

Rome, than is to be found in the works of these academic historians. In its insistence that a full and truthful picture be assembled, this short study shines forth,

like the works of Schiller and LaRouche, as a call to action in defense of the common interest of all mankind, at a moment when the world stands

poised for the imposition of universal fascism on a scale beyond the imaginings of Diocletian and his *epigoni*.

—Ken Kronberg

## Shall We Get To Mars?

This exciting book spans the twentieth century—that century in which mankind took the giant step into space and then retreated.

Hermann Julius Oberth was born on June 25, 1894. Certainly, America's Robert Goddard and the Russian scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky also envisaged the possibility of space travel, but it is to Oberth that we owe the greatest debt. His was the vision of manned space flight which led us directly to the moon.

In 1957, Oberth wrote *Man into Space*, which expressed the goal of his entire life: "To make available for life every place where life is possible. To make inhabitable all worlds as yet uninhabitable, and all life purposeful." He lived to witness the Apollo moon landing.

Oberth was the teacher of the generation of German scientists who actually made space travel practicable. Best known to Americans from among these is, of course, Werner von Braun, whom Mrs. Freeman describes, not inappropriately, as the "Columbus of Space."

From 1960 to 1970, von Braun was the director of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, where the Saturn V moon rocket was created. Without him, President Kennedy's grand design to land an American on the moon in the space of only one decade, would have been a noble but empty dream.

Von Braun's vision reached Mars, and indeed, as early as 1953, he was trying to awaken Americans to the possibilities of flight to that planet.

By the 1970's this dream was turning into an American nightmare. This was the era of the counter-culture, which fostered the rise of a rabidly anti-science mob. Environmentalists used the tactics of terrorists to sabotage nuclear development. Rather than man taking his right-

ful place in the stars, the refrain was sounded that man did not even belong on Earth, because he was displacing animals from their natural habitats.

For Oberg, Von Braun, and their younger associate Krafft Ehrlicke, the turn toward cultural pessimism in the United States could only bring back unhappy memories of the Nazi period in their native Germany. Cultural pessimism was something to be fought.

In 1982, Krafft Ehrlicke wrote *The Extraterrestrial Imperative*, yet to be published, which is a stirring affirmation of Western civilization. Ehrlicke directly counterposed space exploration to the evil of Malthusianism, and attacked the *Global 2000* report, which pretended to give scientific arguments why an increasing population could not be sustained on the biosphere. Ehrlicke wrote: "The *Global 2000* report, a warmed-over version of the original limits-to-growth nonsense, contains outright misinformation and, like its infamous predecessor, totally ignores the human capacity for limitless growth. Growth, in contrast to multiplication, is the increase in knowledge, in wisdom, in the capacity to grow in new ways."

At a 1985 Schiller Institute conference honoring Krafft Ehrlicke, Schiller Institute Chairman Helga Zepp-LaRouche opened the conference with a very stirring tribute: Krafft Ehrlicke, she said, "was convinced, and so am I, that only through space travel, only when man lifts his eyes away from the Earth, looks into the stars and actually thinks what his role can be, can he achieve what Schiller called the dignity of men. And only if we start to think about space, and the colonization of space, will the Age of Reason that the great humanists of European civilization were thinking of accomplishing be possible. That was the belief of Schiller,



**How We Got to the Moon:  
The Story of the German  
Space Pioneers**  
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that was the belief of Krafft Ehrlicke: the fact that man is capable of reason even under the most horrible of crises."

Freeman quotes these words, and then writes a short epilogue to her book in which she asks the poignant question: "Where would we be today if we had adopted and followed the space exploration schedule put forward by the German space pioneers during the past fifty years?"

Clearly we could be seeing an era of abundance, in which there might be an industrial colony on the moon and man would already have landed on Mars. We would have seen a new industrial revolution, but best of all, cultural optimism would be recognized as the birthright of all young people. To quote the last line of this important new book, "This was the goal of the German space pioneers—to make all worlds habitable, to disprove that there are limits to growth, and to open the Age of Reason. Although there have been decades of lost time, it is not too late."

—Carol White