



2 Theses

2.1 Origin and Background of Topic

During 2015 participants on the SRI discussion list came to the conclusion that the apparent and unchecked escalation in geopolitical tensions was pushing human society to the brink of global war. Indeed, it was acknowledged that global war was already underway and being manifested in new asymmetrical tactics that, in addition to traditional armed scenarios, included terrorism, financial and currency manipulations, proxy armies, propaganda and cyberattacks. It became clear that the growing possibility of a violent “war” carried out on a global scale constitutes the largest and most serious threat to human civilization and consequently to any hope for space development.

This critical realization can be summed up in the quote from Frank White’s book *The Overview Effect*.

“War and space exploration are alternative uses of the assertive, exploratory energies that are so characteristic of human beings. They may also be mutually exclusive because if one occurs on a massive scale, the other probably will not.”

2.2 The Position of Space Renaissance International

The status of Earth’s civilisation has reached a pivotal moment. The population, now exceeding seven billion inhabitants, continues to grow. Humans are an interdependent species and know that collaboration rather than confrontation is the key to securing civilisation while continuing to maintain progress with peace and freedom. The technological capabilities to do so are becoming available to anyone anywhere on our planet. Yet, instead of peace and progress on a global scale, war in its many forms has become the norm throughout the world today. Overt and covert military activities, economic and financial manipulations, propaganda and disinformation, surveillance and policing are being used by governments against their declared opponents and against their own citizens as well.

Humanists maintain an accurate accounting of each wasted life lost to war while others profit through the manufacture of weapons and their use to gain economic and political advantages. By contrast, it is difficult to secure funding for life-affirming projects such as commercial and cultural initiatives that would reduce social tensions, promote prosperity and alleviate the consequences of war that lead to mass migration and immigration pressures.

War and violence are vestiges of our less evolved human past and it is counter-productive to our survival to carry these vestiges into the future. In an era in which governments spend hundreds of billions on the tools of destruction, little money is dedicated to peaceful propositions that could support millions of jobs, sustainable practices and lead the global community toward a future of hope, peace and prosperity.

As an alternative to this dire and deteriorating state of world affairs it is now evident that



expansion of civilisation into space is the true moral imperative of our time. By focusing our energies and creativity on the challenge of opening and developing the space frontier instead of destroying civilisation there can be true hope for peace and prosperity for all.

The worldwide space community must therefore become committed to support this highly humanist goal and choose to accelerate the evolution of terrestrial civilisation towards becoming a spacefaring one by helping to create a Space Renaissance.

2.3 The Goal and Agenda of Space Renaissance International

The goal of SRI is to advance a “space revolution” that can generate millions new jobs, silence weapons, promote peace and prosperity and propel our rockets towards a new frontier for humanity. In this endeavor, it is soliciting enthusiastic commitment at all levels: both public and private investments as well as personal efforts to develop the following areas:

- Making the case that space development is a viable alternative to waging wars
- Communicating the importance of space development to the future of civilisation
- Creating synergies between the space community and other areas of society
- Identifying the obstacles currently preventing space development
- Development of sub-orbital and orbital tourism, vehicles and infrastructure
- Development of fully reusable launch vehicles
- Promote and develop industrialization in the region of Geo-Lunar space
- Recovering and recycling of space debris in Earth orbit
- Development of research and mining settlements on the Moon and on Near Earth Asteroids
- Development of space based solar power systems which are CO2 neutral while meeting the energy needs of the future
- Development of a new and larger space station with artificial gravity located at a Lagrange Libration Point, using lunar and asteroidal raw materials
- Human exploration and settlement of the Moon, Mars and the Asteroid Belt
- Adoption of favourable governmental policies toward civilian astronautics that further industry and commerce through tax discounts and grants to astronautical enterprises
- Creation of International Space Investment Funds that will allow large and small investors to share in the ultimate opportunity of opening the Space Frontier
- Offering humanity a positive future full of hope and excitement

2.4 An International Call to Action “SPACE, Not WAR!” Congress

In 2015 Space Renaissance International called upon all sincere humanists, on all of the space advocacy associations in every country and on all of the many organisations currently working for world peace to join the Space Renaissance in this campaign which would begin with a conference and International Congress to be held in Italy in 2016 with



the goal of developing and delivering actionable proposals that can help to find a real alternative to perpetual war. This date was later changed to 2017.

The scope of the congress is to increase public awareness about the extreme urgency of initiating an accelerated program for human expansion into space before the "window of opportunity" to do so closes. If one believes that economic and technological development are necessary preconditions for peace, then one has to arrive at the conclusion that significant resources are necessary to fuel development and to reduce tension in the world. Inexhaustible resources lie just beyond Earth's atmosphere and the technological means to harness these already exists. Humanity also needs to have a sense of purpose and some real hope for a positive future to compensate for the confusion, the despair, and the misery of the philosophy of the finite world expressed in the practice of war which is its main obstacle to becoming a spacefaring species. As tensions continue to rise throughout the world, this window of opportunity for humanity to determine its future becomes smaller as each new crises appears with the imperative that we must act now. A number of symposia and workshops addressing these issues were proposed on the following topics:

I. Global Societal Priorities

- The Impact of War and Humanity's Future
 - War and the Threat to Civilisation
 - Opposing a Global War Agenda
 - The Role of the Military, Security, Financial, Industrial, Political Complex
 - The Economic Impact
 - The Societal Impact
 - The Environmental Impact
- Philosophical and Ethical Issues
 - War and Space Development are Mutually Exclusive
 - Global Risks Assessment
 - Global Strategies and Synergies for Peace
 - Paradigm Change for Peace and Prosperity
- Space Renaissance: Scope and Goals of Congress
 - Communicating the Urgency of Space Development
 - Recognizing the Window of Opportunity
 - Promoting Public Awareness
 - Identifying the Obstacles to Space Development
 - Finding New Partners and Creating Cooperation
 - Creating a Consensus for the Space Development Agenda

II. Space Development Priorities

- Low Cost Travel to Orbit
 - Space Tourism
 - Sub-Orbital



- Orbital Habitats and Hotels
 - The Promise and Status of Space Based Solar Power
 - Near Earth Space Industrialization
 - Low Gravity Industrial Production
 - Space Debris Removal and Recycling
 - Technology Development and Optimisation
 - The Economical Benefits of Space Development
 - The Impact of Space on Society
 - Creating New Wealth
 - Creating New Jobs
 - Global Prosperity Prospects
 - Inspiration
 - Urgent Scientific Research
 - Artificial Gravity
 - Cosmic Radiation
 - Closed Life Support Systems
 - Space for Peace
 - Cooperation not Confrontation
 - The Geo-Political Challenges
 - The Militarization of Space
 - Earth Problems: Earth Solutions vs. Space Solutions
- III. An Alternative Space Program
- Agenda Until 2050: Expansion into Greater Earth
 - Asteroid Capture & Mining
 - Geo-Lunar Space Infrastructure and Industrialisation
 - Geo-Lunar Space Settlement Orbital Habitats and Lunar Outposts
 - Agenda Beyond 2050: Settling the Solar System
 - First Steps to Move Beyond Greater Earth
 - Asteroid Mining and Occupation
 - Looking at Mars
 - Space Development Strategies
 - Private Space Initiatives
 - The Role of the Space Agencies
 - From Civil Aeronautics to Civil Astronautics
 - Military Space vs. Civilian Space Transportation Systems



- Space Development Investment Funds
- A Road Map for Expanding Civilization Beyond Earth
 - Scenarios and Choices for the Future
 - The History and Role of Astronautics
 - Humanity's Purpose in the Cosmos
- IV. Bootstrapping The Space Renaissance
 - The Cultural Dimension of Space
 - Space Music and Art
 - The Role of the Arts in Space Development
 - Inspiration and Outreach
 - Multilingual Approach
 - Legal Issues
 - Existing Treaties
 - Proposed Treaties
 - Governmental Policies and Priorities
 - Space Renaissance International Perspectives
 - History of SRI and Lessons Learned
 - Status of Civilian Space Programs in SRI Countries
USA, Italy, UK, India, Nepal, Japan, Mexico, Australia, Germany, Bosnia Herzegovina
 - Future Plans
 - Public Relations
 - Outreach Activities

2.5 Assessment of the 2016 “SPACE, Not WAR!” Congress Effort

As a first step, an organizing committee was formed and a separate mailing list was set up at the domain SRITALK.SPACE for internal communications. Raymond Wright registered SPACENOTWAR.ORG and set up a hosting server. Arthur Woods created a website design for the congress which was approved and installed on the server in July 2015. After much research, Adriano Autino located an attractive congress venue at the Mecure West hotel in Rome for July 2016 with favorable conditions. The Jovian Society, The Lifeboat Foundation, The Mars Society and Pioneer Astronautics agreed to support the congress as “Institutional Partners”. Online registration and abstract submission forms were implemented and calls for pre-registration and abstract submission were made in September 2015 to various mailing lists and groups. A Call for Papers was also sent to several mailing lists and to several organisations. A server failure in November which resulted in the loss of the website the domain name required the registration of SPACENOTWAR.SPACE and SPACENOTWAR.NET domain names which were then installed along with a back-up of the website on a new server by Arthur Woods. Unfortunately, insufficient registrations were received by the end of February 2016 and the



date of the congress was postponed by the Executive Committee until sometime in 2017. The website was updated to reflect this change.

2.6 A Change of Name and Emphasis to “Space for Peace”

It was suggested by the US SRI chapter to change the name of the congress to “Space for Peace” as this would appear more “optimistic” and less negative than concentrating on the issue of “war in the congress concept and promotion. It was pointed out that “Space for Peace” theme has been used by various organisations and events over the years i.e. (60th Int. Astronautical Congress motto “Space for Sustainable Peace and Progress”) and several organizations currently have websites and programs associated with this name. i.e. (“Keep Space for Peace Week”, October 1-8, 2016 www.space4peace.org). However, it should be considered that such a change of name would possibility distract from the critical urgency of the geopolitical situation that was originally identified as the major threat to civilisation.

2.7 Alternative Strategies

A number of alternative strategies were suggested including:

- Hosting an online congress via Skype instead of a physical congress.
- Hosting an online competition for papers – i.e. sponsors and registration fees could create a prize fund. A minimum of €5000 would need to be raised in advance.
- SRI cooperation with the “Space Peace Star” project initiated by Arthur Woods www.spacepeacestar.space to synergistically develop the theme and the project.