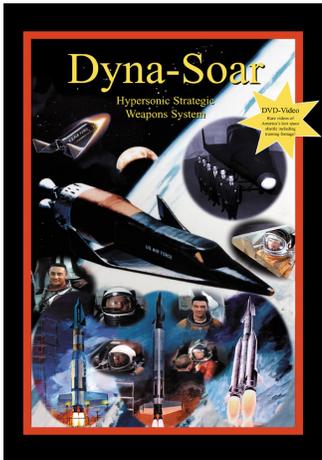


Book review in January 2004 issue of

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Dyna-Soar

Robert Godwin (ed), Apogee Books, CG Publishing Inc, 3465 Mainway Drive, Unit # 3, Burlington, Ontario, Canada, L7M 1A9, Available

in the UK from Gazelle, Falcon House, Queen Square, Lancaster LA1 1RN, 2003, 448pp, £23.95, (US \$32.95), ISBN 1-896522-95-5.

The X-20 Dyna-Soar programme was an ambitious programme that was a manned spaceplane that could be dispatched to any point on the Earth in hours, and alert enemy radar systems with only three minutes notice of its arrival at 18,000 mph to drop its weapons anywhere on Earth. Far advanced for its time the original ideas had evolved in the 1930s from studies made by Austrian engineer Eugene Sanger and via Nazi Germany to the attention of the USAF in the early 1950s. By 1959 Boeing was striving for the coveted contract for the

spaceplane with the catch title - Dynamic soaring (or Dyna-Soar). Unfortunately, like its namesake, it soon went into extinction, mainly due to escalating costs of \$430 million between 1957 and 1963. Cancelled within two weeks of the loss of President Kennedy in December 1963, though X-20 never flew (indeed nothing but models were built) its technology survived to help, as with the X-15, to support the design studies and evolution of the Space Shuttle.

This book is an excellent addition to the ever expanding space titles produced by Apogee books. The one thing that is not included in a vast array of scanned documents is extended details of the biographies and experiences of the six pilots chosen to fly the vehicle.

David Shayler



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