



Comments on the Antarctic Treaty System

The Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) is one of the few international agreements of the 20th century to have succeeded.

The ATS has maintained the spirit of peaceful international cooperation in Antarctica.

The ATS has limited environmental damage within Antarctica.

The ATS has permitted Antarctic science to flourish and many issues of global concern such as the ozone hole have unfolded there.

The ATS has brought together many different nations, some of whom have been in conflict elsewhere in the world. For example, the USA and the former USSR during the Cold War and the UK and Argentina during the Falklands War.

The ATS is a 'rich man's club' run by a select group of developed countries for their own benefit.

Much of the science conducted in Antarctica is poor and is done to disguise territorial claims or potential rights to mineral exploitation.

There has been no armed conflict within Antarctica since the Antarctic Treaty was signed.

The ATS has focused only on the issues that are easily resolved, for example scientific cooperation, whilst avoiding fundamental problems such as the competing territorial claims.

Antarctica is a 'common heritage for mankind' and should be governed as a 'World Park' by the United Nations.

Government by consensus is a recipe for achieving the lowest common denominator at the slowest possible rate of progress.

The ATS has only succeeded because the principal Treaty nations feared what might happen if it failed.

The ATS does not provide any benefits to countries unable to pay for expensive scientific programmes within Antarctica.