The Apollo 11 Mission Staged During the Space Race

The Mysterious Conspiracy of the Moon landing,

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# Introduction

# The Apollo 11 moon landing on July 20, 1969 was one of the most astonishing, courageous, innovative, unimaginable achievements in human history. On that day, around 530 million people watched as U.S. astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin climbed down from the Eagle Lunar Module to leave the first footprints on the moon’s surface ground. Afterward, the two men with their third crew member Michael Collins flew safely back to Earth and landed in the Pacific Ocean. However, a few years later, several people believed that the "giant leap for mankind" was a hoax.

# In the mid-1970s, conspiracy theories arose that the moon landing was a plot staged by the US government to beat the Soviets in the space race. These arguments have continued despite the fact that they were unfounded and easily refuted. According to the "The Wildest Moon Landing Conspiracy Theories Debunked," the majority of denialists' "evidence" is focused on alleged irregularities in photographs returned to Earth from the moon's surface. “With few exceptions, the same points keep coming up over and over again,” says Rick Fienberg, the American Astronomical Society's press officer and astronomy PhD holder (Becky Little, 2019, para 2).

# An Argument Refuting the Moon landing

## Line of Evidence: No Stars in Apollo 11 Mission Moon Landing Photos

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# An Argument for the Moon landing

## Line of Evidence: Photograph Camera Settings

There are no stars in the pictures taken by Armstrong and Aldrin on the moon. However, if you've ever used a camera, you'll understand why. The exposure time on the astronauts' cameras was insufficient to capture the explorers' space suits and the moon's surface while also catching the fainter stars. The same thing happens when you step onto a back porch at night and switch on the lights. Even if you can see the stars from where you are right now, a quick-exposure camera would miss them.

You can change your camera settings in two ways if you want to take a photo of something in direct sunlight. You'd close the aperture to keep the light-collecting area on the lens small to avoid letting in too much light, which is the same reason your pupils constrict in bright sunlight. You'd also increase the shutter speed so that only a fraction of a second's worth of light reaches the camera sensor. If you took the same photo at night, you'd probably slow down the shutter speed and open up the aperture to let enough light in.

You'd have to decide what to include in your photograph if the object was illuminated at night. You'd have to make sure the object was perfectly still with the slow shutter and broad aperture to let in enough light if you wanted to see the stars in the sky. You could get a sharp, reasonably bright picture of your buddy if you kept the aperture small and the shutter speed quick, but the sky would be dark because there wouldn't be enough light entering the lens (Ashley Hammer, 2019, para 2-3).

## Line of Evidence: American Flag Flapping in the Wind

The American flag appears to be flapping in the wind in still photographs from the Apollo 11 mission. This is due to the fact that it is not your standard flag. If the astronauts had planted a regular flag on the moon, it would have hung slack, much like flags on Earth when there is no breeze. Since this does not make for a very attractive image, NASA produced special flags for astronauts to carry with them. On the inside, these flags had a horizontal rod that allowed them to protrude from the flagpole. The astronauts on Apollo 11 struggled to fully stretch the rod, resulting in a ripple effect in still photos that makes the flag appear to be waving in the wind. The flag passes only in video photos taken as the astronauts are grinding the flag into the moon's surface. Owing to the partly stretched pin, the rod remains bent after the astronauts have backed forward (Becky Little, 2019, para 9).

## Line of Evidence:

# Summary

References

Little, B. (2019, June 10). *The Wildest Moon Landing Conspiracy Theories, Debunked*. History.com. https://www.history.com/news/moon-landing-fake-conspiracy-theories.

Hammer, A. (2019). *Why Aren't There Stars in the Moon Landing Photos?* Discovery. https://www.discovery.com/science/apollo-50th-anniversary/why-aren-t-there-stars-in-the-moon-landing-photos-.