

China's Space Program: A Treasure for Mankind

by Megan Beets

[Chang'e-4 is] a breakthrough in human history.

—Ouyang Zhiyuan, Founder of
the Chinese Lunar Program

Now more than ever, the people of the United States are ready for a universal change—ready to soundly reject the failed and deadly policies of the past two presidents, and to crush the Wall Street swindlers who have literally gotten away with murder.

It is urgent that U.S. citizens demand a return to the *valid* notion of economic value advanced by two of the greatest geniuses in history, Lyndon LaRouche¹ and Alexander Hamilton.² As found in their respective writings, the only true standard of economic value is whether or not an activity within the economy contributes to an increasing development of the creative powers of the minds of the population, for which that economy exists.

The leading expression of that principle today is *not* found in the United States or Europe—but in China, as it commits its rapidly progressing space program to breaking the boundaries of planet Earth and moving mankind to the far side of the Moon. It has invited the United States, and all nations, to join them.

1. "The Four New Laws to Save the U.S.A. Now! Not an Option: An Immediate Necessity," <http://www.larouchepac.com/four-laws/>.

2. See Hamilton's four reports to Congress, <https://larouchepac.com/20161013/alexander-hamiltons-four-economic-papers/>. They are also available on Kindle as *The Vision of Hamilton: Hamilton's 4 Reports and LaRouche's 4 Laws*.

China's Extraterrestrial Commitment

In 2018, a Chinese lander will touch down on the far side of the Moon—a place that has never seen, on its surface, the presence of mankind, either human or robotic. The lander will deploy a small rover to explore the landing site, one of the largest impact craters in the solar system,³ and together with the rover and a relay satellite parked in orbit behind the Moon, will take the very first pictures of our universe in the very-low-frequency (VLF) radio range. This lunar far side mission, Chang'e-4, will change mankind forever, as it opens the potential to fully unlock the Moon's secrets, and to take the preliminary steps to establish mankind as a polyglobal species.

Over the next two years, leading up to that great achievement, China plans an ambitious series of missions, some of which are already underway.

In 2017, the Chang'e-5 lander will be the first spacecraft since 1976 to travel to the Moon and

return, bringing lunar samples back to Earth. Ouyang Zhiyuan, father of China's lunar program, assured that "We are ready. Every lab is ready [to receive the samples]. Once the samples are back, we can begin our analysis right away." In 2018, China will put the first components of its full-size space station into orbit, and construction is expected to be finished in 2022.

3. The South Pole-Aitkin Basin is an intriguing landing site. Among other interesting features, the exposed terrain is from deep geological layers, giving us a chance to see far into the Moon's past.



The first selfie of Shenzhou-11 docked with Tiangong-2, taken by a satellite launched from Tiangong-2.

Three important precursors to these missions were launched earlier this autumn.

The Tiangong-2 space lab⁴ was put into orbit around Earth on September 15. One month later, Tiangong-2 was joined by the Shenzhou-11 spacecraft, China's sixth manned mission, which carried two taikonauts and is currently docked with the space lab for a 30-day stay in space—the longest yet of any Chinese crew.

On November 3, the launchpad at the recently completed Wenchang Launch Center roared to life as China carried out the first test launch of the heavy-lift Long March 5 rocket. The successful launch of the Long March 5 was a crucial step for the success of upcoming missions, which require the Long March 5's larger capacity.⁵

Other missions on the horizon are a lander and rover on Mars, slated for 2020, and an orbiter around Venus for the mid-2020s. And there is a clear trajectory toward manned missions to the Moon, once the success of the robotic missions is secured.

New Silk Road into Space

China has extended the win-win principle of the New Silk Road beyond cooperation on Earth, inviting all UN member countries to participate in China's space station.⁶ "Space exploration is the common dream and wish of humankind. We believe that the implementation of the agreements will definitely promote international cooperation on space exploration, and create opportunities for United Nations Member States, particularly developing countries, to take part in, and benefit from, the utilization of China's space station," said General Wu Ping, Deputy Director of the China Manned Space Agency.

China has also invited all other nations to make use of the communications relay satellite that will be launched as part of the Chang'e-4 far side mission, "for supporting future manned and unmanned lunar exploration missions to the far side, and cislunar activities."⁷

4. Tiangong-2 will be the final phase of the proto-space station, as China now has the confidence to move forward with a full-size, long-stay station.

5. The Long March 5 has a payload capacity of 25 tons to low earth orbit, and 8 tons to translunar orbit. The next generation, Long March 9, will be able to carry payloads comparable to NASA's long lost Saturn V.

6. If the International Space Station is indeed decommissioned in the mid-2020s, the Chinese space station will be the only game in town.

7. Wu Yanhua, vice administrator of China's National Space Administration, on Sept. 26, 2016 at the International Astronautical Conference in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Other nations are eager for this cooperation!⁸ The European Space Agency, for example, is having its astronauts study Chinese, and European nations have provided four of the instruments on the Chang'e-4 far side mission. Also significant in this regard is the first meeting, held November 2, of representatives from the space agencies of the five BRICS nations. This begins a process of integrating and coordinating the assets and capabilities of these countries for space exploration.

Several of the nations involved in the burgeoning new paradigm in Eurasia have missions to the Moon planned for the next five years, including India, Russia, Japan, and Korea.⁹ All of these nations express excitement for the progress of their own nations, and for mankind as a whole, toward a new capability of humanity in space.

A New, Human Standard

As we in the United States experienced during the 1960s, the space program is the driver for advances in mankind's capabilities beyond what would be possible as merely a resident of Earth. The space program not only drove advances in technologies, but set an intellectual and moral standard within the nation. It pushed the boundaries of our limitations into realms that were never thought of before. It began to remake man as a more powerful species than ever before. A reflection of this was the upward leaps in economic productivity that resulted from the introduction of completely new kinds of technologies and materials into industrial and other processes.

That process was not something particular to that time in the United States. It is always the advance of the creative human mind beyond what we knew or could have known in the past that drives our progress as a species, and hence, the economy. Today, China, with its space program, is leading the rest of the world in opening the door, once again, for great achievements of this nature. It is high time for the people of the United States to return to our principles, and join China—to dump the system of Obama and Wall Street, and to revive our space program as the leading driver of economic progress today.

8. This emphatically includes the scientific community in the United States. However, a juvenile and morally irresponsible ban on collaboration between NASA and anybody associated with the Chinese Space Agency has prevented such cooperative efforts. This ban must be overturned immediately—and its enforcers in Congress relocated to the nearest retirement community.

9. The four planned missions to the Moon are—India: Chandrayan-2; Russia: Luna 25-28, in cooperation with the European Space Agency; Japan: Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM); and the Korean Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter (KPLO).