

Wernher von Braun

A German Aerospace Engineer

Wernher von Braun was born on March 23, 1912. From a young age, Wernher developed a passion for astronomy. That passion developed into a devotion to physics and mathematics. Space travel interested him and he graduated from colleges in Berlin with degrees in mechanical engineering and physics. In 1931, Von Braun began focusing his research on developing rockets. Von Braun joined the Nazi Party in 1937 under the promise of easing the economic devastation of Germany after World War 1. By the time World War 2 started, Wernher Von Braun was a key figure in the Nazi party's scientific research and weapon development.



Von Braun eventually developed the V-2 rockets which were later used in the bombings of London civilian centers. Throughout the war, Von Braun continued his missile research and development. He met with Adolf Hitler several times and was formally decorated by Hitler twice. When later questioned about his V-2 rocket, Von Braun stated, "I have very deep and sincere regret for the victims of the V-2 rockets, but there were victims on both sides...A war is a war, and when my country is at war, my duty is to help win that war."

Wernher von Braun remains one of the most celebrated and decorated rocket scientists in history. His research and work directly led to major developments at NASA and in the Apollo missions to the moon.

What should happen to him?