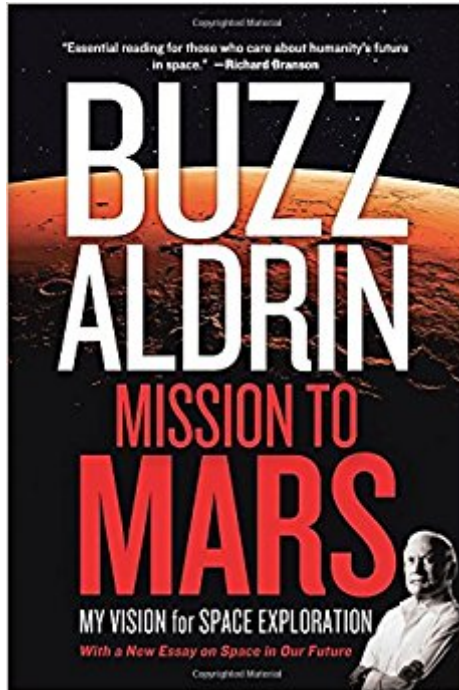


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# Mission To Mars: My Vision For Space Exploration



## Synopsis

Can astronauts reach Mars by 2035? Absolutely, says Buzz Aldrin, one of the first men to walk on the moon. Celebrated astronaut, brilliant engineer, bestselling author, Aldrin believes it is not only possible but vital to America's future to keep pushing the space frontier outward for the sake of exploration, science, development, commerce, and security. What we need, he argues, is a commitment by the U.S. President as rousing as JFK's promise to reach the moon by the end of the 1960s—an audacious, inspiring goal—and a unified vision for space exploration. In *Mission to Mars*, Aldrin plots that trajectory, stressing that American-led space exploration is essential to the economic and technological vitality of the nation and the world. Do you dare to dream big? Then join Aldrin in his thought provoking and inspiring *Mission to Mars*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If it weren't for the dust jacket and all the big photos of Buzz schmoozing with his son, Armstrong and Collins, and Obama, I'd have thought this book was authored by Neil Tyson. What with all the let's-go-to-Mars, dammit!! cheerleading. Really, there is very little technical info here, folks. You've heard it before, I'm sure: man is a natural explorer, we must become a multiplanet species, curiosity is in our genome, stopping asteroid impacts is a survival imperative, we must maintain international leadership in foreign policy, we must preserve the industrial base, technology spinoffs, creativity and innovation...etc. etc. Buzz throws in about two and a half pages on Zubrin's Mars Direct plan, of course with his Aldrin Cyclers thrown in for good measure. He briefly describes two upcoming

robotic space missions: Insight and OSIRIS-REx. Other than that, about the only info on actual space operations is his point about the Martian moons being good places to operate teledirected robotic exploration of the Martian surface. Since we're on the topic, allow me to throw in my two cents regarding the vaunted Aldrin Cyclers. You gain only two possible advantages: artificial gravity and radiation shielding. Unless you're gonna make them self-sufficient space stations for raising crops without outside inputs, each crew is going to have to bring their own consumables for each mission (might as well throw in some spares for upkeep of the cycler too). Unfortunately for Buzz, we have workable solutions for those two problems without having to incur the expense of a system of cyclers. Zubrin avers that the entire spacecraft can be spun using its spent upper stage as a counterweight. Cheap, simple, reliable.

Buzz Aldrin, as we all know, flew in the first manned Moon landing mission, on Apollo 11, and became the second man to walk on the Moon, after Neil Armstrong. Today, he speaks at space development conferences about exploring and developing space, but his true vision is on Mars. Aldrin's latest book, "Mission to Mars," explains all this, and it starts from the very beginning. Aldrin's life is briefly covered, from his time flying in the Korean War to his acceptance by NASA and then training as an astronaut, leading up to his flight on Apollo 11. One little known fact is that the landing itself was difficult, avoiding boulders and rock strewn areas to find that smooth spot to land, their near abort, and finally locating the place to land, and the rest is history. After Apollo, Aldrin has been focusing on the future of humanity in space, not as competitors, but as a unified species, venturing into the unknown together. Aldrin looks beyond the Cold War, Apollo, and the shuttle to accomplish this. This is because Aldrin, though no longer a part of NASA, has stuck with his dream through 11 presidents, and has seen many visions of space come and go, supported by one president, cancelled by the next. Aldrin, as well as being a former astronaut and Moon walker, is also an engineer, and in describing his vision for space, has done his homework. This book covers eight chapters that are easy to read and understand. In addition to his early life to Apollo, Aldrin then proposes, and has patented, his own spacecraft system called Starcraft Boosters, what the shuttle was originally intended to be, though that itself isn't mentioned.

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