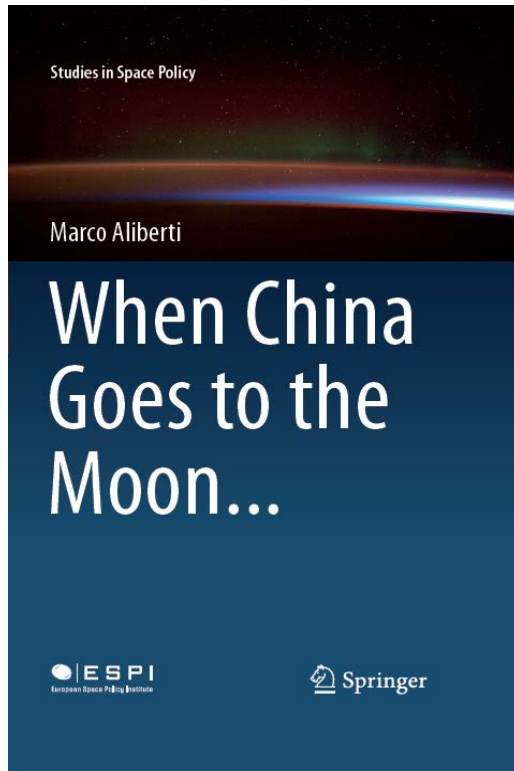


# ***WHEN CHINA GOES TO THE MOON...***

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**Marco Aliberti  
Resident Fellow, ESPI**

## INTRODUCTION



*La nation la plus sage et la plus policée de tout l'univers.*  
Voltaire

*Le gouvernement chinois, comme celui de tous les peuples esclaves, est trop vicieux pour se rendre respectable par ses propres forces...*  
Montesquieu

The purpose of this ESPI project is:

- To assess Chinese ambitions in its most complex and internationally visible endeavour, namely its human space exploration programme
- To investigate the opportunities and challenges these ambitions are giving rise to for other spacefaring nations, and for Europe in particular.

## BOOK OVERVIEW

1. Introductory overview of China's space programme
    - Orgware, Hardware and Software.
  2. Discussion of rationales and objectives guiding China's human spaceflight programme
    - Cultural backgrounder, Domestic and international political drivers, S&T, socio-economic and security objectives
  3. Assessment of the long-term plan towards a *taikonaut* Moon landing
    - Precursor functional programmes: Chang'e - Tiangong
    - Policy, Hardware development and Programme configuration
  4. Analysis of the endogenous factors conditioning the development of its human spaceflight
    - Socio-economic: *Number One or Paper Tiger?*
    - Political: *What does the Chinese leadership want?*
    - Technological: *Toward genuine innovation?*
  5. Impact of China's Moon ambition on the major powers and discussion of cooperation possibilities.
    - A space race, again? >> Intra-Asian and Sino-American space race
    - Beyond the space race paradigm: a deconstruction
    - Assessing cooperation opportunities
  6. Discussion of Europe's opportunities and challenges vis-à-vis China's space ambitions
    - The political background
    - Europe-China space relations
    - Opportunities and Challenges for Europe
    - Assessment of the possible policy options
- 
-  **Proposed Way Forward for Europe**

## Europe's Policy Options vis-à-vis China

The delicate balance between the various SWOT elements averts a fixed, natural course of action for Europe  
Different policy postures can be envisaged, some of which going in diametrically opposed directions

	Opportunities	Threats
Strengths	<b>Europe as a strategic partner</b>	<b>Europe as a bridge-builder</b>
Weaknesses	<b>Europe as a limited partner</b>	<b>Europe as a competitor</b>

How to reap the best balance between opportunities and threats while minimising weaknesses and leveraging strengths ?

### Evaluative criteria

1. political feasibility,
2. affordability
3. space effectiveness
4. political effectiveness



*Outcome?*


## Some conclusions...

- It is in the best interest of Europe to find ways to fully integrate China within the global space community and devise new instruments of dialogue and cooperation.
- The *bridge building option* appears to be politically feasible, financially affordable and effective (from a space and political perspective), but also flexible.
- By assuring the simultaneous participation of the US and China in a joint cooperative undertaking, Europe could also secure its active involvement without finding itself in the dilemma of choosing between mutually exclusive partnerships or being limited to provide minor contributions to multiple partners' endeavours.
- Being a bridge-builder would enhance Europe's profile in the space arena, avoid duplication of efforts and provide a stepping-stone for a human Mars exploration
- Politically, it would project European geopolitical skills and values, promote cooperative international relations and avoid confrontational stances

## Europe's Way Forward

- The successful crafting of a groundbreaking multilateral endeavour might, however, prove difficult to implement, and putting forward this strategy will inevitably be slow. There are political and operational issues to be solved.
  - Paradigm shift vis-à-vis China (symbolic participation in the ISS programme)
  - Creation of a fully-fledged cooperation mechanism. What model should be adopted?
- To ensure the viability of the bridge-building option, a set of enabling policy actions needs to be undertaken:
  - within the European context (an EEAS role?)
  - vis-à-vis China
  - vis-à-vis the international space community, particularly the US
- As a multilateral experiment of cooperation, Europe can/must find the necessary intellectual and material resources to promote a *real* and *enduring* multilateral (global) partnership in space exploration.

**Europe as an assertive “thought leader” in Space and on Earth!**



*Thank you for your attention*

[marco.aliberti@espi.or.at](mailto:marco.aliberti@espi.or.at)