

# Re: Barack Obama Pits Space Explorers Against School Children

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- *From:* Ian Parker <[ianparker2@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:ianparker2@xxxxxxxxxx)>
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On 3 Dec, 14:56, Quadibloc <[jsav...@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jsav...@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

On Dec 3, 4:14 am, Ian Parker <[ianpark...@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:ianpark...@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

This is the form in which space will increasingly have to be packaged.

As it happens, I've addressed this in another thread I've started.

I feel that the main rationale for space won't be in direct benefits to Earth. Nuclear power plants are far more cost-effective than solar power satellites. Dealing with asteroids is important, but in itself won't require an ambitious manned space exploration effort.

Instead, although in the long term Earth could benefit directly, the main reason to put people in space is so that humanity – and the valuable achievements of humanity – could survive even if problems developed on Earth. And problems will develop on Earth, since there is no sign that population growth is being checked.

And that is going to be hard to sell to the man in the street.

John Savard

I think I have dealt with that in another thread. I think personally there is something to be said for a spike in the steering wheel. Politicians and generals would take bigger risks if they felt they had a bolt hole.

Most of the existential risks are man made and the way to combat them is to put in place the appropriate controls, including controls on the military.

Einar was wittering on about religious groups setting up space colonies. Look at Iraq, death squads target people who say thier

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prayers in the wrong way. I replied that the only people who should go to a space colony are those who have been persecuted. They will understand and not want a repetition. I mentioned the whore(s) of Babylon who inhabit Syrian night clubs and don't pay 15% to Assad.

If you are not careful you will find that space colonies actually increase the existential risk, not reduce it.

BTW – Perhaps one experiment that could be done on the ISS would be to see how weightlessness affects sex. The thought occurred to me as I was writing this. – The whore of Babylon!

I think that at the moment SSP is too expensive and other technologies are cheaper. This might change when we started using the resources in space. Space colonies can't be built either without the resources of space. There is however no compelling reason against SSP. Colonies are another matter. They are dangerous in their own right.

As I have pointed out useful technology will emerge from the intermediate stages.

– Ian Parker

– Ian Parker

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