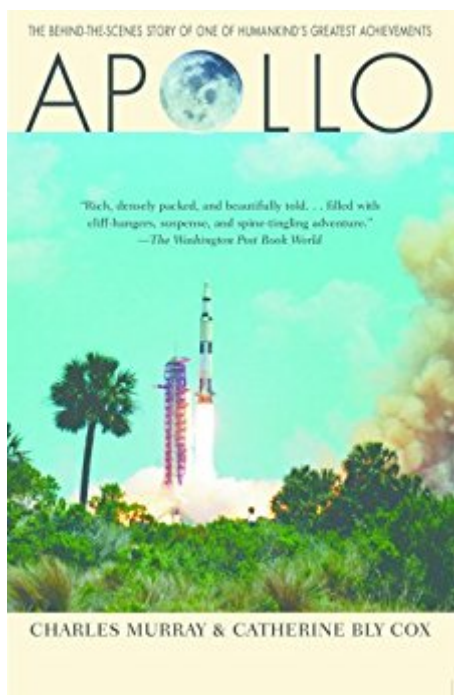


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Apollo



Synopsis

This is the classic account of how the United States got to the moon. It is a book for those who were part of Apollo and want to recapture the experience and for those of a new generation who want to know how it was done. Republished in 2004 with a new Foreword by the authors.

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Customer Reviews

You search for THE book about the space program to take with you onto the lonely island ? This is it! Fantastic research, very detailed, while not too complicated to read at the same time (although I wouldn't call it entry level). You will find very few books with such an amount of extra class text samples, highly worthy to be bookmarked. Apollo is a gigantic pool of quotes, opinions and peoples reactions, especially in the area of High End engineering while avoiding bureaucracy and consulting bulls**ting, wherever possible. The whole spirit of Apollo could be called in one sentence as Rocco Petrone did it "No matter what happened to the space program in the future, it could never be like this again" And of course there are lots of funny ones, like the classics from: Shepard on bidding

procedures and Evaluation Board rankings : " This is all a waste of time. It doesn't make any difference what the score is, North American is going to win."Wernher v. Braun to a group of Headquarter officials asking about the reliability rating of 0.9999 of the Saturn rocket : "Lieutenants, is there any reason why it won't work ?" "Nein, nein, nein, nein" . " O.K. gentlemen I have a reliability of four nines" :)Absolutely highly recommended.

This is another one of those must have books if you are at all interested in the history of early NASA or Apollo. This book differs from most in that it does not focus at all on the astronauts (of course they are mentioned when required) but instead focuses on how NASA got formed from the early NACA and how they built the Apollo spacecraft. It details the engineers behind the process, the decisions that they had to face, the politics involved (without being boring) and basically everything involved from the first days to Neil Armstrong walking on the moon. It's not a technical book, so don't expect to find minute details but more of a history book. Very well written and draws the reader into the story. I have bought both the paperback and the kindle editions and can say the kindle edition is faithful to the physical book. If you can find a copy get it.

I enjoyed the stories about the real heroes 'that worked the problems' in getting the Apollo to the Moon in 7 years from when President Kennedy challenged the nation with the goal of getting a man to the moon and do the other thing... before the end of the decade. I found myself living through the 60's, once again, following the development of the Apollo in a very well written book. I am a space nut and love this era of exploration and human development and loved to find interesting facts in this story which brought the Apollo era back for a couple of weeks. Enjoy!!!! I am amazed how much material there is on the Apollo missions. In fact I have started reading John Young's book *Forever Young: A Life of Adventure in Air and Space*. John Young flew Gemini, Apollo and Shuttle missions and walked on the Moon on Apollo 16 (see for more information). There are 8 of the 12 Moon walkers still alive and this number, over time, will decrease. The 12 of these astronauts were a part of an unique fraternity, one which I am interested in reading about their experiences.

This book immerses the reader in the humble origins of the American space program, and you cannot help but come away from it with multiplied admiration of can-do Americanism of the 1950s and '60s. Before there was the glossy version Americans are familiar with now, NASA was staffed by a few scores of the most brilliant minds in physics and engineering, making things up as they went along. This is a long book, but it is far from boring. It covers the space program from the mid

'50s through the early '70s. It is totally exciting, and you get a perfect picture of the academic setting that fostered eventually one of mankind's greatest achievements. In the several interviews that beautifully color the narrative with anecdotal stories, it's amazing how humble the old NASA hands are about their achievements. These were regular people of extraordinary intellect given essentially unlimited reign to do what was considered impossible. The scale of their designs cannot be overstated. The Apollo missions themselves could have been left out of this book, and I would have been completely satisfied. APOLLO goes into great detail in the clash of competing egos at NASA: von Braun, Faget, Kraft, etc. Nuts and bolts debates about esoteric subjects often divided these geniuses to the point of bitterness (the one that comes to mind is the direct ascent vs. lunar orbit rendezvous). Did you know that it was once seriously considered that the Saturn V rocket would be pulled from the Vehicle Assembly Building to the launch pad on a barge? The adapter between the rocket and the spacecraft has a conical shape because the designers changed their mind twice about the diameter of the spacecraft? These and other details will blow your mind.

This book details the period from the late 1950's through the summer of 1970, when the manned spaceflight program made it's greatest technological advances. The authors manage a mix of technical detail and insight in to the personalities that made the technical achievement possible. They mostly cover the period from the late 1950's through the summer of 1970. They begin with the early organization of NASA and substantially end with a debriefing of the "successful failure" of Apollo 13. These were the years in which Apollo made the greatest technical strides. Apollo 14-17 are given only brief coverage, but this is appropriate as the book is substantially about the technical challenge of travelling safely to and from the moon. By Apollo 14, the technical challenge had been met. The book was originally published in the late 1980's. The authors assisted in preparing the electronic version, which reads well on Kindle.

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