



The Wrath of Mahan: Space Warfare on the Cosmic Coastline

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Space Policy Institute
Elliott School of International Affairs
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Modern military forces rely on space systems to provide communications and precision-strike capabilities. Dr. Bowen asks “How is it best to think about the role of the command of space in grand strategy? How effective can astro-economic warfare ever be? What are the universal consequences of the spread of spacepower on Earth?”

Dr. Bowen argues that answering these questions requires viewing Earth orbit as a cosmic coastline, and he challenges some prevailing views that Earth orbit is like an open ocean. This “coastal” spacepower theory, which draws upon continental seapower theory, explains a less-spectacular yet defining feature of spacepower as one which is a supporting and enabling infrastructure. Furthermore, the theory helps critique the prevalence of the 'Space Pearl Harbor' fears pervading Sino-US space security analysis through understanding the influence of spacepower upon Earth as a dispersing effect.

Dr. Bleddyn Bowen is currently a Lecturer at the Defence Studies Department, King's College London, which is based at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, UK Defence Academy.

Bleddyn specializes in spacepower theory, strategic theory, and contemporary military space activities. Bleddyn completed his ESRC-funded PhD in early 2016 at the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University, entitled *Spacepower and Space Warfare: The Continuation of Terran Politics by Other Means*. During doctoral study, Bleddyn was granted a Visiting Scholar position at the Space Policy Institute at the George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Bleddyn has previously published on space debris and international security, European astrostrategy, and contributes to the *Defence In Depth* blog. Bleddyn also appears frequently on BBC broadcast news media on both Welsh and English medium channels.

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