

The Space Race

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Historical Paper

Paper length: 1,938 words

The Space Race impacted the 60s, due to tensions and advancement in technology by both the U.S and USSR. This conflict and compromise within history has historical context, which lead to the race occurring. This included tensions between the two during the Cold war. Early on much funding went into military in order to support new technology and prove superiority. There was also a ideological gap between the communist and capitalist supremes of the world. The USSR proved successful through early achievements. Even though the U.S lacked behind they still made memorable achievements. While both faced trials there was compromise, which lead to better relations. A positive short term significance went to America. While the long term significance had a world wide effect. The Space Race was a conflict and compromise within history, due to it impacting the Cold war and advancement of NASA within the 1960s, this event lead to the capitalist United States of America becoming the world's epitome.

The USSR and U.S have had long term tensions, which can be defined as the Cold War. There are various events that occurred between the 1940s-1990s. Though within the 1960s tensions were rising between the two. As they did try to compromise at the time by signing various agreements, though they could never come to a complete stop of the feud. During the start of World War II the USSR sided with Germany though after betrayal they became allies with the U.S. This only lasted for a short amount of time, as when Germany was defeated the U.S and USSR went back to being enemies. Both also continued to thrive for ideological control over the world. This can be seen in various wars such as the Vietnam and Korean war. Help was provided to these two wars, depending on their support of a communist or capitalist political ideology. The biggest being the Vietnam war, in which the U.S helped the capitalist side. The

Vietnam war served as a large dilemma of the 1960s. They also battled on having the most advanced technology. This included military weapons and the race to the moon. In general the two sides never truly had a war, though battled on various subjects in order to become the epitome of the world.

The idea came to travel to space, which initially the USSR led while the U.S later joined. Within the 1960s president John F. Kennedy's ordered for the U.S to take priority in space technology advancement. "Kennedy realized the importance of rallying the nation behind a cause, and he made that cause winning the race to the Moon."(Saari, Peggy p.55). Both also wanted to be the most advanced when it came to technology. Much money went to their military defenses, even presidential commands were made in order to progress the space program. Overall the race to the moon was yet again a fight between communist and capitalist political ideologies. Both strived to prove one was better than the other and this was done through technology advancements. For the U.S this was also a very uplifting challenge as the 1960s were not going well due to built up tensions in America. In general the space race proved to be war of technology yet helpful due to increased moral.

The U.S and USSR had contradicting ideologies, which patriotism made conflicting. They pushed for the spread of their communist or capitalist form of government. This led to them being apart of various wars such as the Vietnam and Korean war. Their contradicting viewpoints led to agreements occasionally lasting. The communist believed that their economic and social system were the best, hence their strong pride. To be communist means that all productions is owned in common. While capitalism is the exact opposite, with private ownership. "...indifferent to God, the degree to which it collaborates in communism's attempt to make man

stand alone without God.” (Evil Empire speech). Both sides belittled each other through harsh speeches such as the “ Evil Empire speech”. This led to much conflict between the rivals. With these polar economic and social systems clashing as the superpowers, there was bound to be conflict.

The USSR had various achievements in the race to space, from the initiative. October, 1957 marked one of the first space achievements for the USSR. They had successfully launched an artificial satellite into Earth's orbit, which began the Space Race. Sputnik was launched on November, 1957. Sputnik 2 was later launched August, 1960 and successfully had living creatures survive an orbital flight. Then on April, 1961 Vostok 1 launched which was the first manned space flight. Yuri Gagarin was the first human to enter outer space and additionally complete an orbit. This was an extreme achievement due to the passing of the van Allen belt which was a mystery on how to accomplish. Numerous died trying to achieve this due to the belts containing radiation which destroy the human body. Voskhod 2 was later launched on March, 1965, which held two men and marked the first tethered “walk in space”. Mir was the next large space accomplishment for the USSR. The first modern space station began operating in 1986. As for early achievements the USSR paved the way through trial and error of the unknown space.

The U.S had space achievements towards the end of the Space race. They joined due to fears of the USSR controlling space. The U.S came in second to launching a satellite within space, this was called Explorer 1. After came Alan Shepard in 1961, who marked the first American in space. This first step of safely passing through the van Allen belt was profound due to it being a major trial. In the same year president Kennedy publicly announced for priority to successfully land a man on the moon. This served as one of the main focuses of NASA during

the 60s. One of the most memorable space achievements during the space race was Apollo 11. This marked the first man on the moon on July, 1969. Neil Armstrong took the first step on the moon. This achievement ended the 60s on a bright note for the U.S which was much needed. After was Apollo 17 in December, 1972, which was the last space mission to the moon. No other missions to the moon were conducted after Apollo 17. The U.S had few of the first achievements, though they did have the most memorable achievements during the Space Race.

The Space Race was more of a conflict than compromise between the USSR and the U.S. The primary reason the U.S was so adamant on winning the space race was due to fear of the USSR taking over space. Both sides also wanted to prove to have the most advanced technology. These two would prove one side was superior over the other. Previously the achievements and dates of both sides were mentioned. It can be seen that early on the USSR was superior, though with the US completing the most recognizable they clearly overpowered. During the late 60s the U.S was seen as superior. Due to this there was little to no compromise. Though the Space Race did lead to better relations between the rivals. A joint space mission was completed called Apollo-Soyuz Test project (July, 1975). The space mission was done in order to ease tensions between the two superpowers during the cold war. The two launched a spacecraft in order to dock each other. Once docked a handshake in space was done to mark this historical meeting. Instead of the space race which was done to prove whose technology was best, this was done for the opposite. The joint space mission proved how well their equipment would work together. This was also the first time two different nations worked together with separate spacecrafts. Other team efforts in the future also occurred such as the Shuttle Mir program and

the International space station. Though there was more conflict than compromise, the Race to Space did eventually lead to better relations between the USSR and the U.S.

Majority of the short term significances occurred in America, while the USSR lacked. The USSR lashed the U.S and belittled their achievements. This was done to make the USSR seem superior, even though they lacked in achievements towards the end of the 60s. While for America the 60s were ended on a positive note. This was needed as the 60s were a time full of tensions, especially in America from things such as civil rights, the Vietnam war and the assassination of the president. The moon landing also heightened American morale, as this great achievement was widely broadcasted. During the 1960s it also proved that the U.S lead when it came technology over the USSR. The moon landing furthermore served as propaganda for the U.S to refine their depiction. In general majority of the short term impacts positively aided America.

The long term significances from the space race impacted the world. For instance the U.S government began to fund the space program, which still exist today. Before the space race there was little to no interest in space. Though when the president made the commitment to triumph the USSR in the race, more funding was put into the program. "A program based upon NASA 's analysis...ten-year period,average approximately \$1 billion a year above the current estimates of the existing NASDA program."(Lyndon Johnson, "Memorandum For The President, April 20, 1961." p.4) NASA still actively works and continues to make new discoveries. This event also lead to more of an interest in space, from sci-fi to jobs in engineering and technology. With this interest in space more of a priority was put on space discovery. The USSR and U.S relations bettered due to the space race. Future joint space missions were conducted, which lead to an

international space station. Today others still advently work to create better technology in order to further exploration and knowledge of space. The space race long term impacts, still affect life today.

The Space Race not only impacted the 60s but also today's current interest in space. The Race to the Moon was a conflict and compromise within history, due to it impacting the Cold war and advancement of NASA within the 1960s, this event lead to the capitalist United States of America becoming the world's supreme of the 60s. There was already major existing conflict between the USSR and U.S, which is referred to as the Cold war. The two valued a strong military which represent superiority in technology and money. With existing technology, space advancement was not far away. The USSR paved the way for space exploration through numerous first achievements. Lacking in comparison the U.S played propaganda on their side with achievements in order to appease the public. The space race was filled with a considerable amount of tensions between both sides to see who would prove themselves. Though in the end conflict overpowered compromise. There was still better relations between the two after the race and even joint space missions. The space race positively impacted America, through providing higher moral for citizens and U.S portrayal. As for long term significances, there was worldwide impact. More of an interest and funding was placed on space, which today impacts sci-fi, jobs and government funding of space programs. The Space Race not only served as a purpose for advancement of technology and the cold war, but also as gateway for current space interest.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources:

Hancock, Theodore. "Moon Buggy." Digital image. DPLA .1962. Accessed November 10, 2017. <https://dp.la/>.

The source is primary and in the form of a painting. This watercolor showcases the early hopes of the space program during the race to the moon, with that being a moon Buggy. This leads the viewer to conclude that America hoped to have man made crafts on the moon early on within 1962. The 1960s marked the very early stages of America seriously taking a place in the race to the moon from the Soviet Union. The painting is of a white vehicle within the Marshall space flight center. The 1960s was a busy time for the space programs due to america winning the space race being a priority. The painting also is valuable due to it showing how quick development was moving along and how creative the team became. Alike to Hancock other artist before brought portraits to NASA. This would later lead to campaign or development plans. Overall this is a valuable watercolor painting from the time of Space race from America. This source relates to conflict and compromises due to it being a part of the conflict. The Moon Buggy idea was created in order to beat the Soviet Union in the Race to the the moon.

Lyndon Johnson, "Memorandum For The President, April 20, 1961." National Archives and Records Administration. John F. Kennedy Library, Simi Valley, CA.

This source is in the format of a letter and is a primary source. This source is valuable due to it providing an insight on how the project was moving along at the beginning. Topic such as the cost, advancement of project based on hours, priorities and soviet union advancement are touched upon. This was also once a confidential document which allows the viewpoint of what went on under the curtain at the time. The useful information presented within the topic is on the exact projects going on at the time. This also gave an insight on the worried state of the US in trying to beat the soviet union within the space race. "We are neither making maximum effort nor achieving results necessary if this is country is to reach a position of leadership" -Lyndon Johnson. This source relates to conflict and compromise due to it being Lyndon Johnson outline for a victory in the race to space from the Soviet Union

Ronald Reagan, "Ronald Reagan's Evil Empire Speech," Speech presented at Orlando, Florida, March, 1983.

This is a primary source in the form of a speech that was spoken in Florida by the president Ronald Reagan. This speech is valuable since it was made when tensions were high between the Soviet Union and America. As citizens were concerned with an all-out nuclear war, so the president came back saying that more funding should go to military and science. This is a good point as it begins the race to space. This is when he brought up adding more funds. Though U.S. Congress proposed a freeze, while within the speech Reagan referred to the battle between the Soviet Union as evil vs good through the speech. This speech was well received by the public. There was also more effort afterwards to freeze the Soviet Union with the efforts of nuclear war. Though in the speech President Reagan argued that a freeze would only make the Soviet Union stronger and please them. Overall this speech powered towards portraying the Soviet Union as evil and gain more funding for military and science in order to be better. This was well received by the public though the Congress had different ideas. This relates to conflict and compromise due to it being a conflict between the Soviet Union. As the president at the time talked harshly of the Soviet Union and their "aggressive impulses of an evil empire".

Ronald Reagan "Ronald Reagan's Second Inaugural Address," Speech presented at Washington, D.C., January, 1985.

This is a primary source and it is within a speech format. This source is generally useful due to it being from Ronald Reagan who was the president at the time of the race to the moon. As he is a president to bring along change after the Great Depression has hit. There is hope of a better economy, he proposes things such as lower taxes and cuts in order to help bring up the economy. This was his speech for his relation and his point where to hold a smaller government. This speech also hits on point of the Soviet Union and connects to the topic of the Cold War at the time. This source relates to conflict and compromise due to it hitting points on the conflict/rivalry between the two.

Secondary Sources:

David L. Snead, "Cold War," *Dictionary of American History*, 3rd ed (2003), *World History in Context* (accessed October 20, 2017), <http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/uhic/home?productShortName=UHIC&u=gree82036>.

This is a secondary source in the form of an online database. There was never a strong trust between America and Russia. During World War II they had a common enemy,

germany. The post war was divided by communist and capitalist ideas. 30 years of mistrust lead to the end of aid for post war. America actively tried to stop the spread of communism, ex Korean war, Vietnam war. They also try to beat each other by having greater arms and having more accomplishments. Through these efforts later lead to halt as neither side could no longer afford to focus on each other. They later made efforts to better relationship. With America visiting china and the soviet union for "Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty". Though short lived economic trades as tensions increased again. Soviet Union went on to invade afghanistan which lead to America boycotting summer olympics and withdrawing treaty for new arms control. Soviet Union entered a period of decline with no success in war. "In essence the Soviet Union was dying from inefficiency and corruption." Little did he know that this freedom would spark the revolutions of 1989 that saw the overthrow of communist regimes throughout eastern Europe and the rise of opponents in the Soviet Union who wanted even more reform than he could deliver." It later separated into states which was the end of the soviet Union and cold war within August 1991. This source relates to conflict and compromise due to it summarizing conflicts which played parts in the cold war. This cold war also included the Race to the moon.

"John F. Kennedy," *Space Exploration Reference Library*, Vol. 4 (2005), *U.S History in Context* (accessed October 26, 2017),
<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3441400083/UHIC?u=gree82036&xid=e94d7ab1>.

This source is in the form of an online database and is a secondary source. Kennedy had made a goal to have the first moon landing. This came since they were shocked to heard the the soviet union had launched a satellite into space,there were the first to send a craft orbital successfully. The soviet union was winning the race to space with piloting an aircraft into space and orbiting one. There was also failure on the cubical missiles for ameirca.So the confidence was strongly needed for america.This also marked the first time any space exploration and science had been marked as a national priority. Kennedy was also the first american leader to ask congress for so much funds for one program during the time. He was so committed to the race to space since the highly competitive with former enemy Soviet union. He also made the people feel very encouraged by the moon landing by his speech making the people feel like they're involved. This also lead to a peak interest and student interest in space increased. Through Apollo 1 was failure, Apollo 11 had many americans watching. Though president Kennedy was not alive at the time to watch the successful landing and return. This source relates to conflict and comprimes due to it highlighting how much of a priority it was so important for America to beat the Soviet Union.

"Reagan, Ronald," *Cold War Reference Library Volume 2* (2004), *U.S. History in Context* (accessed October 20, 2017), <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3410800099/UHIC?u=gree82036&xid=1ad72a8e>.

This source is in the form of an online database and is a secondary source. The cold war tensions rise as Soviets had invaded Afghanistan in December 1979. To support unpopular pro-soviet leader. In response cut off grain sales though it proved to hurt them more. So they also provided aid to the rebel side with 30 million. Though it proved to be and unpopular and costly war for the soviet Union. President calls soviet leader godless monster and from nuclear missile range. By proposing SDI, while soviet declared that as violation of arm control agreement. The soviet were also troubled on how to keep up with cost of new tech. Public fear of nuclear war rose. Later soviet union went on to shot korean commercial arlien for straying boundaries. Killing 269 on september 1983. Ronald referred act as barbaric. While the soviet said they thought it was an american spy. Ronald went on to try and stop spread of communism in latin american politics though came criticism. Though is was a success and lead to a successful reelection for the president and formed a new pro-us government. Overall the cat and mouse chase and the starting fall of the soviet union. This source relates to Conflict and compromise due to it giving an insight on the why the Soviet Union and the U.S had a conflict.

Stephanie Paris, *20th Century: Race to the Moon* (TIME FOR KIDS, 2012), pp. 4-9.

This is a secondary sourced children's book. The soviet Union and the Us were the leads on the space race and had many scientists gathered, in this time of discovery as there were no previous actions done within space. The idea for rockets sprouted from rockets. As they could travel far so they worked to fire into outer space. Though due to the cold war there was no trust and they competed. The race between the (USSR) lasted 1957-1969. Soviets were power political group 1917-1991 and made sputnik ,the first man manned satellite. Overall the two countries built many missiles in order to have stronger technology and safety, this was later used for rockets. They also spied on each other during the space race, through cameras etc. This source is a valuable children's book, as it summaries the idea of the cold war. Through summarizing key points are mentioned. It also holds various primary sources such as images and presidential quotes. This source relates to conflict and compromise due to it mentioning the technology advancement conflicts between the two (Soviet Union and U.S).

"U.S. Space Program: What was the Importance of the Space Program to the United States?," *History in Dispute* Vol.2, (1945-2000), *U.S. History in Context* (accessed October 26, 2017), <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX2876200040/UHIC?u=gree82036&xid=b336a258>.

This source is in the form of an online database and is secondary. The Moon landings success encouraged the people and government to support a larger fund for NASA and a larger interest in science. The idea entered through a presidential speech alongside Cuban missile crisis and WATT riots. Thus this created hope as it was good news at the time. The moon landing became an icon for the confused Americans. Soviet had been in the lead with a satellite already in space. This was a race of new technology and arms which both had to hold themselves a position in this race. For Campigiana the president defined students as champion of people. They became the first humans to land on the moon and out of gravity. This marked the end of Kennedy's challenge and starious race between the Soviet. It also marked the America had advanced technology. This source relates to conflict and compromise due to it showing the advantages and disadvantages the U.S had during the the Race to the moon.

William S. McConnell, *Living through the Space Race* (Greenhaven Press, 2006), pp. 5-120.

This is a secondary source in the form of a book. This source is valuable due to it providing a neat timeline and having it order with events the directly corollary to the space race. It also focuses on various important people for the space race and uses various credible sources within the novel such as images. There are quotes used and cited. Overall the book gives an insight on the space race through multiple viewpoints and sources. It hits on the topic of the beginning. The conflict of the space race is between America and the Soviet Union. In which they are trying to prove which one has the best arms and technology as they are the two superpowers at the time. In which NASA was created to compete the Sputnik I by the soviet Union, which lead to the making of NASA. The race to space is also set with guidelines to be peaceful as fear or the technology for war. The Soviet Union is within the lead which leads president Kennedy to declare his goal of landing a man on the moon. This is significant as it would be a great accomplishment. Though the soviet union is ahead with the first human to orbit which urges America to step up. They also are first to have a satellite in space, come back and walk. Though America finally lands the first man on the moon which increases America's moral. There is major propaganda within the soviet union to portray them as the best with false info. After the space race there is also an increase in interest for space within pop culture and jobs. All of this information is important as it provides info on important

events during the space race, before and after. This source relates to conflict and comprises due to it mentioning the Soviet union's early success within the race to the moon.