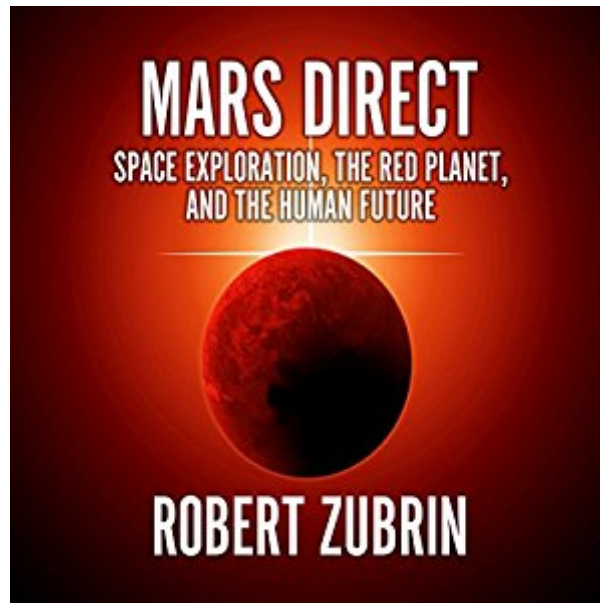




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Mars Direct: Space Exploration, The Red Planet, And The Human Future



Synopsis

The human race is at a crossroads. In the coming years, we will make decisions regarding our human spaceflight program that will lead to one of two familiar futures: the open universe of Star Trek, where we allow ourselves the opportunity to spread our wings and attempt to flourish as an interplanetary species - or the closed, dystopian, and ultimately self-destructive world of Soylent Green. If we ever hope to live in the future that is the former scenario, our first stepping stone must be a manned mission to Mars. Dr. Robert Zubrin details the challenges of a manned Earth-to-Mars mission. Challenges which, according to Zubrin, we are technologically more prepared to overcome than the obstacles of the missions to the moon of the sixties and seventies. Dr. Zubrin's relatively simple plan, called Mars Direct, could feasibly have humans on the surface of Mars within a decade. Zubrin also discusses the current predicament of NASA, the promise of privatized space flight from companies like SpaceX, and the larger implication behind the absolute necessity to open the final frontier to humanity - the human race's future as a species that takes the necessary baby steps away from the cradle that is planet Earth or, ultimately, perishes here.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 1 hour 27 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Gildan Media, LLC

Audible.com Release Date: February 12, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00BEQBF5I

Best Sellers Rank: #49 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science > Astronomy #61 in Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Mars #875 in Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Astrophysics & Space Science

Customer Reviews

This is more than a condensed version of The Case for Mars, and contains an insightful critique of shortcomings at NASA. I've been "on board" with Dr. Zubrin's approach of a somewhat minimalist journey to Mars, coupled with a year and half stay as a precursor to building a continuous human presence on the Red Planet. His description and comments regarding the Mars sample return mission proposed by NASA are incisive, and point out the dangers associated with allowing a

bureaucratic approach to space exploration. The complicated and very expensive mission panders to all the different groups within the space agency, and is highly reminiscent of the ill-fated GHW Bush "90 day plan," for a human mission to Mars. This is a very useful book when discussing travel to Mars. I gave it 5 stars, only because there wasn't a 6 star rating possible.

I completely disagree with the review that said this is merely a condensed version of Robert's classic book, "Case For Mars". On the contrary, it shows that Robert can still weave his magic without merely rehashing old topics. True, the first of four parts of this book does summarize the Mars Direct Plan, but the rest is completely new material, material that would fit nicely into an updated Case For Mars edition. A few examples of the new material in this book covered with perfect Zubrin flair:-> How concerns for human safety have mired NASA, and how they compare with a rational, engineering risk analysis.-> An augmented plan, dubbed "Mars Indirect", showing how we could get to Mars using existing crafts from the SpaceX corporation.-> How the latest political onslaught has killed off the last bits of NASA in the recent 2010-2012 time frame. I think the timing was perfect for this publication to counter Buzz Aldrin's proposals, which make some interesting points, but seem hopelessly naive in their desire to work from within current politics. Warning - what is revealed about what the Obama administration has done to the remaining functional projects at NASA will infuriate you. It saddens me that we as a country have no issue launching a protest to save the Internet against SOPA, yet we won't do something similar to protect the 1% of NASA's budget that actually gets results. P. S. , Robert, PLEASE create a Kindle version of "Entering Space" - I view this as your best work, and it's my favorite book.

I like how Zubrin has hope for the future. I think we should have already gone to Mars. By not going we are saying we are scared to try. America never backs down from a challenge. At least not when we have good, sane leadership. Maybe we'll get lucky and get another Kennedy type who takes us to Mars and uses Zubrin's plan. Anyone who thinks we shouldn't is not worth listening to. We would learn so much from it and inspire ten times more innovation. We might even find some really important minerals on Mars that will further humanity. Let's do it no more excuses.

During all the recent talk of asteroid missions, L2 stations in lunar space and such, Zubrin makes a great case once again for setting our sights directly on Mars. The technologies exist right now. There's no need for multi-decade delays awaiting better rockets. The SpaceX Falcon-9 Heavy may be enough to get us there. A great read which gave me renewed hope that I might see human

flights to Mars in my lifetime. This is an excellent read if you really care about a bright future for human space flight.

Well articulated and to the point using layman's language. It presents the possibility of a Mars Mission in the immediate future and to those of who lived during, and were inspired by, the moon landings, it's easy to see what society is missing now. We need something to inspire and unite us globally. NASA and the US space agencies can posture all they want. But they no longer have the capability to get a man into space. If anything demonstrates America's decline it is this. Robert Zubrin has shown that this need not be the case. And without breaking the bank.. A thought provoking read.

Dr. Zubrin's words reawakened a child-like passion for Human Spaceflight that I had long forgotten. This book is a short and concise primer on the talking points of why a manned mission to Mars today is not only possible but plausible and not being executed by the current National Aeronautics and Space Administration. I would highly recommend anyone to add this to your library. But you don't have to take my word for it, buy it and find out for yourself!

This very short book presents the best case I've read thus far regarding how and why we should go to Mars now. I far preferred it to the collection of short papers by a number of authors (including Zubrin) "Colonizing Mars-The Human Mission to the Red Planet" and I look forward to reading another of Zubrin's books "The Case for Mars", which I recently obtained directly from the author while at the National Space Society's 2013 annual conference.

The book is small enough to fit in a pocket, which is much smaller than I expected. It is probably overpriced for its size. Aside from that, I have always been extremely supportive of Zubrin's "Mars Direct" plan,

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