

TIMELINE OF HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT PROGRAMS



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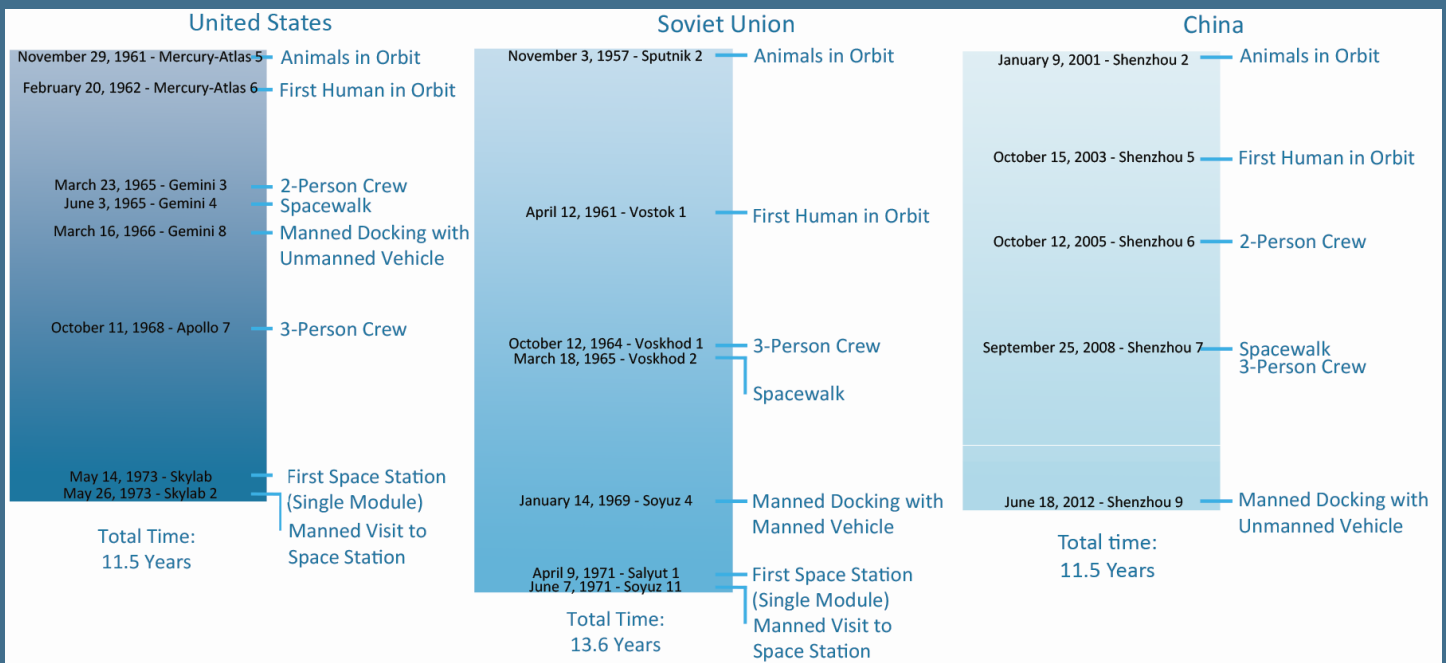
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Overview

With the success of the Shenzhou 9 mission in June 2012 China has become the third country after the Soviet Union and United States to successfully inhabit a human-made module in orbit around the Earth. Much commentary has been made about the pace of the Chinese human spaceflight program, with some commentators suggesting that it is progressing at a faster rate than either the American or Soviet programs.

Using open source data, SWF has compiled the following timelines for all three government-funded human spaceflight programs from the initial orbiting of animals to the first successful docking of a human-occupied spacecraft with an orbital module designed to be inhabited.

Although each of the three programs took a slightly different path to achieve this goal, in some cases combining or skipping certain steps, overall the three programs took very similar paths and lengths of time.



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