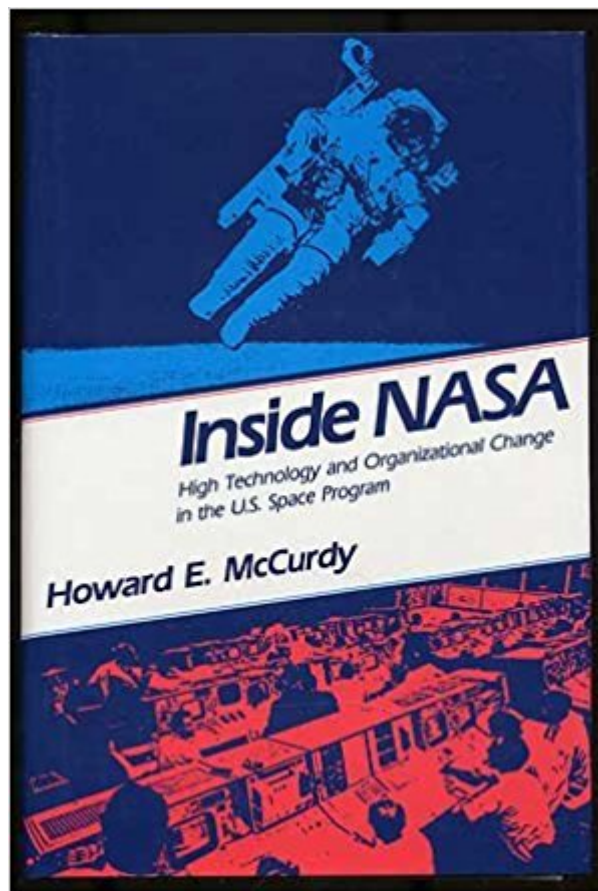


The book was found

Inside NASA: High Technology And Organizational Change In The U.S. Space Program (New Series In NASA History)



Synopsis

Inside NASA explores how an agency praised for its planetary probes and expeditions to the moon became notorious for the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger and a series of other malfunctions. Using archival evidence as well as in-depth interviews with space agency officials, Howard McCurdy investigates the relationship between the performance of the American space program and NASA's organizational culture. He begins by identifying the beliefs, norms, and practices that guided NASA's early successes. Originally, the agency was dominated by the strong technical culture rooted in the research-and-development organizations from which NASA was formed. To launch the expeditions to the moon, McCurdy explains, this technical culture was linked to an organizational structure borrowed from the Air Force ballistic-missile program. Changes imposed to accomplish the lunar landing--along with the normal aging process and increased bureaucracy in the government as a whole--gradually eroded NASA's original culture and reduced its technical strength.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

They are government jobs:people who could when the spending cuts of the 70's came,held on to their jobs. Some of them have moved up and haven't retired yet.So it is an agency that hasn't really renewed itself over the years.The 60's bunch are mostly too old to be much good anymore (I hate

to say that but it seems true). The only way you can get anything useful out of a government agency is to start fresh? As you get older you see that there is no reformation or revolution built into human organizations and the result is usually they get worse as they get older. War, revolution and depression seem to be built into counter that kind of trend. Corporate shake-ups are the free enterprise version that makes corporate structure a little better: but looking at Ford and GM, you have to say it doesn't work well long term either? The original idea for a space station and a shuttle was a means to planetary exploration. All the ideals of early NASA seem gone and you are left with an empty structure of government employees.

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