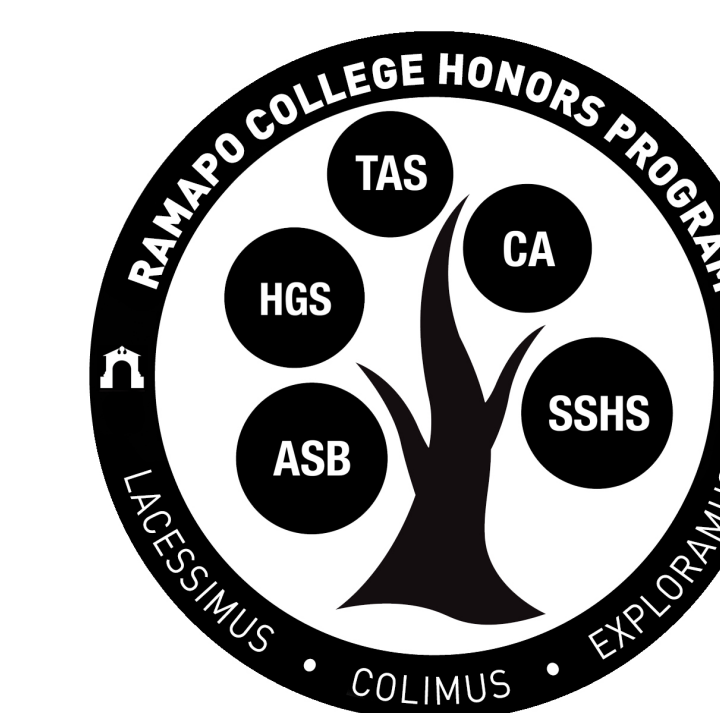




The Colonization of Mars: Law, Politics, and Ethics

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Introduction:

It is important to realize that while scientific advancements and space exploration do not drive the existence of the human race on Earth, both play a large part in the progression and development of humanity as we know it. This research argues that considering the legal, political, and ethical aspects of the Mars One Mission expose the lack of technology and funding required for success.

What is Mars One?

The main stated goal of the project is to establish a human settlement on Mars, which would be a giant leap for humankind. According to the Mars One Mission's main website, "Human settlement on Mars will aid our understanding of the origins of the solar system, the origins of life and our place in the universe. As with the Apollo Moon landings, a human mission to Mars will inspire generations to believe that all things are possible, anything can be achieved" ("Current Status").

Ethics and Utility

An issue regarding the approach of helping improve the climate would stem from a lack of communication or connection between Mars scientists and Earth climate scientists. With an issue such as global warming or climate change, the future of the planet Earth is in a limbo; we are slowly destroying this planet, which could be a reason to explore options on another planet. While this idea would not allow for all of humanity to relocate to the red planet, it would still provide an outlet to continue the existence of the human race. In the long run this could even provide an opportunity to improve the conditions on Earth.

Space Law and Mars One:

Two main legal concepts that pertain to Mars One are appropriation and liability. Appropriation forbids a State or organization to claim any celestial body as their own territory. Liability mainly pertains to who is responsible for damage to any person or thing. To ensure the parameters of the Mars One Mission are compliant with the legal provisions in place, there are State entities who are responsible for reviewing the plans and actions of this project and ensuring they are in compliance with the law.

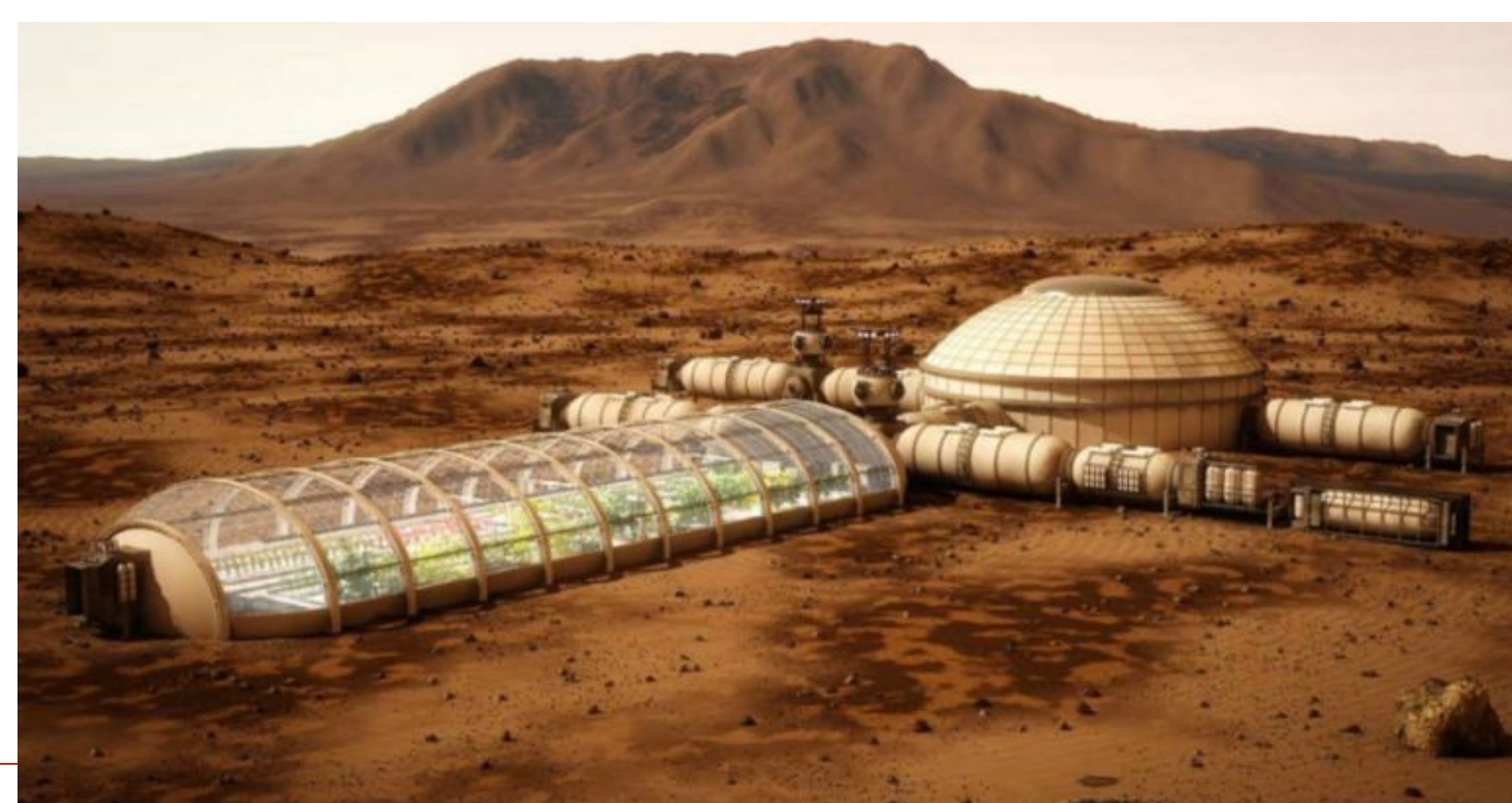
Politics of Mars Exploration

One of the biggest challenges in achieving human exploration of Mars stems from varying governmental policies throughout different presidents who take office. In order for such a concept to have a chance at success, NASA "needs to show Congress and the current administration "consistency and constancy of purpose" for the project ... "Sustainability for a Mars exploration effort ... requires a considerable degree of consensus" ... "For a government-funded and -managed exploration program, probably the most important element is policy continuity" (O'Neill). The main idea of this passage is to acknowledge the need for governmental backing and support in space projects such as Mars One.

NASA and Mars

While NASA has identified that having unsupported human life on Mars is not realistic, at least for now, they have been studying the planet for years and have recently made great progress and discoveries through different rovers and space crafts. One of the goals of NASA's Mars Exploration Program includes preparing the planet for human exploration.

Mars One



"Current Status - About Mars One." Mars One, www.mars-one.com/about-mars-one/current-mission-status.

O'Neill, Ian. "To Get to Mars, NASA Must Convince Lawmakers." Space.com, Space Created with Sketch. Space, 16 May 2017, www.space.com/36851-humans-to-mars-nasa-must-convince-lawmakers.html.

