



and Professional Development

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19 September 2018

The background of the slide is a dynamic space battle scene from Star Wars. In the foreground, a large Rebel X-wing is shown from a low angle, its four engines and wing-mounted cannons prominent. Above it, a smaller Imperial TIE fighter is in pursuit. The scene is set against a backdrop of a bright orange and red planet, with streaks of light suggesting intense action. The overall tone is dramatic and cinematic.

Scope

- **Why Sci-Fi and Star Wars for professional development?**
- **Star Wars and Strategic Leadership**
- **Top Ten intelligence failures**
- **Discussion**

Caveat

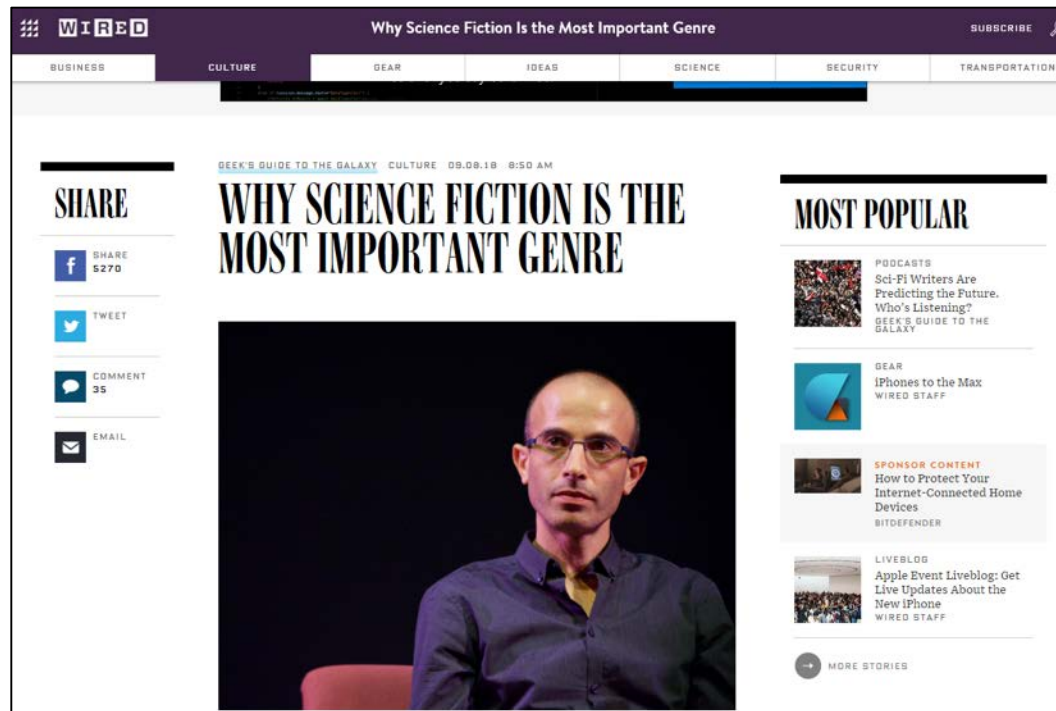
- **I only use examples from the movies (Episodes I-VIII), as well as Solo and Rogue One.**
- **I don't cover the comics, cartoons or books.**



Why Use Sci-Fi and Star Wars?



- **Science fiction nurtures hope that there is a better future.**
- **Allows us to also consider a variety of negative potential futures.**
- **Provides variety in honing one's intellect; increases capacity for generating imaginative options to solve complex problems.**
- **Allows us to think about new and old technologies in different ways.**
- **Reminds us of the enduring nature of war; they remind us that the clash of wills, the fear, interests, and honour integral to human warfare, are enduring.**

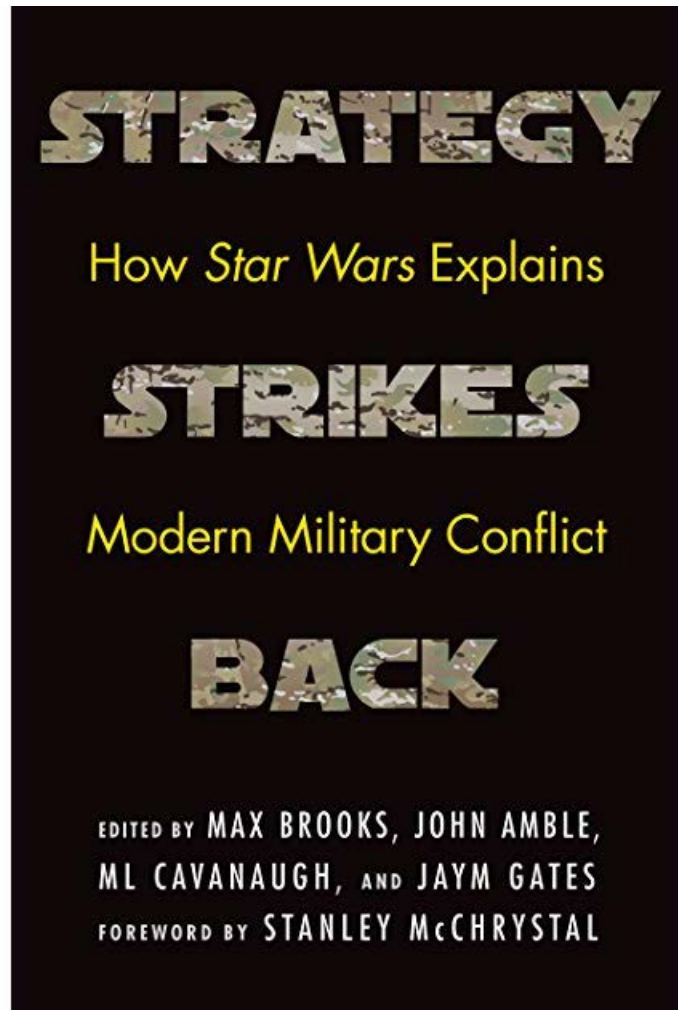


“Today science fiction is the most important artistic genre. It shapes the understanding of the public on things like artificial intelligence and biotechnology, which are likely to change our lives and society more than anything else in the coming decades.”

“Technology is certainly not destiny,” he says. “We can still take action and we can still regulate these technologies to prevent the worst-case scenarios, and to use these technologies mainly for good.”

STAR WARS™

**and Lessons in
Strategic Leadership**



Chapter 9: How Not to Build An Army

Key themes:

- ❖ **Setting appropriate strategic objectives.**
- ❖ **Civil military relations.**
- ❖ **Legitimacy and ethical conduct by leaders and the military.**

Insight 1

Choose appropriate strategic objectives that can be resourced.

As Bernard Brodie wrote, “strategy has a dollar sign”. Some great potential discussions here on setting realistic strategic objectives. If your strategy sends you broke, it is the wrong strategy.

Insight 2

Legitimacy of Government and military (in a universe full of different races, only humans can be leaders?)

So many areas where there are fruitful conversations on this theme: diversity (in all forms), comparing relative contemporary ideologies, values-based leadership.

Insight 3

Legal political ends should drive the use of force:

- **Clone Wars sanctioned by elected Galactic Senate.**
- **Subsequent fight against rebellion led by dictator using military suppression.**
- **Rebellion had political leadership that governed military operations.**

This provides an excellent framework for discussing why military operations must meet political objectives and for examining civil-military relations.

Insight 4

The ethical application of force (or lack of).

- **Ep IV: Alderaan**
- **Ep VI: Endor and Ewok massacre**
- **Ep VII: Jakku massacre / destruction of planets (again)**
- **Rogue One: Destruction of Jedha's capital**

How might this also help us think about the ethics of lethal autonomous weapons systems?

STAR
WARS

and Intelligence

Also known as....



TOP 10
STAR WARS
INTELLIGENCE
FAILURES

Number 10



The Empire loses track of Ben Kenobi and Yoda for two decades

Number 9

Darth Vader loses track of his children for two decades...



Number 8

The Empire did not pick up the weakness in the original Death Star...or fix it in Episode VI...or Episode VII.



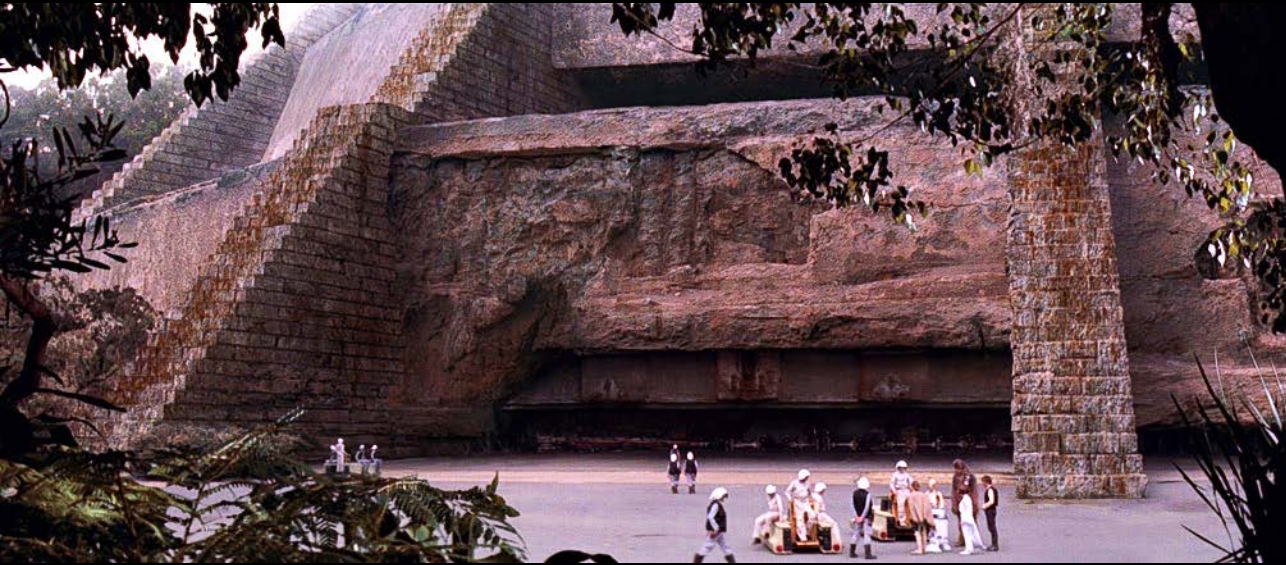
Number 7



The Jedi did not know about the commissioning of the Clone Army (at least until Ep II).

Number 6

The Empire fails to find the rebel base in Episode IV until too late.



Number 5



Leia didn't know Luke was her brother...ooops.

Number 4



The Rebels fail to detect that the Emperor has stashed 'an entire legion' of troops on Endor in Episode VI.

Number 3



The Jedi fail to detect a Sith Lord in their midst in Episodes I-III.

Number 2



The Rebels fail to learn that the new Death Star is fully operational...until they learn the hard way (Ep VI).

Number 1



Luke did not know Darth Vader was his father...but his mates Yoda and Ben did.

STAR WARS™

**A universe populated by the unimaginative,
maladaptive and slow learners.**

- **Consistent failure to anticipate by the Rebellion.**
- **Consistent failure of imagination by the Empire.**
- **A failure to learn on both sides:**
 - **Empire: Death Stars can be destroyed by X-Wing fighters (Episodes IV, VI and VII).**
 - **Rebellion: The Empire will always find hidden bases!**



Thank
You

Mick Ryan



WarInTheFuture