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Although the Soviets have excelled in spectacular feats of space technology, they have failed to exploit as fully as the United States the scientific and practical value of earth satellites. Dr. Ralph E. Lapp, nuclear physicist, contends that the United States is actually far ahead of the Soviet Union in space science.

This information is contained in "Space Science," by Ralph E. Lapp, a new 60-cent pamphlet published today by the American Library Association in cooperation with the Public Affairs Committee, Inc. This is the first in the series of guides for Reading for an Age of Change, on vital topics in the physical and social sciences and the arts. The reading guides are designed to provide a summary of current knowledge on the subject and to introduce the intelligent reader to books that will help him keep abreast of new developments in the various fields. To this end the guides contain an analysis by a leading authority and an annotated list of books for further reading, selected by specialist librarians.

In "Space Science" Dr. Lapp asks, "Why explore space?", then traces the development and uses of space exploration, explains rockets, satellites, problems of men in space, getting to the moon, Mars, and beyond.

After explaining the various systems used to launch satellites into orbit, Dr. Lapp tackles "Man's role in space" declaring: "There can be no question that man's entry into space, even if for a matter of hours, caused great excitement on earth. Confusion has been created, however, by those who have sought to justify these space flights as contributing to scientific knowledge. Instrumented satellites have relayed back to earth almost all the scientific data acquired on space missions. Astronauts who have ventured into space have as yet to demonstrate any skill superior to that of instruments."

(more)

Add 1. Space Science Guide

Dr. Lapp points out that it requires several tons of space vehicle for the proper life-support and return to earth of a single astronaut. An immense amount of microminiaturized instrumentation can be crammed into such a payload.

"... we must take into account the very large payloads which must be boosted from the earth's surface as compared with the comparatively small instrument packages which can perform valuable scientific experiments....," Dr. Lapp holds, adding that it must follow manned space flight is justified largely on prestige and military grounds.

Moon exploration projects are explained by Dr. Lapp, and then he looks farther into space discussing the possibility of life on other planets.

Scheduled to follow "Space Science" in this series on Reading for an Age of Change are the following reading guides: "The Contemporary Arts," by Bartlett H. Hayes, Jr.; "The Expanding Population in a Shrinking World," by Marston Bates; "Freedom of the Mind," by William O. Douglas; and one on the new economics.

Reading guides should be ordered from the Public Affairs Committee, 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y. Information on the series is also available from the Committee. This project on Reading for an Age of Change was developed by the American Library Association, in cooperation with the Public Affairs Committee, and is supported by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

SPECIAL NOTE TO EDITORS

Please include in your story the price of this pamphlet, which is 60 cents, and the address of the Public Affairs Committee, a non-profit organization located at 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y. This will prevent your receiving requests for copies and additional information.