
News letter - on making the difference.

Was the space Shuttle a mistake ?

1. [Was the Space Shuttle a Mistake ?](#) " The program's benefits weren't worth the cost—and now the U.S. is in jeopardy of repeating the same mistake, says a leading space policy expert. Forty years ago, I wrote an article for *Technology Review* titled "[Shall We Build the Space Shuttle?](#)" Now, with the 135th and final flight of the shuttle at hand, and the benefit of hindsight, it seems appropriate to ask a slightly different question—"Should We Have Built the Space Shuttle?" [Tehcnologyreview.com](http://Technologyreview.com)
2. [Shuttle Critics call for broad reassessment](#) (1981) "The shuttle's problems are much deeper than a fuel cell not working," he said in an interview. "Very likely the program is not a good buy. I shrink from saying it should absolutely be terminated until I see the cost of putting the same missions on expendable rockets. But even at this point in the game, I wouldn't be surprised if we could afford, with less than a single year's shuttle budget, to develop a better expendable that could launch payloads greater than the shuttle's." nytimes.com
3. [The real mistakes of the space shuttle program](#) "Former NASA administrator Mike Griffin once called the shuttle a mistake The space shuttle was built in hope of easy, frequent, safe, and cheap access to space. ... Yet, the space shuttle never met the desired expectation.. We, NASA, have settled for less than we bargained for, and for a long, long time. As an engineer I think there was one major design mistake regarding the space shuttle ...The conceptual space shuttle launch design did not consider lessons learned from Apollo 13." thespacereview.com
4. [Space shuttle's legacy: Soaring in orbit and costs](#) — "One problem is that the shuttle was a compromise from start to finish, said Howard McCurdy, a professor at American University and author of several books on the space agency. The shuttle had to satisfy both NASA and the Department of Defense, which dictated the exact shape of its wings and the size of its payload bay, said Roger Launius, senior curator at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum." Forbes.com
5. [The Lunacy of Our Retreat from Space](#) But look up from your BlackBerry one night. That is the moon. On it are exactly 12 sets of human footprints – untouched, unchanged, abandoned. For the first time in history, the moon is not just a mystery and a muse, but a nightly rebuke. A vigorous young president once summoned us to this new frontier, calling the voyage "the most hazardous and dangerous and greatest adventure on which man has ever embarked." And so we did it. We came. We saw. Then we retreated. How could we? Nationalreview.com
6. [China's Space Program Winds Up, Targets Moon, Mars And Venus](#) - BEIJING — This year, a rocket will carry a boxcar-sized module into orbit, the first building block for a Chinese space station. Around 2013, China plans to launch a lunar probe that will set a rover loose on the moon. It wants to put a man on the moon, sometime after 2020. huffingtonpost.com
7. [China's space ambition soars](#) -"China on Thursday launched its first space laboratory module, marking another step upward for its space program. "We must soberly recognize that China's space-station technology is still in its initial stage, compared to those of the U.S. and Russia," said a commentary from the state-run Xinhua News Agency. "But the launch of Tiangong-1 is the beginning of China's efforts to narrow the gap." Cnn.com
8. [Russia's Post-Shuttle Space Plans](#)" With the U.S. manned space program grounded following the last mission of the space shuttle, the Russian Soyuz spacecraft is the only avenue into space for NASA astronauts. And, in an unprecedented arrangement for NASA, U.S. taxpayers will now provide the Russian government with the extra cash it needs to build a new-generation manned vehicle to replace the 40-year-old Soyuz" Tech-nologyreview.com