

# Discussion Guide



1960's America was deeply divided. The civil rights movement and severe poverty upset the established order. The Cuban Missile Crisis brought us to the brink of nuclear war, and the fear of Communism across the world swept through Middle America like wild fire, giving rise to the US intervention in Vietnam.

Then President Kennedy launched the inspirational race to the moon--a quest for mankind to conquer technological difficulties and explore space. The massive cost--at a time when millions of Americans lived below the poverty line--was justified to take the first step to meaningful exploration of space, understanding our universe and breaking free from our small but beautiful planet to live among the stars.

The Apollo moon landings promised much; ultimately it was a "false dawn." Recently released transcripts of White House meetings support the theory that the President only supported moon missions to detract attention from the escalating domestic and international situation and prove that communism was inferior.

The first decade of the New Millennium has brought the tragedy of 9/11, the war on terrorism, multi-national forces in Iraq and Afghanistan in a deeply unpopular "occupation" and mounting tensions over Iran.

The US Space Program has again been put at the forefront of the political agenda by President George W. Bush's "New Vision for Space" advocating a return to the moon and beyond by 2010. Is this another "false dawn?"

The debate starts here.



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## Understanding (cont.)

25. Space programs in other countries (India, Japan, China) and corporate interests in space technology
26. Implications of 9/11 on use of space-creation of Counter Communication and Counter Surveillance Reconnaissance Systems

## Notes

# OTHER RESOURCES

## Books

*Reaching for the Moon* by Buzz Aldrin and Wendell Minor (HarperCollins, 2005)  
(Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 (Awards))

*The Man Who Ran the Moon: James E. Webb, NASA, and the Secret History of Project Apollo*  
by Piers Bizony (Thunder's Mouth Press, 2007)

*Apollo 13* (also published as *Lost Moon*) by Jeffrey Kluger and James Lovell (Mariner Books, 1994)

*Apollo: The Definitive Sourcebook* by Richard W. Orloff and David M. Harland (Springer, 2006)

*The Right Stuff* by Tom Wolfe (Bantam, 2001)

## Films

*Apollo 13* (1995)

*2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968)

*The Right Stuff* (1983)

*For All Mankind* (1989)

*From The Earth To The Moon* (1998) (Mini)

## Internet

Canadian Space Agency  
<http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/default.asp>

China National Space Administration  
<http://www.cnsa.gov.cn/n615709/cindex.html>

European Space Agency  
<http://www.esa.int/esaCP/index.html>

Indian Space Research Organization  
<http://www.isro.org/>

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency  
[http://www.jaxa.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www.jaxa.jp/index_e.html)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
<http://www.nasa.com>

Russian Federal Space Agency  
<http://www.roscosmos.ru/index.asp?Lang=ENG>