

Emigrating beyond earth : human adaptation and space colonization

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Abstrak

Emigrating beyond earth puts space colonization into the context of human evolution. Rather than focusing on the technologies and strategies needed to colonize space, the authors examine the human and societal reasons for space colonization. They make space colonization seem like a natural step by demonstrating that it will continue the human species' 4 million-year-old legacy of adaptation to difficult new environments. The authors present many examples from the history of human expansion into new environments, including two amazing tales of human colonization, the prehistoric settlement of the upper Arctic around 5,000 years ago and the colonization of the Pacific islands around 3,000 years ago, which show that space exploration is no more about rockets and robots than Arctic exploration was about boating!