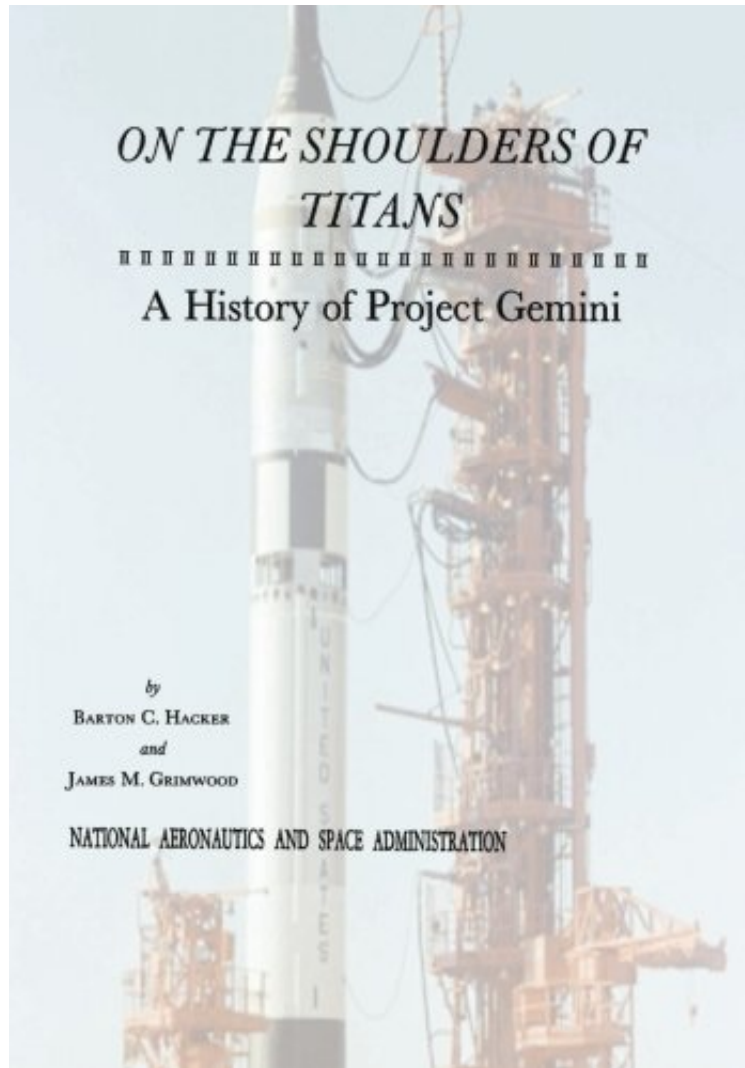


[Download] On The Shoulders of Titans: A History of Project Gemini (The NASA History Series)

## On The Shoulders of Titans: A History of Project Gemini (The NASA History Series)

*National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Barton C. Hacker, James M. Grimwood*  
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**National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Barton C. Hacker, James M. Grimwood : On The Shoulders of Titans: A History of Project Gemini (The NASA History Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On The Shoulders of Titans: A History of Project Gemini (The NASA History Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing, like Gemini VIII -- but without the heroics of Neil Armstrong and Dave Scott By John A. As others have mentioned: First, the positives; there is an abundance of detail, inside information, and solid narrative. It brings back many wonderful memories growing up as a preteen space geek

(if only there was an audio track with the voice of Walter Cronkite...) That being said -- the positives suffer greatly from the poorly formatted notations, including the need to scroll many pages of resource notes to get to the next section. I found the early sections on the planning and development moves informative but tedious to overkill (is it really necessary to have the names of every member of every committee?). I greatly missed the "promised" photos. This work could really need a do-over (sort of like Gemini VI).

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Project Gemini - America's Overlooked Space Adventure By Dirk Drudgler

If you've read Tom Wolfe's *The Right Stuff* or Jim Lovell's *Lost Moon: The Perilous Voyage of Apollo 13* or any one of many, many books (or movies) about America's space race to the Moon, you are probably intimately aware of the lives and missions of both the Mercury and Apollo astronauts. The accomplishments of these extraordinary explorers, the mission control teams, the scientists, and the engineers are worthy of epic poetry type preservation. Unfortunately for space enthusiasts Project Gemini's in-between missions are largely overlooked by writers and filmmakers who craft awesome heroic stories and write history (I know, I know, "Let them write the history and let the pilots fly the planes."). The missions themselves were considered mundane and largely ignored by the general public. Because little about the program captured people's imagination we are left with this massive compilation of project data and reports from NASA which have been digested into clinical but readable prose. There is no real storytelling structure or sense of dramatic tension. Even Armstrong and Scott's near death experience on Gemini 8 and Armstrong's subsequent "Right Stuff" moment which may have saved the space program or at least kept it on track to win the race to the Moon, are reported as if they were mission debriefings (be sure to check out Armstrong's EKGs as his spacecraft was spinning out of control and heading for disaster, the guy is a rock). Not that this is necessarily bad, it just the drama is buried in an absolutely complete and comprehensive overview of every Gemini flight, including every detail, no matter how mundane. Considering the incredible, almost unbelievable, leaps in science which were accomplished by Gemini teams in an equally unbelievable short span of time, there is no doubt that professional storytelling is warranted. Until that day comes I have found no better book on the program than this one. Everything you need to know is here. It is a great book for space program junkies, but not so much for non-fiction space adventure readers.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

or worse, gives me a grayed out image with no ...

By William Overall, this is a very detailed account of Project Gemini. There are almost as many footnotes as there are pages of text. I am enjoying the narrative, but I am dismayed by the lack of any clarity when there are photos or illustrations. The text refers to them, but my Kindle does not display them, or worse, gives me a grayed out image with no detail whatsoever. That is why I only give it three stars. There are also some typos now and then. Most of them I can figure out, but some are real mysteries.

Gemini was the intermediate manned space flight program between America's first steps into space with Mercury and the amazing and unprecedented accomplishments achieved during the manned lunar expeditions of Apollo. Because of its position between these two other efforts, Gemini is probably less remembered. Still, it more than had its place in man's progress into this new frontier. Gemini accomplishments were manyfold. They included many firsts: first astronaut-controlled maneuvering in space; first rendezvous in space of one spacecraft with another; first docking of one spacecraft with a propulsive stage and use of that stage to transfer man to high altitude; first traverse of man into the Earth's radiation belts; first extended manned flights of a week or more in duration; first extended stays of man outside his spacecraft; first controlled reentry and precision landing; and many more. These achievements were significant in ways one cannot truly evaluate even today, but two things stand out: (1) it was the time when America caught up and surpassed the Soviet Union in manned space flight, and (2) these demonstrations of capability were an absolute prerequisite to the phenomenal Apollo accomplishments then yet to come. Project Gemini is now little remembered, having vanished into that special limbo reserved for the successful intermediate steps in a fast-moving technological advance. Conceived and approved in 1961, the second major project in the American manned space flight program carried men into orbit in 1965 and 1966. Gemini thus kept Americans in space between the path-breaking but limited Earth-orbital missions of Project Mercury and the far more ambitious Project Apollo, which climaxed in 1969 when two men first set foot on the Moon. This book is a detailed history of the failures and victories of the Gemini program.