The Prospects for Life Elsewhere in the Solar System

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In the later years of the 20th century, it became common in the scientific community to assume that life does not exist in the Solar System; therefore, the exploration of the Solar System by humans or unmanned devices must have other objectives than the discovery of life. This pessimism is largely the result of the initial discoveries of the US and Soviet space programs, which revealed hostile environments such as Venus and Mars.

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