

## Spin the Wheel of (Mis)fortune in Space

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**Abstract:** The electric grid is an attractive target for malign actors to disrupt a nation's command and control centers and ability to function in the Information Age. Building off of the momentum of President Joe Biden's July 2021 National Security Memorandum (NSM) on Improving Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure Control Systems, and former President Trump's 2019 Executive Order on protecting critical infrastructure from the effects of manmade electromagnetic pulses (EMPs), policy decision makers should leverage systems thinking tools to advance a multilateral dialogue with other spacefaring nations to prohibit satellite-equipped EMP weapons in space. As military competition increases in space, the United States should lead the call to begin modernizing an agenda with other spacefaring nations to build consensus on responsible state behavior and what it means to be good stewards of space. To its credit, the 2020 Defense Space Strategy emphasizes the need for cooperating with allies and partners to ensure space stability, however, it falls short in articulating specific "standards of responsible behavior as a good steward of space". Drawing upon the four core space treaties as a focal point for consensus building, the United States should begin a dialogue with allies and partners to codify an international space strategy. Similar to the Obama administration's efforts in creating an International Strategy for Cyberspace, the Biden administration and its newly revived National Space Council has the novel opportunity to lead the way in helping bridge global consensus on responsible state behavior in outer space. Lastly, the article concludes by explaining why the use of EMP weapons in space would likely violate international law and customary international law on the use of indiscriminate weapons.

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