

# 5HD450 Chapters in History of the Cold War

## 6. Space Race.



EVROPSKÁ UNIE  
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy  
Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání

**MŠMT**  
MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY

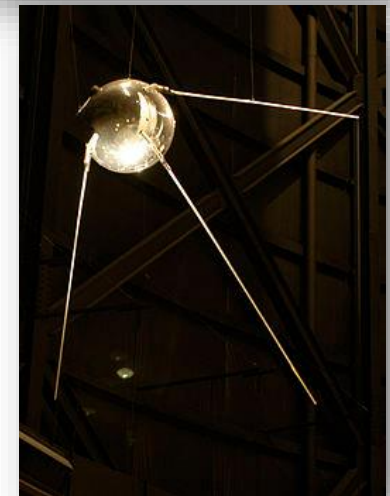
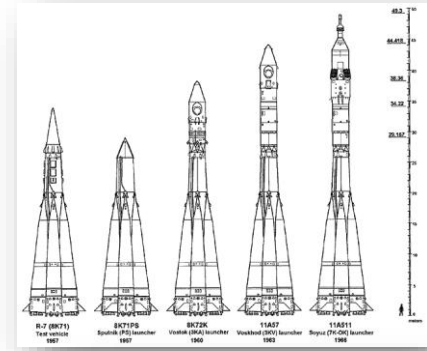
# Early stage

- **Competition for space flight supremacy** (and thus national security) **between the US and the USSR**
- **Including intercontinental space bombers, IC ballistic missiles, artificial Earth satellites, space probes to the Moon, Mars, and Venus, human space flights to orbit and the Moon**
- At first during World War II – nuclear arms race
- German missile technologies and scientists crucial for future research (V-2 rockets)
- 1955 Americans and Soviets announced to launch artificial satellites



# Artificial satellites

- **June 1957** first successful US intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)
- **August 1957** USSR developed first fully operational (ICBM) R-7 – next projects based on the same design
- **October 1957** Soviets launched Sputnik 1
- **December 1957** US satellite launch failure
- USSR to the US: *“under the Soviet program of technical assistance to backwards nations”*
- **January 1958** US launched satellite Explorer I
- **April 1958** NASA and a special committee led by the President



# First star/universe sailors

- **1957 US Project Mercury** - to put a man into Earth orbit and return him safely, ideally before the USSR (7 astronauts)
- **April 1961 first human in space and on the orbit**  
**Yuri Gagarin on Vostok 1** (“Поехали!” *Poyekhali!* - *Let's go!*)  
August Gherman Titov on Vostok 2
- **May 1961 first American in space Alan Shepard on Freedom 7**
- **1962 US Project Gemini** – to develop space travel techniques to support Project Apollo – 10 two–astronaut (later three) crews, great success
- **February 1962 John Glenn first American on Friendship 7 on the orbit**
- **June 1963 first woman and civilian in space Valentina Tereshkova on Vostok 6** (just for propaganda)



# To the Moon ... .. and back

- **1959 USSR first probes within Luna Program** (Luna 2 and 3)
- **1961 US first probes within Ranger program** – failures, Ranger 4 and Ranger 7 finally successful
- **Summer 1961 US Project Apollo (Kennedy's We choose to go to the Moon speech)**
- Kennedy: *"... I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth."*
- **1964 USSR Voskhod and Soyuz Programs** - first three-cosmonaut crew + shirt-sleeve environment
- **1965 first Soviet spacewalk**
- **July 1969 Apollo 11 first humans on the Moon**  
Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, Edwin Aldrin
- **US plans for civilian space shuttles, space stations (Skylab) in Earth and Moon, first humans on Mars in 1986**
- After unsuccessful attempts USSR focused just on the Earth orbital space stations (Salyut)



# US-Soviet/Russian cooperation

- **1963 Kennedy proposed cooperation in reaching the Moon**
  - USSR rejected (?)
- **April 1972 Apollo–Soyuz Test Project began**
- **July 1975 US astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts met on the orbit**
- **1970s Americans developed Space Shuttle** – reusable orbital spacecraft; Soviets continued with their space station (Salyut, Mir, supported by Soyuz spacecraft)
- **1990s Shuttle–Mir Program**
  - joint Russian–American crews
- **International Space Station (ISS)**



# The end of the race

- December 1991 dissolution of the USSR
- US Space Shuttle program ended in 2011
- **Achievements** – satellites, International Space Station, more investments on research and education, spin-offs
- R-7 rockets are still used – for Soyuz and Progress spacecrafts, ISS



# Readings & videos

- Documentaries

BBC Space Race (4 episodes)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ST4emxOd9Qo>

National Geographic & Discovery HD Channel Space Race: Untold Story

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3re297eMS4>

BBC The Cold War – Sputnik

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uGT0mZOHR0&list=PL3H6z037pboGWTxs3xGP7HRGrQ5dOQdGc&index=8>

Cold War History Videos

- <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cold-war-history/videos>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/>

- Specialized Resources / Collections / Cold War Files

- <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/cold-war-international-history-project>
- <http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collections>
- [http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/themes/world\\_politics/cold\\_war/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/themes/world_politics/cold_war/default.stm)
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20080411004848/http://www.coldwarfiles.org/index.cfm?thisunit=0&fuseaction=events.list>
- <http://www.avclub.com/special/cold-war/timeline>





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