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Book Review: Escaping the Bonds of Earth: The Fifties and the Sixties

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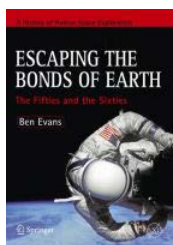
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Escaping the bonds of Earth : the fifties and the sixties



Evans, Ben. Springer/Praxis, 2009

493p, 9780387790930 \$39.95

LC Call Number: [TL788](#)

There are countless space buffs in the world, but writer Evans (e.g., *Space Shuttle Challenger*, CH, Oct'07, 45-0838; coauthor, *NASA's Voyager Missions*, CH, Apr'04, 41-4637) stands out for his detailed historical account of the first decade of the space age. In the preface, Evans states that he undertook this project "to convey some of my own enthusiasm for what was one of the most remarkable decades in human history." Mission accomplished! Here readers will find a detailed, mostly chronological story of the early ventures into space by the US and USSR. The text is liberally illustrated with photos and carefully referenced. Although the author was not even born when these events took place, his story is so well documented that readers could easily mistake it for a first-person account. Also, unlike most other histories of the space age, Evans places milestones in space exploration squarely in their historical context--amid presidential assassinations, the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Vietnam War, racial riots, etc. Curiously, the book stops with *Apollo 8*, the first circumnavigation of the moon, not the landings. This is good marketing for the publisher's future volumes, which will discuss space exploration in succeeding decades. This book is a must have for any space aficionado.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels of readership.

Reviewer: [T. D. Oswalt](#), Florida Institute of Technology

Recommendation: Highly recommended

Readership Level: All Readership Levels, General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Two-Year Technical Program Students, Professionals/Practitioners

Interdisciplinary Subjects: