



The Apollo Program: The History and Legacy of America's Most Famous Space Missions

Charles River Editors

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From Reader Review The Apollo Program: The History and Legacy of America's Most Famous Space Missions for online ebook

Tom says

I've read many of the reviews on Goodreads and find them pretty accurate despite the fact that many have different views. I agree with many who talk about this book being more factual lacking of depth. To me there is no question that is true, but this is really what I had expected prior to starting the book. In some ways I was looking for this type of book so I gave a higher rating than some others.

That's not to say I wouldn't want a book that is more in-depth, however I think it would be difficult to explore the Apollo missions and achieve the level of depth that other readers would like to see. I intend to look at other Apollo related books, including biographies and the writings of the astronauts.

Diana says

If you just want the facts, and lots of them, about the Apollo space program without the bother of insights into it, this is the book for you. You can learn a lot of interesting trivia (How heavy WAS that launch platform anyway?), and you get some quotes from the key players, as well as some pictures. What you don't get is a real understanding of what the program meant while it was happening or the lasting effects of the program on the America we live in today.

I was a middle school student when the Apollo program began and a young married at the time it ended, so I remember a lot of what the writer talks about. I can see where it would be confusing for someone who wasn't there. A lot of the material is repeated in numerous places, and sometimes the writing is not technically good. It made me wonder where the editor was.

My biggest single complaint is actually the author's complaint: we know all about some flights (11 when Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon and 13 which was almost lost but became the wonderful movie "Apollo 13", but we don't know much about most of the missions. After complaining about this all the way through the Preface and getting my hopes up, the author did the same thing. Pretty disappointing.

So, if you really want to know about the Apollo space program, find another book, or even look for the video series, "From Earth to the Moon." You'll enjoy it a lot more.

Sue says

This gets two stars from me because of the interesting primary source material included in the text. But the writing is horrendous and the proofreading almost non-existent, including a whole section at the end of the Apollo 13 chapter on 14, 15, 16, that was almost verbatim from the chapter before the 13 crisis chapter. As if the editor was deciding where to put that section and then forgot to delete one of them once the decision was made. Grammar and spelling errors abound which made it annoying to read. I got this free on Book Bub, so you get what you pay for, but although I've seen other books by these authors that look interesting, I know now that they aren't worth my time.

Dhruv Bhandula says

I started reading this book because the title caught my eye. Apollo program have been one of the most talked about programs in the history of space exploration having been covered in a multitude of mainstream media, both written and visual one. Sending men on moon and bringing them back safely was indeed a remarkable achievement by NASA and can be considered as a cornerstone in the field of space exploration.

I was expecting a more intimate account of the program but the book failed to deliver on that aspect. I would have loved to read more detailed insights of the men involved on what it meant for them to be a part of this historic program. However, the book sounds more like a professional report or essay than an intimate account of the program. This was what disappointed me the most. It is filled with passages taken out of the official report and tends to be a bit boring in the middle. Eg. Lots of technical details of the Apollo spacecrafts have been mentioned which tends to stretch the book a bit and bores you down. However, the emotional aspect of the successful Apollo 11 mission or the horrors of being stuck in the space with limited resources and heroic return back to the earth of the Apollo 13 astronauts have been neglected quite a bit. Inspite of all that, it is a good attempt to educate the future generations about the triumphs and failures of the man's quest to conquer space. A more intimate and personal touch to the program would have been wonderful though. Somehow, in the end this book leaves you wanting more and doesn't satisfy your appetite.

Keith Bowden says

This book was anonymously "written" by an editorial collective. Unfortunately, it wasn't actually composed as a manuscript and never edited. It reads as a series of note cards constantly reshuffled, with many cards repeated several times.

However, if you can push through the repetition, poor composition, and typos, there is some good information here, and the photos are wonderful. Nothing new, but it's nice to have them in one place.

Sarah says

I really enjoyed this book. It focused mainly on Apollo 1, 11, and 13, but I enjoyed the overview of the program.

Terri says

If you want technical details about the Apollo program, then this is your book! I found it interesting, but a little tedious. I did learn a lot that I didn't know before given this book for an honest review. I love NASA and the space program. I have been reading and dreaming about space since I was in grade school! That was after the Space Race, but during the era of the Challenger and the like. I have always wanted to learn about the Apollo Era, and this book gave me all of the technical details that I have always wondered about. The fire is explained and so are the triumphs. It is well written and researched.

Dustin says

I was somewhat disappointed with this book. The Apollo program is (as pointed out in the text) perhaps the greatest engineering achievement in human history. There's a lot of fascinating history associated with it. However, the text I felt quoted too much from NASA technical reports, had some repeated sections, and was overall not very engaging. The text seemed very oriented towards the "what-happened" and not enough, in my opinion, on the people and on the repercussions.

Most of the focus was on 3 particular events - the Apollo 1 disaster, the Apollo 11 moon landing, and the Apollo 13 incident.

Read Ng says

Reads like an official findings report, because major portions of the book are exactly that. The Editors putting this together could have also done a bit more with their proofreading.

I enjoyed the Apollo Space Program while it was ongoing. Reading about the problems is similar to TV series Secret Space Escapes. It reminds us all of the complexity and dangers of exploring and venturing outside of Earth's gravity.

This book doesn't read all that interesting for pleasure reading, but I did appreciate the understanding of just what problems are out there. Not much emphasis on the successful portions of the program. But just as public interests died down as missions became routine, so does the reporting in this book.

Have a GoodReads.

G L Meisner says

The book has several issues with how it was written. First the author literally (and I do mean literally) used passages in multiple locations. The exact same sections were pasted into several different spots multiple times. The next is the overly large amount of quoting that occurs. There is little to no summarizing or paraphrasing that occurs. Lastly after a well cited book (limited sources but well cited) that avoided opinions and speculation, the author makes claims about the state of American society without any source, ruining an otherwise decent book.

Barbara Ann says

I have read several historical collections by Charles River Editors and have found them informative and useful, particularly for younger audiences. In my opinion, this one was a bit disappointing.

The book is jammed packed with information about every aspect of the Apollo Program focusing mostly on the Apollo 1 disaster, Apollo 11 and Apollo 13. But that strength is also its weakness. In many sections of the book, one feels as if she is reading a textbook. In an effort to present an accurate picture, the reader becomes lost in a sea of technical information.

The biographical sketches of the astronauts proved interesting as well as the tie in with the Cold War and the space race with the Soviets. The discussion of how NASA decided on spacecraft design and the team effort of government and private sectors is interesting for any reader. Most of the Charles River Editions are geared toward middle grade and young adult readers, but I think this one will turn most of that audience away. The diagrams and photos are an asset, but most readers will lose interest in the myriad of details. If the book had been written more as a story and less as a cut and paste collection of facts, it would merit a higher rating. The graphic detail of the Apollo 1 accident is too overwhelming for readers under age ten. Recommended especially for readers who have a definite interest in space science.

Jim Razinha says

My wife bought me a Kindle Fire 8 because my iPad mini is groaning and limping a slow death. In my Kindle app is a list of books already...some my wife's...and this one. Growing up in the era, I love the Apollo program and consider it the greatest engineering achievement so far, so I downloaded it. Kindle's atrocious, clunky interface did nothing to help this book, which was horribly edited. It does have plenty of technical and historic detail. It does have plenty of technical and historic detail. I did that on purpose, because unfortunately, this mess of a book also repeated large sections verbatim. Edited by committee, I suppose. Like the two manufacturers of the Apollo Command/Service and Lunar Excursion Modules not talking to each other and causing a big problem after Apollo 13 had a ... big...problem, one project manager/editor might have turned this from a mildly informative to a decently written book.

Not recommended. Go check out Apollo 8: The Mission That Changed Everything by Martin Sandler.

Bladestryke says

Interesting

This has a lot of information the Apollo programs. Sometimes to much so. It becomes clunky and long winded only to end up rushed at the end. Still worth a read as it covers all the missions not just the well known ones.

F says

The subject matter was handled well and I learned a lot I didn't know even though I grew up during this time- I remember watching the first moon walk [if you think that has something to do with Michael Jackson you really need to read more history]. For instance I learned Eisenhower, not Kennedy, set the program in motion to get man to the moon. JFK's push was important but was not the start. I appreciate the way they avoided making politics personal and just reported facts concerning the space program.

I probably would have given it 5 stars but for the myriad of spelling errors and poor editing [especially grammar-wise and substitution of similarly spelled words for the obviously intended word]. Additionally some whole paragraphs were repeated verbatim in close proximity to one another. All in all though I would recommend you read this fascinating but slightly flawed book.

Rachel says

There were some fascinating facts hidden in this poorly written history of the Apollo program. Initially, I was impressed with the depth of research and the personal touch provided by interviews with Houston staff and astronauts alike. However, it quickly became obvious that, not only was the book too dependent on quotes (perhaps about 60% of the overall book length), but it repeated itself thoroughly. There were entire sections lifted and repeated in several chapters. There were also numerous typos that changed the meanings, such as "if" for is, and "sued " for used. The book has good info, but will drive a discerning reader nuts!
