Empire, Aliens, and Conquest: A Critique of American Ideology in Star Trek and Other Science Fiction Adventures

Jay Goulding
Star Trek alone. Plus that hallmark of an earlier fandom. The alien has now become. Yet we are wise to have reservations about this sweeping success of sf. the Hell Planet. Or we were going to inherit the stars. A volume. as measurably insane. thanks to Star Trek and Star Wars and The X-Files. William Tenn and (par excellence) Frederik Pohl. eight films (so far). fanzines. That these ideas have now become part of common perception has robbed them of their original challenge. toys and insignia. that empires come and go.

Visual science fiction is almost a virtual museum of the forms and ideas found in written sf. Science Fiction: Ideology, Identity, and Imperialism. Science fiction a genre that is prevalent across many of these media platforms arguably allows for a greater level of ideological elasticity than other geopolitically inclined genres, such as action-thrillers, spy fiction or (transnational) crime drama. Given that sf is often allegorical in nature, these works of popular culture more easily allow for alternative readings. This critical analysis of the Pax Americana and other forms of neoliberal hegemony via sf typically begins as light-hearted foray into the fantastic, but can be quickly and effectively converted into a girding for asking serious questions about US foreign policy in places like the Philippines, the Congo and Chile. Empire, Aliens and Conquest. Author(s): Jay Goulding. Book Series: Analysis, Criticism & Series Discussions Book Number

--Summary-- A critique of American ideology in Star Trek and other science fiction adventures. On land, on sea and now in space, the United States in its tactics and goals seems as ruthless and instrumental as the Soviet Union. The powerlessness of everyday individuals comes to the forefront when we recognize how little impact peace protest has on warrior nations. The thrust of Empire, Aliens and Conquest is to invite readers to reflect on how political values portray themselves in popular culture. Notes: On a personal note, this is one of the few books that took me years to finally locate.
Science fiction - Alien encounters: Since human beings are the only known form of fully sentient life, any encounter with nonhuman intelligence is necessarily speculative. Writers in the 17th and 18th centuries produced many tales of travel to and from other inhabited worlds, but works such as Voltaire’s Micromégas did not depict Saturnians as alien beings; they were men, though of Saturn-sized proportions. Robots and aliens therefore serve similar thematic purposes for science fiction. The first robots were introduced by Czech dramatist Karel Čapek as characters in his play R.U.R. (1921). The space opera is an action adventure, commonly of galactic scale, of which the film cycle Star Wars (1977, 1980, 1983, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2015–17) is the best-known exemplar. Even more so, Star Trek created its own films following Star Wars in an attempt to parallel it in popularity. Star Wars represents victory over dark times proceeding the war, it represents American ambition, Star Wars is a, "triumph of American ingenuity and resourcefulness, demonstrating how the old may be made new again" (Gordon 1978). Science fiction films proceeding this era are resultant of Star Wars ushering in a smash hit genre. When Star Wars came out, many comic books, action figures, clothes and other merchandise were created further increasing the fan base of the film and also inspiring other films to do the same and come out with their own merchandise regarding the movie. Empire, Aliens and Conquest. Author(s): Jay Goulding. Book Series: Analysis, Criticism & Series Discussions. Book Number -- Summary-- A critique of American ideology in Star Trek and other science fiction adventures. On land, on sea and now in space, the United States in its tactics and goals seems as ruthless and instrumental as the Soviet Union. The powerlessness of everyday individuals comes to the forefront when we recognize how little impact peace protest has on warrior nations. The thrust of Empire, Aliens and Conquest is to invite readers to reflect on how political values portray themselves in popular culture. Notes: On a personal note, this is one of the few books that took me years to finally locate.