

Week 8 — The Missile Age

The V-2

1. Early rocketry
 - Used in war by 18th century
 - Robert Goddard (US) inspired by science fiction to connect rockets and space 1912-1914
2. German rocketry
 - Hermann Oberth was the German guy who connected rockets to space, but his dissertation was rejected
 - In 1930, VfR was enlisted by the German Army to develop military rockets
 - Was allowed under the Versailles treaty because weaponry didn't include rockets
3. Wernher von Braun
 - Joined Nazi party 1937
 - Obsessed with Oberth and member of VfR since 1930
 - Honorary member of Schutzstaffel (SS) in 1940
 - Worked on Peenemünde (rocket research lab)
4. German WWII rockets
 - V-1: “flying bomb” 1939-1941 and used in 1944
 - very very slow, ~400 mph
 - V-2: ballistic (parabola and much higher altitude with much much faster) missile
 - 1943-1944 used in 1944
 - High technology but a terrible weapon