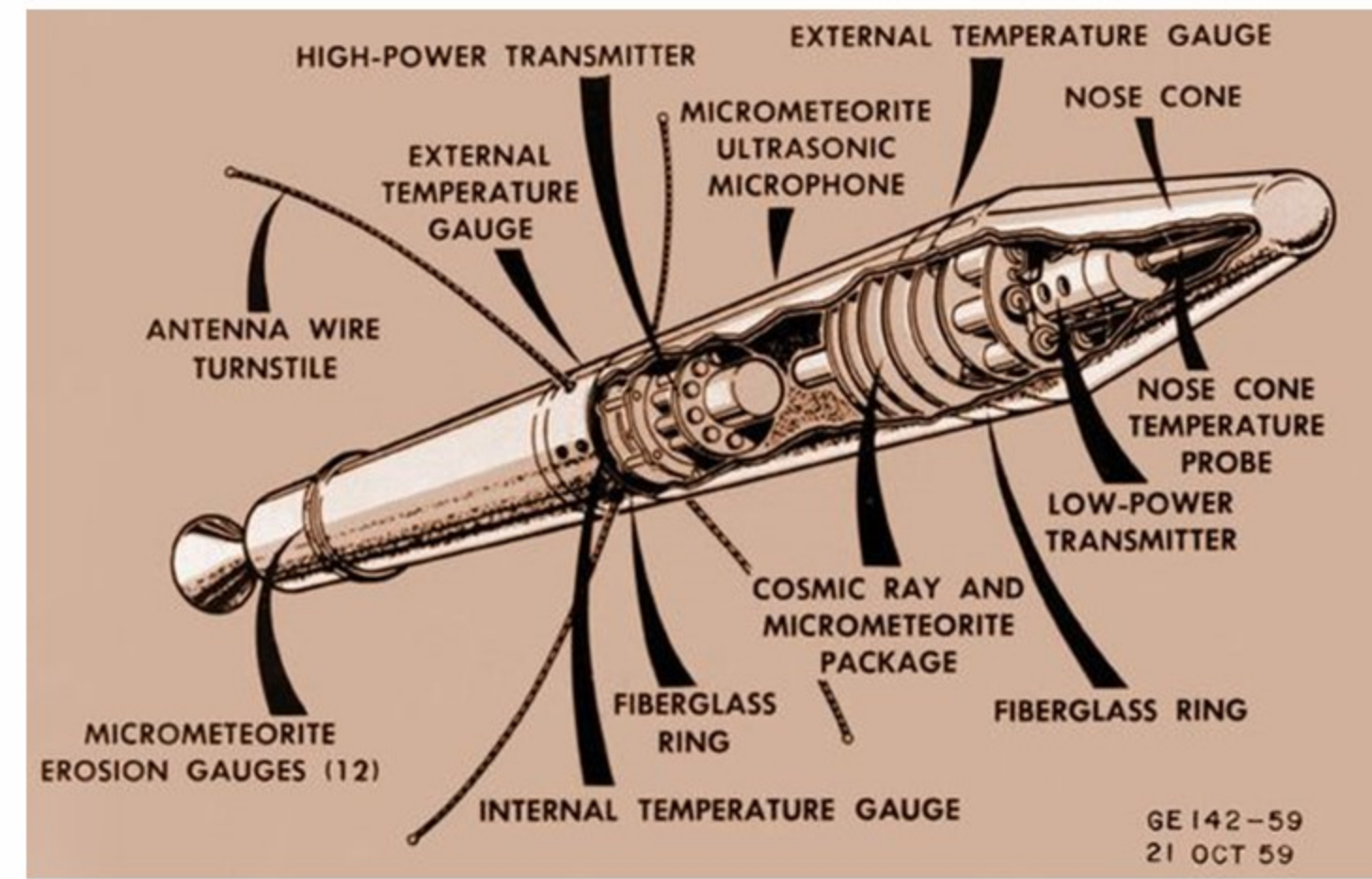


# Fear to Cooperation: A Brief History of the Space Race

## the Space Race

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A drawing of the Explorer 1 Satellite (NASA)



Neil Armstrong's First steps on the moon (ABC7NY)



The New York Times, July 18, 1957

### Background

In 1949, the arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union began after the Soviet Union detonated their first atomic bomb.

The United States suffers multiple failures while developing their rockets and attempting to launch their first satellite.

1949 - 1957

### NASA is formed

President Dwight D. Eisenhower renames NACA to NASA and directs the organization to focus research on spaceflight and rocket technology.

Explorer 1 is launched four months after Sputnik, quickly followed by Explorer 2 and 3, cementing United States advances.

1958



The NACA logo (NASA)



The NASA logo (NASA)



The Gemini Project Mission Logo (NASA)

### Gemini

The Gemini program was the precursor to the Apollo program where the United States tested crew capsules with room for two astronauts.

This is considered the turning point of the space race, now the United States took the lead.

It set the groundwork for the success of the Apollo program.

1965



The Saturn V launch Vehicle for Apollo (NASA)

### "One Giant Leap"

Pride swells in the United States as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin step on the Moon as the world watches.

The United States went on to land on the Moon six more times and left a plaque on the Moon commemorating all lost astronauts and cosmonauts.

1969

### Apollo-Soyuz

After nearly two decades of tense American-Soviet relations due to the fear of falling behind, cooperation began on July 17 when the two crew modules docked in outer space.

Part of a diplomatic tactic called "détente" that eased US - Soviet relations.

1975



The Astronauts and Cosmonauts of the Apollo-Soyuz project (NASA)

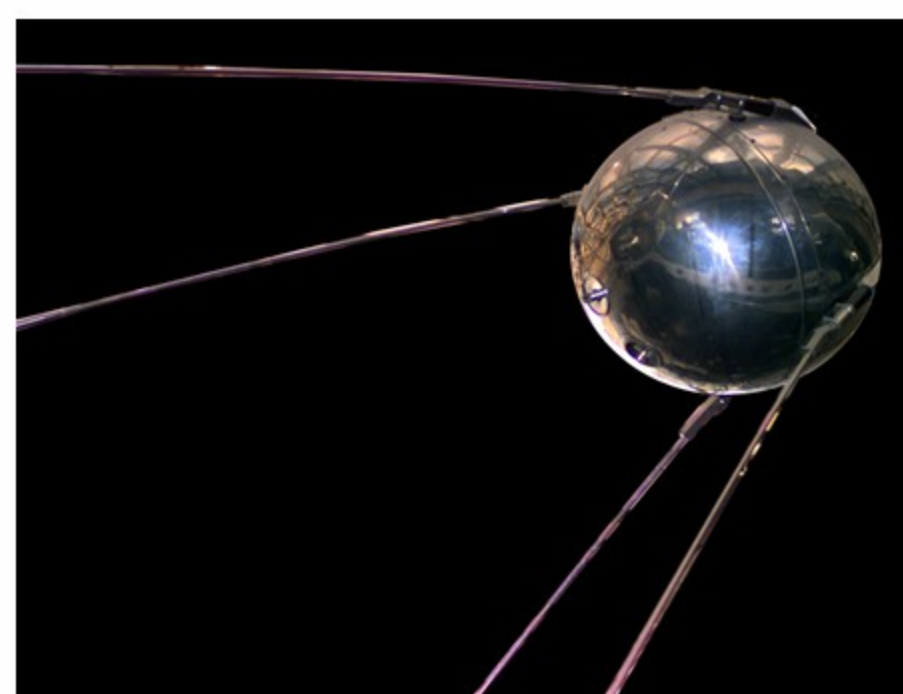
1957

### Sputnik

The Soviet Union launches the first artificial satellite in August 1957

This is quickly followed by Sputnik 2 launching Laika, the first mammal to leave Earth.

This left the United States looking incapable and its citizens in fear.



Sputnik (NASA)



The New York Times, October 5, 1957

1962

### The Cuban Missile Crisis

Still in fear of being behind with rocket technology, the discovery of Soviet missile sites so close to the United States caused terror among its citizens.

This is the closest the world had gotten to total nuclear war.



The New York Times, October 23, 1962



Russian Space Program logo in the 1950s (Roscosmos)



Russian Space Program logo in the 1960s (Roscosmos)



The Apollo Project Mission Logo (NASA)

1967

### Tragedy

Both the United States and Soviet Union suffer losses of pilots, causing a pause in the Space Race.

The Soviet Union lost 1 cosmonaut, while the United States lost 3 astronauts.

1968

### Apollo

The first flight of the Apollo program is conducted in October 1968 named Apollo 7.

This would be the first time in the Space Race that 3 astronauts were launched together.

The Apollo program would later serve as the basis for the shuttle program.

1972

### Salyut and Skylab

Both nations seek to further their presence in low Earth orbit and launch multiple space stations.

The Soviet Union launched Salyut before the United States launched Skylab. These space stations served as orbital laboratories for experimentation in unique gravity.



Russian Space Program logo after the 1960s (Roscosmos)



US Space Force Logo (US Space Force)

The Future

### Post 1975

Both Nations pursue reusable spacecraft in the form of the Shuttle and the Buran.

Commercial spaceflight would be attempted several times but would ultimately find success in the United States under SpaceX.

The United States established a "Space Force" in 2019.

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### Acknowledgements

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