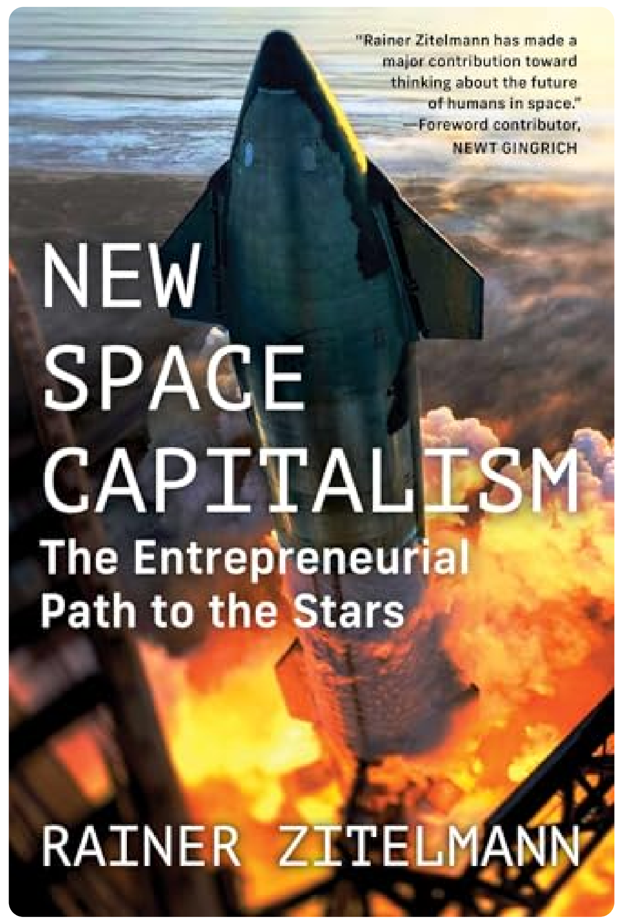
Reviewing 'New Space Capitalism' by Rainer Zitelmann

New Space Capitalism is the kind of book that makes you want to invest in rockets. Rainer Zitelmann turns space economics into big ideas, sharp arguments, and just enough boldness to make NASA sweat a little.



What I loved most is how the book makes the future feel practical, not just shiny. It argues that space won't be built by wishful thinking and inspirational posters of galaxies, but by entrepreneurs, property rights, and people willing to do the hard work of turning "one day" into "right now."

If you enjoy books that are smart, provocative, and occasionally sound like they're trying to negotiate a real estate deal on Mars, this one is a blast.

One of my pet peeves is when idiots say, "Why go to Mars? Musk wants to go to Mars to a better Earth! He's crazy! If we go to Mars, we'll screw up Mars. Let's fix our planet first!"

All these ideas are wrong, and this book debunks them.

Nobody thinks Mars is a paradise. Antarctica is better than Mars & it's nearly vacant.

We must go to Mars because our planet is doomed. In fact, our solar system is doomed in 5 billion years when the Sun burns out, but long before that, Earth will suffer from asteroids and mass volcanism.

We must set up a new habitat not because it will be better than Earth (it won't) but because our motherworld is doomed. The sooner we go, the better.

The reason Eurasians colonized the New World quickly was due to capitalism. It's the key philosophy that will enable us to colonize the solar system. And fortunately, this time, there will be no indigenous tribes to disrupt, so it's impossible to screw it up when we're colonizing dead worlds.

Fascinating excerpts

- Mars Fan Zubrin says that Mars's main exports won't be physical goods but intellectual ones: patents. Martians will be forced to innovate, and some of those innovations will be useful to Earthlings. Such patented tech could lead to billions in intellectual property revenue.
- The lifetime cancer risk in the USA is 39%. A flight to Mars raises it 42%.
- If SpaceX takes ownership of Mars land that's the same size as Singapore, that's 0.0005% of Mars. There are 200,000 Singapore-sized lands on Mars.
- The final sentence is powerful: "Whether space capitalism has a future or not will first be determined on Earth—in the struggle between those who advocate freedom, property rights, and progress on the one hand, and those who espouse statism, egalitarian ideologies, and oppose progress on the other."

VERDICT

9 out of 10 stars. Fresh, ambitious, and exactly the sort of book that makes you look at a rocket and think, "That's not just a launch vehicle. That's a business plan."