

Part 1

For this magazine article I have decided to write about the MIR. The areas of my topic that I have covered are mostly on when it was in space and what it did and what happened up there.

One area of my research has been on the original plan for the MIR. On this sub-topic I have learned that the MIR was supposed to end up being a colony of humans in space and for industrial purposes but when that became much harder than what they could deal with they switched the plan so that the MIR was a spacecraft designated for scientific research and monitoring Earth's weather. An example of this is that there was only one or two scientific modules at first but then they later added more. They even had a shower system at one point, but then ripped it out when the need for space came up. They needed space because in order to have more supplies, they needed to have more room to store supplies. At one point, they even ran out of room on the MIR when the supply ships could no longer bring down all the waste products.

The cosmonauts and later astronauts clean themselves by using wipes and shaved by using shaving cream that required less water to rinse off. Food was basically paste and for drink there was water and for special occasions there was even a supply of vodka and cognac aboard. Life aboard the space station changed as time went on because as the space station got older the need for repairs grew and it got to the point when roughly forty percent of their time was spent making repairs when even sixty percent was needed but the Russian government needed more time to make more experiments.

My next subtopic is about the result of all the years in space. Aboard the MIR at the end of the fifteen years there was +140 different species of mold and so much of it that different governments became worried about the fact on what could happen when the MIR came back to earth. The government of Japan was also worried for those reasons also with the fact that the MIRs planned

crash site was more or less close to Japan. And the US government thought the MIR was going to be used for spying but this concern was written off by the soviet government and later gone when american astronauts were allowed on board.

All in all, I feel that my choice to use the MIR as something to research was a good choice because I felt that I had an easy access to some sources that wouldn't be available to me under different circumstances.

Part 2

The main question that the project is based on is “How did the MIR change over time?”. I chose this research question meanwhile I was meeting with my writing coach either the first or second time even though I already had one I just changed it to something that was broader than the original question. My opinions for this project go along the lines of it being an interesting project as I have not done anything related to this in the past. And the answer to my research question is: The MIR changed over time when new modules were added to it and when the Soviet Union's greatest rival America was suddenly allowed on board the MIR.

My first opinion on this subject is that the MIR changed over time when America and other countries were allowed on board. My first answer is that when this event occurred the technology that was introduced to the MIR changed because the Soviet Union was such a closed off country, they did not have access to some of that new technology. Two pieces of supporting evidence on this fact is that america and some other countries brought up to space some technologies that didn't previously exist for the Soviet Union. One piece of evidence written by Britannica School states that, ” Initially, most commercial communications satellites went into space on U.S.-government-operated vehicles... In the 1990s, an American commercial space transportation industry emerged. Whereas the Titan was not a commercial success, the other two vehicles found a few commercial customers. However, the business was not

profitable, and American firms no longer compete for commercial launch contracts, with the exception of Space Exploration Technologies” (<https://school.eb.com/levels/middle/article/space-exploration/111026#237059.toc/>). And my second piece of evidence also by Britannica School is about the technology brought by foreign countries space programs, ”From 1961 until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, competition between the United States and the Soviet Union was a major influence on the pace and content of their space programs. Other countries also viewed having a successful space program as an important indicator of national strength.” (<https://school.eb.com/levels/middle/article/space-exploration/111026#237059.toc/>). These two quotes show that because of the isolation of the cold war the two countries did not share much if any at all information between each other. And this in turn led to the two countries taking different paths when it came to technologie but then were reunited when the cold war ended and american astronauts were allowed aboard the MIR.

My second opinion on how the MIR changed over time is when the additional modules were added to the structure of the space station. Some evidence on this is that over the years, ”The Soviet Union followed its Salyut station series with the February 1986 launch of the core element of the modular MIR space station. Additional modules carrying scientific equipment and expanding the living space were attached to Mir in subsequent years.” (Britannica school <https://school.eb.com/levels/middle/article/space-exploration/111026#237059.toc/>). This piece of evidence supports my claim by saying that the modules changed the MIR over time. The exact course of time was one decade. The next five years were spent to even more experiments now that the MIR was complete. My next piece of evidence is also from The same source as previously (Britannica Schools), “MIR, Soviet/Russia Modular space station, the core module (base block) of which was launched into Earth orbit by the U.S.S.R. in

1986. Over the next decade additional modules were sent aloft on separate launch vehicles and attached to the core unit, creating a large habitat that served as a versatile space laboratory for more than 14 years.”

(<https://school.eb.com/levels/middle/article/Mir/52912/>). Based off of this piece of evidence I can state that the MIR took roughly one decade to build but however was in use during that decade and the following five years.

One opinion other people might have when reading my research question is “So, how did it change over those fifteen or so years?” and their answer might be that the MIR changed over time by purpose and on how the world below thought of the MIR. From spycraft to a research facility among the stars. One reason on why I might disagree with their opinion is that the MIR also changed in other ways than just those. I can't think of anything else. One fact or detail that supports my reasoning is that the US did indeed think of the MIR as a spycraft but these beliefs were challenged by Soviet Russia and then finally gone when american astronauts boarded and did their own experiments aboard the MIR.

And as for two reasons on why my topic is interesting (to me at least) is because I have always been interested with anything that has to do with space and naturally when I learned that the ISS wasn't the first manned space station I became interested. Another reason is because It was the first time the two more powerful countries started to work together after decade long hate existing between the two. When the MIR was built and the Cold War was going on the US and The Soviet Union were rivals in every possible way and when the Soviet Union became Russia and allowed the US board the MIR establishing a connection between the two countries which would later grow and the two would both invest major amounts of money into a future project that's based of the MIR, the ISS.

Two ways my understanding on this topic deepened was when I learned more about the MIR as before I only just realized that it existed at some point. I

always thought the ISS was the first and the only space station. My life has been a lie. . . The sources that helped me learn about the MIR are Encyclopedia Britannica and this one documentary:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnH_zYc_DvA/.

My conclusion is that I was interested in this project and the research process. One thing I enjoyed was the learning opart as I was more or less interested in it and one part I didn't enjoy was the note taking part and the essay. I know there needed to see how much I learned but I feel like it ruined the whole thing for me a little bit. The last two things I still want to know about my topic are non-existent, I have learned what I wanted.