



Altering Lunar History

OE Watch Commentary: The Soviet Union's space program was one of its greatest achievements. Whether launching the first orbital satellite, sending the first animal, man and woman into space, conducting the first space-walk, or making the first unmanned lunar landing, the USSR often led the US in the space race. The Russian record over the past 25 years has not been as impressive, and nostalgia over the USSR's space achievements remains a source of national pride. This nostalgia, combined with the current anti-American climate, has resulted in some Russians today questioning whether the US actually landed men on the moon in July 1969. The brief excerpt from the normally authoritative *Military Industrial Courier (VPK)* describes the Russian rationale behind this skepticism.

The article begins by asserting that “there are more and more arguments from foreign researchers refuting the landing of Americans on the Moon.” The reason that Russians have not fully joined in this chorus of doubt “is economic,” suggesting that Soviet and Russian leaders and scientists “exchanged the gold of silence for material and momentary political benefits.” The article goes on to assert that “the whole [US] lunar program was invented” and that Russia today has “recognized specialists who could prove this case with the necessary scientific and technical justification.”

The article concludes by stressing that now is the time for Russia to expose this “truth,” since the country is facing “a massive offensive on all fronts of the ideological and information war.” To counterattack, Kremlin leaders must expose “this myth [which] will be a powerful blow to the image of the United States in the world.” Over the past several years, the Kremlin-sponsored media has orchestrated a campaign to convince its population that the West/US is determined to weaken Russia. To fight back against such a determined enemy, some Russians are now advocating a revision of history. **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)**



“The exposure of this myth will be a powerful blow to the image of the United States in the world.”

Source: Boris Loznevoy, “Лунная пыль в глаза. Посадка Аполлонов – красивая картинка или политическая сделка? (Moon Dust in Eyes. The Apollo Landing- a beautiful picture or a political deal?),” *Военно-промышленный курьер (VPK-Military Industrial Courier)*, 19 December 2017. <https://vpk-news.ru/articles/40501>

There are more and more arguments from foreign researchers refuting the landing of Americans on the Moon. Supposedly, even Trump's adviser on science recognized the landing of the Apollo as a fake. And what about us? Who, if not Russian scientists, designers and astronauts, could set the record straight!

In this matter, aside from the technical aspect, there were many political decisions that clearly played along with the American version. There are several explanations for the Soviet position. The main thing was economic. We exchanged the gold of silence for material and momentary political benefits. Is it not time to tell the truth about this adventure, without waiting for a self-disclosure from the Americans themselves? After all, this lie can be cast by them as another victory in the struggle of the two systems, as a political scheme, which eventually led to the destruction of the USSR and the US victory in the Cold War. ... Their whole lunar program was invented. In the matter of space flights, we have recognized specialists who could prove this case with the necessary scientific and technical justification....

...This is especially true at the present time, when “a massive offensive on all fronts of the ideological and information war is against Russia. It's time to show the world not only petty lies with a test tube of anthrax, but also lies on an interplanetary scale. In fact, most of humanity still believes that the Americans were on the moon. The exposure of this myth will be a powerful blow to the image of the United States in the world.