

# Moon Landings Were No Hoax



## Australian Skeptics

On July 20th 1969, two men from the planet Earth first set foot on the Moon. Millions of people around the world were riveted to their TV screens as Neil Armstrong stepped from the Landing Module. Armstrong, reading from the Lunar plaque, said, ***“We came in peace for all mankind.”*** Reality TV par excellence! For the next two years and five more successful missions later, the number of Moon-walkers had reached twelve.

Since the last of these missions, Apollo 17, splashed down in 1972, momentum has gathered for the proposition that we have all been misled by the US Government and by NASA in particular. That the whole endeavour was somehow faked and no one has in fact visited the Moon.

This conspiracy theory gained much attention in the early 2000s with Fox’s TV special ***Conspiracy Theory: Did We Land on the Moon?*** which aired in the USA in February 2001. Millions of viewers apparently found the pro-hoax arguments persuasive and convincing. According to Fox, there were the technical experts (American and Russian) who claimed that NASA did not possess the technology in 1969 to achieve these feats, or at least, the likelihood of success was so tiny that the risk of real Moon landings would not have been seriously contemplated. Some of the other sensational ‘facts’ put forward in 2001 and still being used today are:

- \* The film footage of astronauts on the moon is said to contain so many technical errors that it must have been shot in a studio on Earth.
- \* The flag, when planted appears to wave in the breeze, even though the Moon is airless.
- \* Although the Moon’s sky is black, there are no stars.
- \* No blast crater is visible under the Landing Module.
- \* The shadows appear to go in different directions so there must be several (studio) light sources.

In providing a motive for a NASA hoax, conspiracy theorists point to the intense rivalry between the USA and the Eastern Bloc that existed at the time. The USSR had in fact already beaten the USA time and time again in the so-called “Space Race” and had been first to photograph the moon’s “dark side”. When President Kennedy pronounced in 1963 that the USA would land men on the Moon “before this decade is out”, he committed future governments to a goal that had to be seen to be achieved at all costs. It was important for status and diplomacy abroad. The USA was also deeply involved in an increasingly unpopular war in Vietnam. Three successive Presidents were keen to be associated with the positive news that the Apollo Program generated; and while Apollo was expensive by some measures, it was not that costly compared with America’s defence and diplomatic budgets. The possibility of failure of the Apollo Program was not an option.

But ...

The USA clearly did have the technology to launch a moon shot which could be sufficiently large to carry three men, and which, using several disposable stages of decreasing size, could land on the Moon, take off and return to a soft splash-down on Earth. We know this, because the telemetry of unfriendly states (USSR, China, East Germany) reported that this is exactly what happened in later Apollo Missions. It is important to note that the Eastern Bloc raised no doubts in this area, although they would probably have been hoping for an American failure, to offset the considerable difficulties that the USSR's Program was experiencing. These countries would have alerted the rest of the world if they had evidence the missions were somehow faked.

The two most often quoted "flaws" are the waving flag and the lack of stars in photographs of the Moon's sky.

*When the metallic flag pole was planted (by twisting it into the soil), it had a certain springiness, causing the flag to ripple. That "wave" continued because there is no atmosphere to dampen it. Once the flag stopped, the ripples were frozen into place which is why the shape of the flag is the same in all subsequent photos and movies. Exactly what would be expected on the surface of the Moon.*

*Next time you want to take a photograph of somebody at night, you will need to control the amount of light from your subject. If you expose them properly, you will not see stars in the sky. If you allow sufficient light for the stars to become visible in the developed photograph, everything else in the photo will be way over exposed. The surface of the Moon is extremely bright.*

Hundreds of thousands of people, all around the world who worked on the missions would have to be lying or have been massively (and expensively) hoodwinked. These include a considerable part of the Pacific Fleet responsible for recovery of Astronauts at splashdown; it also includes the media reporters and technicians who were present at those events. It includes trackers around the world, including Australians at the Parkes Dish who monitored voice communication when the astronauts were overhead.

Continuing to believe that the Moon landings were faked, despite the solid evidence from many quarters that confirm the missions, despite the thorough and painstaking debunking of every major objection from the conspiracy theorists (from popular TV shows such as MythBusters to hundreds of detailed explanations online) is **NOT** being sceptical ... it is being a **science denier**. It is the same mindset that leads people to deny the Earth is round or that climate change is also just another hoax.

The Moon landings are among the greatest technological achievements of humankind, with significant cultural impact. **They were real.**

See here for more detail:

<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=moon+hoax+debunked>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moon\\_landing\\_conspiracy\\_theories](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moon_landing_conspiracy_theories)