

R14 Anti-Imperialism: To Infinity and Beyond

Proposer: Young Greens of England and Wales
Agenda item: 8. Resolutions

Motion text

1 **The Young Greens note:**

- 2 • **The persistence of unilateral territorial annexation and occupation**
3 **undermines the fundamental principles of international law and territorial**
4 **integrity and should be considered forms of imperialism.**

- 5 • **The unjust extraction of wealth from nations, characterised by the**
6 **commandeering of resources and the imposition of exploitative lending**
7 **practices that create cycles of perpetual debt should also be considered**
8 **forms of imperialism.**

- 9 • **The systematic subversion of sovereign agency, where external powers**
10 **impose governance structures, legal frameworks, or political ideologies**
11 **upon nations without the people's democratic consent should be considered**
12 **a form of imperialism.**

- 13 • **The emergence of market dominion and knowledge production and capture**
14 **including property, data, and critical technologies can be considered**
15 **contemporary mechanisms of imperial control.¹**

- 16 • **Examples of such actions include Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022,²**
17 **Israel's Genocide against Palestine in 2023, The United States kidnapping**
18 **of Venezuelan President Maduro in 2026, The United States launching of**
19 **maximum pressure 2.0 against Cuba in 2026.**

- 20 • **The Cold War never ended, and the Space Race rages on. It is one branch of**
21 **a model of international diplomacy which pits East and West blocs against**

22 each other, undermining solidarity, perpetuating a climate of tension, and
23 precluding real global safety and security.

- 24 • Space exploration of late has been increasingly protagonised by individual
25 entrepreneurs whose business interests are deeply ingrained in global
26 practices of exploitation. For example, Elon Musk holds a growing monopoly
27 on the technologies being deployed for space exploration and
28 telecommunications,⁴ and Jeff Bezos is set to weigh in with thousands of
29 satellite launches planned for 2027.⁵ So much power in the hands of such
30 individuals, rather than accountable institutions, is cause for concern,
31 especially where a capacity to enact surveillance is concerned.

- 32 • Space junk, the pollution of the atmosphere by discarded tools, machinery,
33 or satellites, is not only creating greater risk to legitimate space
34 research: this extra-terrestrial littering is also a moral abomination and
35 could only become more dangerous owing to Kessler Syndrome.⁶ That the
36 exploitative industrial activities of humanity (and especially the Global
37 North) have caused deep harm to ecosystems on Earth is well proven: it
38 cannot be that the same attitude of use, misuse, and disrespect spills
39 over planetary boundaries.

- 40 • Space tourism such as that touted by Space X and Blue Horizon, which
41 masquerades as peak human curiosity and empowerment manifest, is nothing
42 more than a painful cliché. Look no further than the 2025 all-female
43 voyage, which showcased the ultimate parody of progressive feminism.⁷

- 44 • Techno-optimism and denial is fuelling space exploration projects
45 suggesting a future for humanity outside Earth. The belief that humans
46 will be able to escape before it becomes uninhabitable because of the
47 cumulative effects of climate change is a betrayal of our role as a
48 steward species in our ecosystems.⁸ It is also, of course, a complete
49 fallacy, an elite fantasy, a sci-fi project for the richest, it is
50 fiddling while Rome burns.

- 51 • As is often the case with techno-optimism and denial, space exploration
52 projects which purport to find humanity a new home outside of Earth are
53 perpetuated by a feedback loop of its own creation. In this case, mining
54 for rare earth minerals, the risk of conflict brought about by resource
55 competition, and the disdain for the intrinsic dignity of human lives
56 implicit in its supply chain as ever divided by the Global North and

57 South, all serve to create the unstable planetary conditions which make
58 the project justifiable.⁹ Mining of this sort is a desecration of human
59 and more-than-human life. Imperialism is rife at every layer of the
60 phenomenon.

- 61 • Unregulated activity in space also runs the risk of further compounding
62 the alteration of planetary ecosystems that characterises the Anthropocene
63 age. The exponential growth in satellite launches are reported to be
64 increasing light pollution from space,¹⁰ while the predicted
65 'commercialisation' of space could see increased gas emissions and dumping
66 of rocket parts in the ocean.¹¹

- 67 • The models of relationships between humans and their more-than-human
68 friends and neighbours on Earth and beyond which are able to justify the
69 disrespect of planetary and extra-planetary ecosystems are not fit for
70 purpose in a world of mutual thriving.

71 The Young Greens believe:

- 72 • True global stability is only achievable through respect for the sovereign
73 agency of all nation-states regardless of their economic or military
74 stature.

- 75 • Economic relationships must be predicated on mutual benefit and
76 transparency rather than predatory debt-trap diplomacy or coercion.

- 77 • Knowledge and technology should serve as tools for mutual thriving rather
78 than instruments of structural exclusion or subjugation.

- 79 • Anti-imperialism is not just a stance, but an active commitment to
80 dismantling systems of unilateral dominance in all their forms.

- 81 • International institutions and actions should be formed and regulated by
82 the global community as a whole, rather than dominated by a geopolitical
83 oligarchy of select superpowers that seek to present themselves as the
84 sole legitimate authority.

- 85 • **Outer Space is the common heritage of humankind and any attempt to**
86 **colonise, militarise, or privatise celestial resources constitutes a**
87 **dangerous frontier of imperial expansion.**

- 88 • **Research must at all times be ethically justified on Earth: the same must**
89 **go for Space. Space exploration which intends to imbue a sense of wonder**
90 **at the universe can enhance a human's sense of their place within the**
91 **cosmos. However, wonder and appreciation for the beautiful strangeness of**
92 **an extra-planetary space or phenomenon must not be justified or destined**
93 **to justify the colonisation of that space.¹²**

- 94 • **Access to information and internet connectivity must not come at the cost**
95 **of obligatory consent to surveillance.**

- 96 • **Monopolies in any kind of industry serve only to destabilise.**

- 97 • **The night's sky is sacred and must remain that way.**

98 **The Young Greens resolve to:**

- 99 • **Support knowledge sharing – Devise and implement policies that prioritise**
100 **'open' learning initiatives and localisation of technology.**

- 101 • **Sanction unilateralism – advocate for diplomatic frameworks that trigger**
102 **immediate consequences for any nation attempting to commit acts of**
103 **imperialism.**

- 104 • **Condemn all ongoing and future forms of imperialism and call for an**
105 **immediate end to any support or cooperation with states engaged in**
106 **imperialism or oppression. Furthermore, we urge the EU to sever all**
107 **economic and political relations with states that violate human rights,**
108 **including the full repeal of the EU–Israel Association Agreement.**

- 109 • **Engage in the active protection of multilateral institutions and explore**
110 **measures for enforcement.**

- 111 • **Promote resource sovereignty – Advocate for transparency standards for**
112 **multi-national corporations to ensure extraction of raw materials provides**
113 **fair compensation and investment to the host community.**

- 114 • **Encourage oversight of trade and loan agreements: Establishing a**
115 **commission to review such agreements for exploitative clauses that**
116 **compromise a nation’s long-term fiscal autonomy. Moreover, encourage the**
117 **restructuring of international institutions to provide low-interest credit**
118 **facilities that prioritise developmental stability over external market**
119 **access.**

- 120 • **Codify space equity – Demand the strengthening of international space**
121 **treaties to explicitly prohibit the private or unilateral ownership of**
122 **lunar or planetary soil and ensure that any benefits of space exploration**
123 **are shared with all nations.**

- 124 • **Regulate orbital and lunar resources – Ensure resources extractions in**
125 **space will follow the same ethical and distributive standards as on earth.**
126

- 127 • **Review of workings of International Relations, namely permanent membership**
128 **and veto powers held by the permanent members of the United Nations**
129 **Security Council.**

- 130 • **Focus our Party energy and efforts on addressing injustices on Earth,**
131 **recognising when space exploration projects are explicitly or implicitly**
132 **designated to provide a ‘Planet B’ and condemning those as distraction**
133 **tactics.**

- 134 • **Call for a transparent cost-benefit analysis of Space exploration**
135 **projects, as well as further research on the environmental costs of rocket**
136 **launches.**

- 137 • **Apply an anti-imperialist lens in our analysis of space exploration**
138 **projects, calling out the colonist mindset wherever it arises.**

- 139 • **Defer to indigenous models of human relationships with our ecosystems as**
140 **leading models of interspecies reconciliation desperately needed as part**
141 **of the Global North's responsibility to tackle the climate and**
142 **biodiversity crisis it has created and guide the purpose and scope of**
143 **research beyond the Earth.**

144 **Notes**

- 145 **1. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09614524.2025.2609155>**
146 **Accessed 15/04/26**
- 147 **2. [https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/ukraine/;](https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/ukraine/)**
148 **[https://www.intereconomics.eu/contents/year/2023/number/4/article/tougheni-](https://www.intereconomics.eu/contents/year/2023/number/4/article/toughening-financial-sanctions-on-russia.html)**
149 **[ng-financial-sanctions-on-russia.html](https://www.intereconomics.eu/contents/year/2023/number/4/article/toughening-financial-sanctions-on-russia.html) Accessed 15/04/26**
- 150 **3. [https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2026/3/31/cuba-crisis-explained-who-](https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2026/3/31/cuba-crisis-explained-who-holds-power-and-could-diaz-canel-be-replaced)**
151 **[holds-power-and-could-diaz-canel-be-replaced](https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2026/3/31/cuba-crisis-explained-who-holds-power-and-could-diaz-canel-be-replaced) Accessed 15/04/26**
- 152 **4. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2025/mar/18/nasa-cuts-elon-musk-spacex>**
153 **Accessed 01.04.26**
- 154 **5. [https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2026/jan/21/blue-origin-satellites-](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2026/jan/21/blue-origin-satellites-2027-jeff-bezos)**
155 **[2027-jeff-bezos](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2026/jan/21/blue-origin-satellites-2027-jeff-bezos) Accessed 09.04.26**
- 156 **6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/56902948> Accessed 01/04/26.**
- 157 **7. [https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/apr/15/blue-origin-flight-](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/apr/15/blue-origin-flight-american-feminism)**
158 **[american-feminism](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/apr/15/blue-origin-flight-american-feminism) Accessed 01/04/26**
- 159 **8. [https://www.cjlpa.org/post/the-space-race-and-its-discontents-hannah-](https://www.cjlpa.org/post/the-space-race-and-its-discontents-hannah-arendt-on-space-1951-63)**
160 **[arendt-on-space-1951-63](https://www.cjlpa.org/post/the-space-race-and-its-discontents-hannah-arendt-on-space-1951-63) Accessed 01/04/26**
- 161 **9. <http://arxiv.org/pdf/2103.17125> Accessed 09.04.26**
- 162 **10. [https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/seac/2025/11/17/extracting-rare-earths-exploiting-](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/seac/2025/11/17/extracting-rare-earths-exploiting-frontiers-the-human-cost-of-the-international-rare-earths-race-in-myanmar/)**
163 **[frontiers-the-human-cost-of-the-international-rare-earths-race-in-myanmar/](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/seac/2025/11/17/extracting-rare-earths-exploiting-frontiers-the-human-cost-of-the-international-rare-earths-race-in-myanmar/)**
164 **Accessed 01.04.26**

165 **11.** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/videos/cvgke97y55zo> Accessed 09.04.26

166 **12.** [https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/mar/04/end-colonial-approach-to-](https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/mar/04/end-colonial-approach-to-space-exploration-scientists-urge)
167 [space-exploration-scientists-urge](https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/mar/04/end-colonial-approach-to-space-exploration-scientists-urge) Accessed 01/04/26

Reason

In discussion with GEV