

Space Billionaire Fantasies

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Abstract

There's something otherworldly about individuals owning and commanding many billions of dollars. Things get interesting when mega-billionaires start believing they know more than they know. It's not enough to control some of Earth's basic industries. Hubristic titans desire the global glory of rescuing our arrogant species.

Only America could have individual billionaires competing with each other to save the world. The foremost member of this club is Amazon founder, Jeff Bezos. He's worth about \$125 billion, for now, and he has really big plans. Richard Branson is much less wealthy, so he's content to give rich tourists rocket plane rides to the edge of space. Elon Musk is in Bezos' money and dreams league, and he also wants to send squishy humans into deep space. Meanwhile, Mother Earth's entire biosphere is rapidly suffering an anthropocene death spiral impacting millions of innocent species, many of them not yet cataloged by scientists.

The well-documented pancidal spiral has inspired Bezos to envision a solution that, he claims, will return our biosphere to a pollution-abated paradise. Only God has come up with grander plans for the thin skin of life on this planet. It is therefore fair to clearly examine and weigh the hubristic Bezos and Musk dreams.

Elon Musk and Mars

Elon Musk is the real Tesla of our times, but more successful. Say what you will about personal idiosyncrasies, Musk's industrial portfolio is impressive: A Musk business will send you into space, and soon into orbit. His swarms of low-orbit Starlink satellites will make available fast Internet to the rural world. Later a large Musk rocket may send eager passengers one-way to Mars, with martyrdom for science. Another business will sell you a Tesla car, and then you may drive it through a Musk boring hole. He just won a NASA contract for his rocket to Jupiter's moon, Europa, to look for likely life. One of his Tesla cars is now orbiting the sun, a sublime PR stunt.

I have repeatedly criticized his suicidal Martian colony plans. I have furthermore been very active in astronomy for 65 years, and thus know a thing or two about kooky space fever. There are multiple essays within my astronomy-links.net site to support my theses about space, and about the iffy survival of humanity itself. Rather than repeatedly go into detail about Musk's willingness to flush huge amounts of taxpayer cash to save Earth through his plan to settle Mars, and thus to reseed remnant humanity, I direct you to [this link](#), and [also this link](#).

I have no doubt that Musk and other billionaires with similarly gigantic egos could eventually land fleets of suicidal Martian colonists. Will psychedelic plans have enough time to succeed, given that [here on Earth things are going bad fast](#)? Will their current business models here on Earth survive for centuries?

The key question is what better use could be made of all the potentially ameliorative billions they will ego-flush into space? Time is of the essence for well-financed realistic remedies, not that anyone with deep pockets at this time really cares. Humans have failed to socially control the Covid danger which is here and now. What faith should we have that an existential global danger with a slightly more distant time horizon would be minimized?

Jeff Bezos and Space Industries

Jeff Bezos and his brother grew up on his grandfather's ranch in West Texas, where the starry skies at night are spectacular. They also were entranced by Armstrong and Aldrin. It is not surprising that such little boys with big dreams could grow up to become big boys with little dreams. Of all the billionaires, Jeff Bezos looks like the one scheduled for maximum failure, to the intense peril of our very species.

On the surface, Bezos looks like the wisest of them all. He is the one who correctly admits Earth's social and economic systems will soon fail. His *not-original* egocentric "solution" is to relocate polluting industries to space, restoring Earth to something like a Garden of Eden 2.0.

Upon returning to Earth after his 2021 trip in the penis-shaped rocket to the edge of space, *Bezos told CBS' Norah O'Donnell* in a God voice about his messianic reasons and vision:

"We humans have to go to space if we are going to continue to have a thriving civilization," Bezos says. "We have become big as a population, as a species, and this planet is relatively small. We see it in things like climate change and pollution and heavy industry. We are in the process of destroying this planet. And we have sent robotic probes to every planet in the solar system — this is the good one. So, we have to preserve this planet." To do that will require being able to live and work in space, says Bezos.

"We send things up into space, but they are all made on Earth. Eventually it will be much cheaper and simpler to make really complicated things, like microprocessors and everything, in space and then

send those highly complex manufactured objects back down to earth, so that we don't have the big factories and pollution generating industries that make those things now on Earth," Bezos says. "And Earth can be zoned residential."

His deficient verbiage is a classic example of being somewhat right about the problem, and totally wrong about the solution. Let us consider some hubristic errors:

(1) Bezos embraces the ancient assumption that the velocity of future social and economic change will be like in the past. Wrong! Our planet has entered the last phases of peak humanity, and it spirals downward from here. In the near term, if we are very wise and globally coordinated, we can manage a minimal anthropocene rescue to where humanity could eventually prosper again. Yes, we can do this; but will we?

(2) He *admits* sufficient exporting of polluting industry may take centuries. His model for polluting industries mentions the likes of highly complex manufactured objects, such as computer chips. This is possible, but totally inefficient relative to what we can do now on Earth. Bezos mentions available solar energy to power these orbiting factories, and fails to mention much more solar energy already available on land at lower cost. His logic is so bad that we can fairly call this unforced error delusional.

(3) Bezos has deficient understanding of the sources of CO₂ and other significant global warming gases. Here is a partial list of major warming sources that may surprise you:

- * concrete manufacturing, powered by coal, in western China.
- * coal and gas electricity for "clean" electric vehicles.
- * electricity from big server farms for "currency mining".
- * SUV gas guzzlers preferred over automobiles.
- * *wild hogs* air pollute equal to a million cars.

- * inefficient commercial airplanes.
- * climate-caused forest fires over vast areas.
- * ancient methane released in the Arctic and under the seas.
- * the partially destroyed Amazon forest recently becoming a net contributor of CO₂, rather than a CO₂ sink – due to evil authoritarian populism, combined with Malthusian population growth, and the revolution of rising expectations.
 - * carbon dioxide gas stays like a blanket for centuries in the atmosphere, only slowly absorbed by the oceans. Heated future oceans are becoming more acidic from CO₂, which kills off the very sea creatures that capture ocean CO₂ to make coral reefs, shells, and limestone deposits deep in the sea.
 - * rapidly warming ocean waters emitting more aerosol water molecules, which are a top source of insulating global gases.

Astronaut Bezos has absolutely nothing to seriously offer regarding the major sources of global warming gases. If he were truly concerned about working to ameliorate the impending crisis, which he is not, then he would use a large chunk of his cash to SYNERGIZE the efforts of others, public and private. A few examples of meaningful investment strategies could be these:

- * He should stop looking in the mirror and possibly thinking, “I alone can fix this.” Sound familiar?
- * He could coordinate with other super wealthy space titans to creatively attack key problems we are now facing, rather than foolishly blow billions on futuristic space-factories.
- * Bezos should admit that the major sources of rapid global heating are NOT solvable by putting heavy industry such as concrete plants in space. On Earth, modular nuclear energy could be devised with new science to replace the Chinese coal.
- * This list grows long, as the window of opportunity shrinks.