Aviation and Space Technology

Topics: military and commercial aviation; airports; radar; satellites; aerodynamics; NASA; rocketry and missiles; missile guidance; technical development of flight; social history of flying


Bracken, Paul. The Command and Control of Nuclear Forces (Yale, 1983). I got this when it first came out and found it useful. I don’t know to what extent it has been updated.


*Constant, Edward. The Turbojet Revolution. The classic study of the turbojet’s development by a noted historian of technology.


*Crouch, Tom. *Wings: A History of Aviation from Kites to the Space Age* (Norton, 2002)—considered to be very good, although predominantly focused on American history.


Dornberger, Walter, *V-2* (1954) --- considered to be a particularly useful and interesting first-hand account.


*Koppes, Clayton J. JPL and the American Space Program (Yale Univ. Press, 1982). Was awarded Dexter Prize by SHOT). Best study of Jet Propulsion Laboratory.


Logsdon, John M. *The Decision to go to the Moon: Project Apollo and the National Interest* (MIT, 1970). He was the classic source before McDougall.


Molson, K. M. *Pioneering in Canadian Air Transport* (Winnipeg, 1974).


Murray, Bruce, *Journey into Space: the first Thirty Years of Space Exploration* (New York: Norton, 1989). Good overview


Neufeld, Michael. *The Rocket and the Reich: Peenemunde and the coming of the ballistic missile era.* You have this already.


*Ogburn, William Fielding. The Social Effects of Aviation.* Boston, 1946. Unfortunately, no one has really continued this line of inquiry.


*Pisano, Dominic, *The Airplane in American Culture* (U of Michigan, 2003)---essays with cultural studies/American studies approach. (He has also published a bibliography of aviation history)


Rae, John B. any of his books are old-fashioned classics, such as *Climb to Greatness* on the history of US airplane industry. Know them but don’t necessarily read them now. I think Miller and Sawers essentially covers the same ground


Roland, Alex, ed. A Spacefaring People (NASA, 1985).


*Schatzberg, Eric, *Wings of Wood, Wings of Metal: Culture and technical Choice in American Airplane Material, 1914-1945* (Princeton Univ. Press, 1999). He won the Usher prize for his article (linked to the book) and he is a top historian of tech.


Vachon, G. Goggles, helmets and Airmail Stamps (Toronto, 1974).
Histories of various space programs by Lloyd Swenson, by Bilstein, by Barton C. Hacker and by Edward Ezell are also frequently cited, although they are specialized (and essentially commissioned histories)