

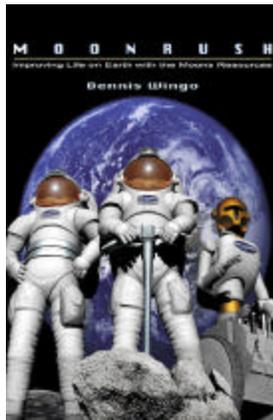
Book review in December 2005 issue of

Spaceflight

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Moonrush



Dennis Wingo,
Apogee Books,
2004, 260pp,
£17.95, ISBN 1-
894959-10-8.

This book is a departure from the usual Apogee format, addressing space policy issues from an individual author's perspective.

The theme of the book is summed up well on the back cover "we go to Mars to take our civilization there, we go to the Moon to save our civilization here". It is the latest addition to the literature on using space to overcome limits to growth on Earth. The early chapters have a wide ranging review of the limits to growth issues, which is a good scene setter but adds nothing new to the debate. The book then goes on to explore the role the Moon can play to resolve the issue with concentration on the descriptions of the technology and hardware needed for lunar colonisation.

It is a populist work written in a light first person style and makes for a very readable and entertaining piece if space flight interests you. However, if it was intended to mould opinion it has some shortcomings as the policy arguments come across as simplistic and lightweight. It suffers from a lack of referencing of other work so it appears a lone voice, whereas it could have connected to a wider community making similar points. So, in the end, it is a fun book for enthusiasts but regrettably it will not change the world.

Mark Hempell

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