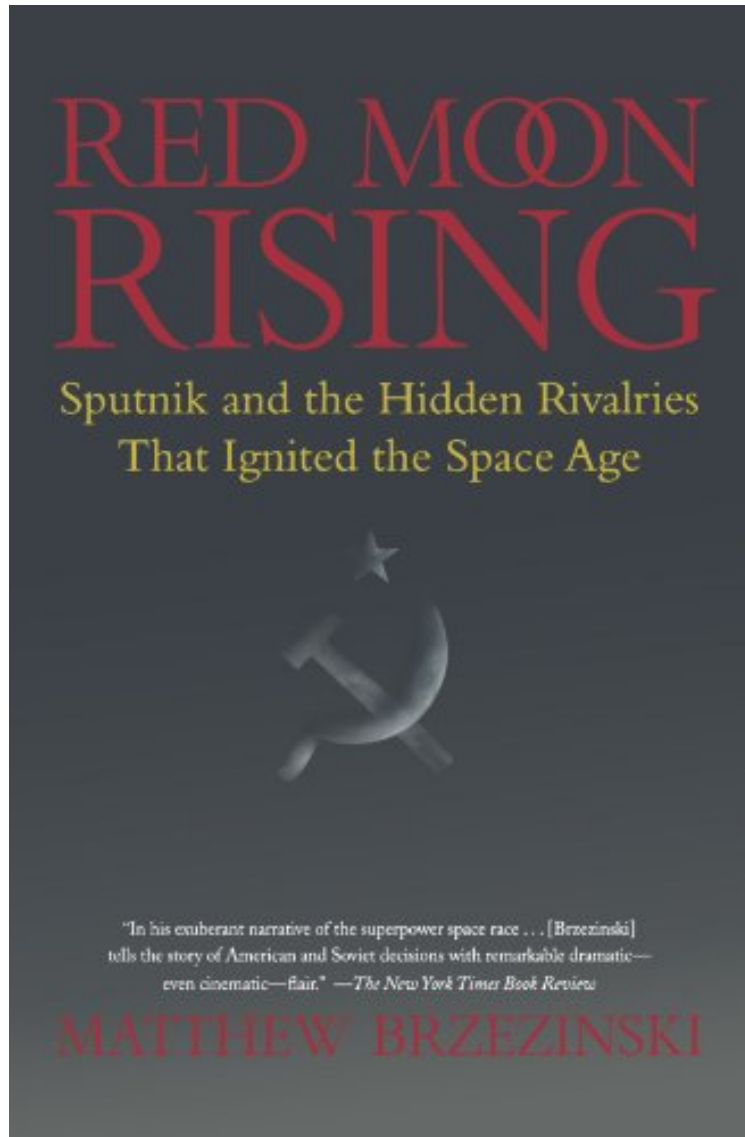


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Red Moon Rising: Sputnik and the Hidden Rivalries that Ignited the Space Age

Matthew Brzezinski

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Matthew Brzezinski : Red Moon Rising: Sputnik and the Hidden Rivalries that Ignited the Space Age before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Red Moon Rising: Sputnik and the Hidden Rivalries that Ignited the Space Age:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well researched book By Jimmy Ray Purser Very interesting book on

how office politics drove the different designs and agency on both sides of the world. For me, Ike's legacy is explored in ways I have not heard. There is really a lot to this book that makes it a worthwhile read for sure. I certainly recommend it to space junkies. It's more than just the Soviet position. It's well balanced to give you a real multi dimensional picture. For example; if he discusses Soviet interoffice reveals, he turns around and covers US ones as well. Pick it up or download it. You'll love it!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Joseph A. Tanner Jr. Good overview of the "Chief Designer" and early Soviet space program
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating, but only half the story!
By David C. Casler The book was published to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the launching of Sputnik. What makes it so particularly fascinating is that the author has dug deep into now-released Soviet records and can tell both sides of the story--the American and the Soviet. The author paints a picture that shows that the Americans deliberately kept Wernher von Braun and his 100 or so German cohorts locked away for five years or so without really letting them do anything, and thus the Americans were five years behind where they could have been. I'm not sure this is quite convincing, but if not, it's barely short of convincing. In the event, it was the failure of an American-led civilian group that allowed the Army and von Braun to launch the first American satellite. But the thing that kept me from rating this five stars is that the book stops with the launching of the American satellite. I would very much have liked to see the book continue until the launching of first the Soviet cosmonaut and second the American astronaut, since all the same players were involved. Is this book worth purchasing and reading? You bet! It's full of tidbits that haven't hit the public stage before. And it doesn't canonize von Braun, either--painting him as clearly in cahoots with those who managed the slave labor to get the V2s in the air, and later turned the driving force behind the American space effort.

"In his exuberant narrative of the superpower space race . . . [Brzezinski] tells the story of American and Soviet decisions with remarkable dramatic—even cinematic—flair." The New York Times Book Review

In *Red Moon Rising*, Matthew Brzezinski recounts the dramatic behind-the-scenes story of the fierce battles on earth that preceded and followed the launch of Sputnik on October 4, 1957. He takes us inside the Kremlin, the White House, secret military facilities, deep-cover safe houses, and the halls of Congress to bring to life the Russians and Americans who feared and distrusted their compatriots at least as much as their superpower rivals. Drawing on original interviews and new documentary sources, Brzezinski tells a story rich in the paranoia of the time. The combatants include three U.S. presidents, survivors of the gulag, corporate chieftains, ambitious apparatchiks, rehabilitated Nazis, and a general who won the day by refusing to follow orders. The true story of the birth of the space age has never been told in such dramatic detail, and *Red Moon Rising* brings it vividly and memorably to life.

From *Publishers Weekly* Starred . The writing is fast-paced and crisp, the stakes high and the tension palpable from the first pages of this high-flying account of the early days of the space race between the U.S. and U.S.S.R., a race ignited by the Soviet launch of the first satellite, Sputnik, in 1957. Brzezinski (Fortress America), a contributor to the *New York Times Magazine*, says this battle for military and technological control of space, part of the larger Cold War, had lasting consequences. Brzezinski illuminates how the space race divided Americans: for instance, then Sen. Lyndon Johnson wanted to aggressively pursue the race, but President Eisenhower thought the ambitious senator was merely seeking publicity. The author also dissects the failed American spin: despite White House claims that Sputnik was no big deal, the media knew it was huge. Sputnik II, launched a month later, was even more unsettling for Americans, causing them to question their way of life. The principals—Khrushchev, Eisenhower, John Foster Dulles, rocket scientist Werner von Braun—are vividly realized. Yet even more than his absorbing narrative, Brzezinski's final analysis has staying power: although the U.S. caught up to the U.S.S.R., it was the Russians' early dominance in space that established the Soviet Union as a superpower equal to America. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From *Booklist* Comparable to Paul Dickson's *Sputnik: Shock of the Century* (2001), Brzezinski's speedy narrative of the first satellite slings readers from launch pads to conference rooms. Beyond the storied facts of the Sputnik event, Brzezinski integrates a theme of Eisenhower and Khrushchev's initially dim understanding of Sputnik's significance. They soon sensed the extraordinary societal reaction of pride in the USSR and panic in the U.S., but their adjustments were quite different. Brzezinski dramatizes Khrushchev's personally shaky grip on power in 1957, when Stalinists attempted to oust him, connecting the satellite spectacular to a reinforcement of his political position. Ike, on the other hand, his eye on expenses, tried to resist the do-something stampede but was overwhelmed. From the domestic politics of the cold-war rivals, Brzezinski shifts to the technically temperamental missiles with which the Soviet Union's secret "Chief Designer" (Sergei Korolev) and his counterparts on rival U.S. Army and Navy teams strove to heave an orbiting orb. A kinetic rendition of Sputnik, this will score with spaceflight buffs. Taylor, Gilbert "In our fear of terrorist attacks, we forget there was an even more panicky time--when Russia's Sputnik first sped across the night sky in October 1957, signaling that the Soviet Union could launch nuclear-tipped missiles at the United States. By plumbing Russian as well as American sources, Matthew Brzezinski has given us a vivid, insightful account of that paranoid age." Evan Thomas, author of *Sea of Thunder* and coauthor of *The Wise Men* "Matthew Brzezinski's *Red Moon Rising* fills a significant hole in our understanding of the Cold

War. Using the Sputnik launch as his centerpiece, Brzezinski brilliantly flashes back and forth between Washington, D.C., and Moscow. A truly gripping, important book.” ?Douglas Brinkley, author of *The Great Deluge* and *The Boys of Pointe du Hoc*“Matthew Brzezinski's reportorial skills and smooth writing propel the narrative forward at the perfect pitch. *Red Moon Rising* is a combustibly entertaining mixture of scientific daring, politics, Cold War duels, and big-time personalities.” ?Neal Bascomb, author of *Red Mutiny*“Matthew Brzezinski has crafted a dazzling account of the people and events that led to the world's first earth satellite. It is one of the most important stories of the twentieth century, and Brzezinski tells it supremely well. His account not only tells us how the Russians did it, but how the Americans, bewildered at first, finally got going with their own space program. It is historical storytelling at its finest, and I thoroughly enjoyed every page. In a word: Prodigious!” ?Homer Hickam, author of *Rocket Boys* (*October Sky*)“Brzezinski is a wonderfully colourful writer, combining a scientific plotline with the history and characters of a Cold War thriller.” ?*The Times* (London)“Fascinating and highly revealing . . . Riveting history, dramatically told.” ?*The Philadelphia Inquirer*