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The year is 2030.

The human species has gone interplanetary, with the American company SpaceX sending more colonists to Mars each month, with a lineup of millionaires waiting for their turn to be sent to the red planet. Each seat on the Mars Colonial Transporter (MCT) costs \$500,000 USD, and as such, SpaceX's clientele is a subset of wealthy, adventurous individuals from urban centres (Urban). Currently, the colony has a population of 8,000. The consensus among the scientific community is that a population of 1,000,000 people will be needed for the Mars colony to sustain itself without support from earth.

The infrastructure necessary to sustain the earliest settlers is already in use, and those settlers are currently employed building the more permanent infrastructure needed to sustain the society. Most notably, they are building the giant magnetic field which will protect Mars from solar winds and allow the atmospheric temperature to rise, melting the planet's icecaps. These developments will be crucial to the creation of an environment conducive to plant and animal life (Dockrill).

Currently, the colonists are living in a state of anarchy. The law of the land is the honour system, but this arrangement is far from a permanent one. The colony is ever growing, and as it does, a constitution and subsequent laws will be needed to govern the land. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 states that "outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means". In practice, this means that the duty of governing the newly occupied planet belongs to the United Nations.

Today—June 9, 2030—

delegates from member nations are convening at the Sagan Conference Hall on Mars to draw up the document that will dictate the system by which Mars is governed, and the rights of its citizens for the years to come. While most countries are ruled by ancient documents that are largely irrelevant to today's world, the Mars colony has an opportunity to draw from the wealth of experience that history has provided us.

THE USA:

Although the United States' official space agency, NASA, no longer produces its own rockets and has never surpassed its glory days of the Moon landings, its roughly \$19 billion yearly budget far outstrips its closest competitors (Armstrong). SpaceX, despite being a private company, is headquartered in California, which gives America a close eye – and what it hopes is a close hand – on the Mars settlement's development.

CHINA:

Experts usually evaluate the CNSA, China's space agency, as being roughly 10 years behind NASA, but it is directing its research into cutting-edge fields, such as quantum-communications satellites and dark matter telescopes, to hopefully accelerate its development. China's ambitions in space are also geopolitical, though: it has been testing anti-satellite missiles since 2007.

RUSSIA:

As SpaceX and China are now directly competing with Russian rockets for reliable, cheap methods of atmospheric exit and re-entry to serve the space crews of the world, Russia has shifted its focus to unmanned vehicles and larger, cheaper rockets (Zak). Through this, it may be able to compete with SpaceX and others for supply chains to the Red Planet.

EU:

With an eye on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, many of the ESA's plans for the future revolve around using space-related technology to improve the quality of life on Earth (ESA). Many of these same practices would be well-suited to help the nascent Martian settlement.

JAPAN:

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency has spent much of the last decade analyzing the compositions of the Moon, Mars, and Mars' satellites. Armed with this information, it will be a key player in terraforming parts of the Martian surface for human use.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. What kind of relationship will the Mars settlement have with the governments of Earth? Will it be partially or fully politically subservient, or independent? What kind of economic relationship will it have with Earth?
2. What rights do citizens of the Mars colony have? Will they maintain citizenship of their former countries, or will they have a new designation in interplanetary law?
3. According to its founders, the Mars settlement requires one million colonists in order to reach a self-sustaining population. What role will governments on Earth play in ensuring that this target is reached? Do Mars colonists retain the rights to travel between Earth and Mars as they wish?
4. Will the Mars settlement be governed in perpetuity by the United Nations through the Outer Space Treaty and those subsequent, or will the UN hand off this responsibility to the colonists? How might this affect future interpretations of the Outer Space Treaty?

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