



# The Case for Mars: The Plan to Settle the Red Planet and Why We Must

By Robert Zubrin

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## The Case for Mars: The Plan to Settle the Red Planet and Why We Must By Robert Zubrin

Since the beginning of human history, Mars has been an alluring dream—the stuff of legends, gods, and mystery. The planet most like ours, it has still been thought impossible to reach, let alone explore and inhabit. But all that changed when leading space exploration authority Robert Zubrin crafted a daring new blueprint, Mars Direct. When it was first published in 1996, *The Case for Mars* became an instant classic, lauded widely for its game-changing perspective by those who would see the American space program rise to the challenge of Mars; Carl Sagan called Zubrin the man who, “nearly alone, changed our thinking on this issue.” Now, fifteen years later, Zubrin brings readers up to date in this revised and updated anniversary edition filled with spectacular illustrations, extraordinary photographs, and one-of-a-kind anecdotes.

Unlike the dead world of the Moon, the Martian landscape is filled with possibility, but humans must be able to survive there. In the grand tradition of successful explorers, Zubrin calls for a travel-light and live-off-the-land approach to Martian settlement. He explains how scientists can use present-day technology to send humans to Mars; produce fuel and oxygen on the planet’s surface with its own natural resources; build bases and settlements; and one day terraform—or alter the atmosphere of the planet in order to pave the way for sustainable life. As the landmark mission of the Mars Science Laboratory begins, Zubrin lays out a comprehensive plan to build life on a new world.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Amazon.com Review**

"For our generation and many that will follow, Mars is the New World," writes Zubrin. This book went to press serendipitously, just as NASA was making its startling if heavily-qualified announcement that simple life may have once existed on the fourth rock from the sun. Zubrin doesn't spend an enormous amount of time arguing why Mars exploration is desirable -- we all want astronauts to go there, don't we? -- but rather devotes the bulk of this book explaining how it can happen on a sensible, bare-bones budget of \$20-30 billion and a "travel light and live off the land" philosophy.

#### **From Publishers Weekly**

Human settlement on Mars need not await the development of gigantic interplanetary spaceships, anti-matter propulsion systems or orbiting space bases, assert the authors of this exciting, visionary report. Instead, the "Mars Direct" plan?developed in 1990 by astronautical engineer Zubrin, and presented to NASA, where it has won supporters?calls for sending a crew and their artificial habitat directly to Mars via the upper stage of the same booster rocket that lifted them to Earth orbit. Then the crew will live off the land, growing greenhouse crops, tapping subsurface groundwater, manufacturing useful materials, constructing plastic domes and brick structures the size of shopping malls. Geothermal power would be tapped from hot regions near once-active volcanoes. Zubrin, senior engineer at Martin Marietta, and Wagner, a former editor of *Ad Astra*, weaken their case by arguing that a nascent human civilization on Mars will revive Earth's frontier spirit and American democracy, saving Western civilization from technological stagnation. Nevertheless, their detailed blueprint makes a fast-track mission to Mars?with an estimated price tag of \$20-\$30 billion?seem remarkably doable.

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#### **From Library Journal**

Zubrin, a senior engineer with Martin Marietta, and science writer Wagner (*Inside Compuserve*, New Riders, 1995), here present the case for Zubrin's Mars Direct plan for sending manned missions to the Red Planet in the near future. Zubrin proposes to lower dramatically the lift-off weight, and thus the cost, of manned Mars missions by using off-the-shelf hardware whenever possible but especially through a conceptual breakthrough that centers on using in situ Martian resources to manufacture the rocket fuel needed for the return journey. This would eliminate the requirement of hauling the total fuel load from Earth, thereby reducing the cost NASA's "business as usual" approach of \$450 billion to \$50 billion. It's a visionary proposal, but Zubrin makes a convincing case, arguing that eventually humankind will terraform Mars to make its climate more earthlike for future generations of colonists. The recent discovery of possible ancient Martian microbe fossils, plus the launch of the unmanned Mars Surveyor mission this fall, will likely create demand for this title. Recommended for academic and public libraries.?Thomas J. Frieling, Bainbridge Coll., Ga.

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### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

**Kerri Goodman:**

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want really feel happy read one with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. The The Case for Mars: The Plan to Settle the Red Planet and Why We Must is kind of guide which is giving the reader erratic experience.

**Lenore Ryan:**

The publication with title The Case for Mars: The Plan to Settle the Red Planet and Why We Must contains a lot of information that you can understand it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This book exist new information the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world at this point. That is important to yo7u to understand how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you with new era of the glowbal growth. You can read the e-book on your own smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

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**Karen Delamora:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard that will question when you got college students? We believe that that question was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. And you also know that little person such as reading or as reading through become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important along with book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update in relation to something by book. Different categories of books that can you take to be your object. One of them are these claims The Case for Mars: The Plan to Settle the Red Planet and Why We Must.

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