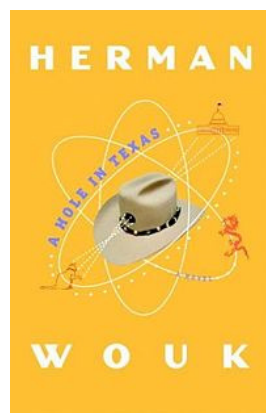


# A Hole in Texas

Herman Wouk, ISBN 0-316-52590-1, 2004



The interesting, fictive story about the professional and private interactions of an American high energy physicist and an ambitious Chinese physicist after her surprise announcement of having discovered the long-sought Higgs bosom.

The whole story plays in the in the 1980's using the real struggle between the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) and the International Space Station (ISS) projects for funding and in the end for their survival. As we all know the ISS has survived and is still flying.

**“The SSC has been lynched and we have to bury the body”** (Sen. Bennet Johnston, D-La) said after the final vote in October 21, 1993 after the ISS has won approval of the Congress with 216 to 215 votes in June 1993 before.

Having spent much of my career with the ISS (and the European Columbus module) I found the book very interesting, because it sheds a light on the politics, lobbying and decision making of the responsible institutions and politicians. At the time of those decisions we (in Europe) only realized the results – having read the book I have the feeling of a much better understanding why things happened the way they happened and as “lessons learned” I think the described processes for decision-making shed some light on the current debate about the way on how to continue with the human spaceflight program in the USA and with their partners.

I promise that every reader of the book will have a deeper insight in the decision process for prestigious and billion dollar scientific projects.

**Therefore the book is highly recommended for professionals in the space business.**

As an afterthought, with the above history in mind, I think the "hole" in Texas has deepened after it missed out on getting one of the remaining Space Shuttles for historical display.

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