

War II. # Advertisement # Much of this management culture would be politically incorrect in 2019, a fact that Kranz readily acknowledged. " This would be a problem today, " he said. # The country's social needs were set aside to provide NASA funding that at its peak reached an inflation-adjusted \$47 billion or more in a single year. NASA consumed 4.5% of the federal budget, compared with about 0.5% today, meaning that if it were to have the same share now its budget would not be the current \$21.5 billion, but nearly \$200 billion. # But the motivation then was the Cold War. The Soviet Union had humiliated the United States by launching the first satellite in 1957 and then the first human into orbit in 1961. To a world split between West and East, the Soviet breakthroughs argued that communism could outperform capitalism. # The speech is widely regarded as the most moving and powerful explanation for space exploration, delivered in a style that only Kennedy could accomplish, detailed but sweeping, cautious but aggressive. It would cost every man, woman and child 40 cents that year, Kennedy said, and the cost would rise to 50 cents (\$4.27 in today's dollars) the next year. # The space race gave a political justification for the project, but most likely played little role in its success. # " People say the reason Apollo was successful is that we were trying to beat the Russians, " Honeycutt said. " That may have been true in Washington, but I can tell you in the Mission Control Center and the other centers, beating the Russians was not in anybody's mind. " # Jay Honeycutt, an Apollo-era engineer who later became