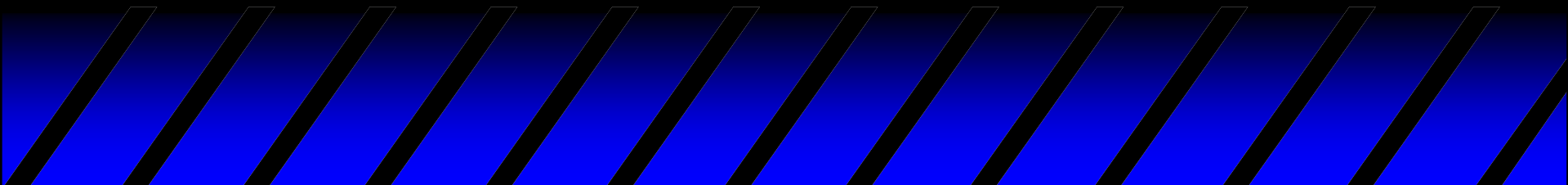




**April 8-10, 2008**

**Enemies and Friends from Space:  
UFOs and Aliens  
in Postwar American Culture**



# I. UFOs: The Cold War Beginnings

First major UFO scare coincided with outbreak of Cold War & arms race.

## ★ 1st wave of sightings in came in June and July 1947:

- [Pilot Kenneth Arnold](#) saw lights "like a saucer . . . skipped . . . across the water." Wide publicity, followed by world-wide wave of sightings.
- Myth of the [Roswell Incident](#): "saucer crash" on ranch near Roswell, N.M. (site of an airbase), July 1947:
  - Source of trouble: [Press originally reported](#) that a spacecraft had been recovered, but [changed story](#) to weather balloon the next day.
  - Really part of radar/spy balloon project ([MOGUL](#)).
  - [Wreckage](#) was not consistent with weather balloon (or spacecraft).
  - Because of "compartmentalization" during Cold War, no one at Roswell knew about MOGUL.
  - Later claims of [bodies found](#) & secret removal of debris.
  - Conspiracy claims made by [Maj. Jesse Marcel](#) in 1978 & early 80s books, especially *The Roswell Incident* by Berlitz & Moore.
  - Re-investigated by AF in 1994, MOGUL info released.
- 1<sup>st</sup> fatality: [Mantell crash, January 1948](#).

## ★ Aftermath of the first wave

- Air Force investigations (Projects Sign, Grudge, Blue Book) took reports seriously at first, coined term UFO, fearing enemy technology, then began debunking claims.
- Followed by further waves of U.S. sightings in 1950, 1952 (in D.C.) & after.

## ★ Best explanation of 1<sup>st</sup> waves: secret Cold War weapons development programs, habits of government secrecy that bred distrust.

## ★ [Alien invasions](#) became part of popular culture often as allegories of atomic bomb, Communist subversion, loss of arms race (surprise attack & destruction by a technologically superior force).

★ Popular culture taught people what to look for.



## UFO WAVES

1896-7 – UNITED STATES
1909 – GREAT BRITAIN
1913 – GREAT BRITAIN, NEW ZEALAND
1932-4 – SCANDINAVIA
1946 – SCANDINAVIA, GREECE
1947 – UNITED STATES
1949 – SOVIET UNION
1950 – NORTH AFRICA, SPAIN, UNITED STATES
1952 – WESTERN EUROPE, UNITED STATES
1954 – FRANCE, NORTH AFRICA
1955 – UNITED STATES
1957 – BRAZIL, UNITED STATES
1958 – JAPAN
1959 – NEW GUINEA
1960 – NEW ZEALAND
1962 – ARGENTINA, BRAZIL
1965 – AUSTRALIA, CENTRAL AFRICA, CHILE, UNITED STATES
1966 – SOUTH AFRICA, SOVIET UNION
1967 – UNITED STATES
1968 – SPAIN, WESTERN EUROPE
1972 – CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
1973 – UNITED STATES, WESTERN EUROPE
1978 – ITALY, NEW ZEALAND
1978 – ITALY, KUWAIT, NEW ZEALAND
1981-3 – NORWAY
1987-8 – GREAT BRITAIN
1989-91 – BELGIUM



# UFOs through the Decades

1940s	Atomic bomb Cold War United Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Sightings of strange craft with impossible capabilities.</li> <li>★ Debate: extraterrestrial or secret weapons?</li> <li>★ Possible crash (later discredited) &amp; first MiBs.</li> <li>★ Official interest high, then shifts to weather balloon cover stories.</li> </ul>
1950s	Cold War Hydrogen bomb McCarthyism Sputnik/U-2 Monster movies & <a href="#">space babes</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Sightings of strange craft with impossible capabilities, definitely seen as extraterrestrial.</li> <li>★ Aliens landed, communicated with "contactees," gave rides, made love.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☆ Contactees claimed that "space brothers" came from utopian societies, without war, were here to assess and help us because of nuclear weapons, just like <i>Day the Earth Stood Still</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>★ <a href="#">NICAP</a> promoted "science" of ufology, giving <a href="#">some credibility &amp; stature</a> to sighting reports.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☆ Believed that Air Force knew more than it had told, called for hearings on issue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1960s	Civil Rights Vietnam Space program Rise of " <a href="#">serious</a> " Sci-Fi Counterculture Liberal politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Alien craft left traces &amp; caused strange events like power outages.</li> <li>★ First abduction &amp; experimentation report (Betty and Barney Hill, '61), "lost time," memories recovered by hypnosis.</li> <li>★ <a href="#">1965 wave of sightings</a> [<a href="#">more pics</a>, <a href="#">video</a>], leading to hippies &amp; counter-culture taking interest in UFOs &amp; aliens ("Mr. Spaceman," <a href="#">2001: A Space Odyssey</a>).</li> <li>★ Public ridicule of "swamp gas" &amp; similar explanations.</li> <li>★ Popular image of aliens as "little green men": Quisp cereal, <a href="#">My Favorite Martian</a></li> <li>★ U of Colorado's <a href="#">Condon Report</a> (1968) brought end of official investigations. Old UFO groups declined, but speculation increased.</li> </ul>
1970s	Sexual Revolution "Therapeutic culture" Environmentalism Watergate CIA scandals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ <a href="#">Rise of a new Ufology</a>, led by J. Allen Hynek &amp; MUFON.</li> <li>★ "<a href="#">Ancient Astronaut</a>" ideas of Erich von Daniken popular: "<a href="#">Mayan rocket</a>."</li> <li>★ Spielberg's <a href="#">Close Encounters</a> idealizes aliens, popularizes <a href="#">their current look</a>.</li> <li>★ UFOs implicated in many popular fears &amp; c.t.s: Cattle mutilations (genetic experiments?), crop circles, Bermuda Triangle, etc.</li> </ul>
1980s	Conservative, anti-government politics, tax revolts Renewal of Cold War & arms race AIDs, backlash against 60s/70s Rise of Christian Right PCs introduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ <a href="#">UFO Incident</a> (TV movie on Hill case) broadcast in 1975. Increase in abduction/experimentation tales, often sexual &amp; revealed in psychiatric treatment.</li> <li>★ ↑ abduction reports, elaboration to include genetic experiments, implants, colonization.</li> <li>★ Consistent description of aliens as "Grays."</li> <li>★ Rise of <a href="#">MJ-12</a> / Roswell legend: alien role in technological advances, secret world government. Cover-up, MiBs.</li> <li>★ <a href="#">Whitley Strieber's Communion</a>, a throwback to contactees</li> </ul>



# Elements of Ufology

## ★ The Religion of the “Contactees”

- ☆ [Swedenborg](#) and the [Swedenborgians](#) (1700s-present) believe in ET life.
- ☆ The contactee “mainstream”: psychic messages of hope, peace, & love from our “space brothers.” A critical reaction to Cold War and 1950s conformity.
  - ✦ [George Adamski](#) & the Venusians
  - ✦ Cults: [Unarius Academy of Science](#) (1954-), Heaven’s Gate (1997)

## ★ Really Close Encounters: Sex and UFOs

- ☆ 1950s: Antonio Villas Boas, [Howard & Connie Menger](#) (*My Saturnian Lover* [1958])
- ☆ The rise of the abduction scenario, beginning with [the Hill case](#) (1961)
- ☆ Alien “advances” become more threatening, invasive over time.

## ★ “Scientific” Ufology

- ☆ Donald Keyhoe’s [National Investigations Committee On Aerial Phenomena](#) (50s-60s), considered UFOs a scientific mystery & contactees to be embarrassing cranks, tried to work with Air Force & Project Blue Book, who eventually betrayed Ufologists.
- ☆ Air Force commissioned University of Colorado study (led by physicist Edward U. Condon) to justify end of investigations. Condon treated UFOs as a psychological phenomenon, not a physical one. “No scientific value” to further study.
  - ✦ Ufologists thought investigation was serious, but then staff member discovered memos from CU dean indicating that study from fixed from the beginning.
  - ✦ Despite criticism & exposure, Condon Report stopped most establishment support (universities, military, *New York Times*) for ufology.
- ☆ [Mutual UFO Network](#) & J. Allen Hynek (astronomer & former Air Force consultant turned believer) emerged to restart a more open-minded but more marginal scientific ufology in the 1970s
  - ✦ Hynek’s “[close encounters](#)” classification system
  - ✦ More respectable: [SETI project](#), using such means as [the Arecibo observatory](#).

## ★ 1990s developments

- ☆ Blending of scary/conspiratorial abductee mythology with utopian/religious contactee beliefs, confusion of UFO politics.
- ☆ New crop of academic believers (usually not astronomers or physicists) emerged: Harvard’s [Dr. John E. Mack](#) (*Abduction*), [Temple’s David Jacobs](#) (*The Threat*)
- ☆ Mainstreaming of conspiratorial Ufology in the 1990s : *Six Days in Roswell*

## ★ Final observations

- ☆ [Geographic patterns](#)
- ☆ The Fallacy of Identical Testimony
- ☆ Fun with Hoaxes: UFO pictures, [crop circle makers](#)

