



Expanded Universe

Robert A. Heinlein

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The Wit and Wisdom of Robert A. Heinlein, author of multiple New York Times best sellers, on subjects ranging from Crime and Punishment to the Love life of the American Teenager; from Nuclear Power to the Pragmatics of Patriotism; from Prophecy to Destiny; from Geopolitic to Post-Holocaust America; from the Nature of Courage to the Nature of Reality; it's all here and it's all great - straight from the mind of the finest science fiction writer of them all. But beware: after reading it, you too will occupy an Expanded Universe!

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Expanded Universe Details

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From Reader Review Expanded Universe for online ebook

Nicholas Bobbitt says

When it stuck to SF, this was a good collection, but, alas, Heinlein felt he needed to insert non-fiction segments.

blakeR says

I just realized the irony of deciding to stop reading this on Memorial Day, given all of the pro-military jingoism on display in many of Heinlein's essays. I swear it wasn't intentional -- I just coincidentally figured out today that about half of these 500+ pages were ideologically conservative non-fiction instead of the sci-fi short stories I was expecting.

I have no personal need for that paranoid tripe, especially when a solid majority of Heinlein's political and technological predictions were hilariously mistaken. Consider it my Memorial Day observance, to refuse to read paranoid propaganda that, if ever implemented, would lead to the senseless loss of millions more soldiers' lives. I respect our fallen soldiers too much to endorse this.

Among the far too few pieces of actual fiction, I rated two as good: "Life-line," about the practical effects of a scientist who figures out how to predict people's deaths, and "Free Men," a grim, realistic depiction of a resistance movement in post-invasion America. The rest of the book is utterly forgettable and I encourage you to avoid it while seeking out these two stories.

@blakeroosser1

Olha Pankiv says

50/100 ?????? ??????? ?? ???? ??????? ??? ??????? ?????? ?????? ?????? "?????, ?????? ??? ? ???, ?????? ??? ?????? ?? ?????? ???????!", "? ?????? ??????? ?????? ?????, -"????? ?????????? ?? ????, ?????? ?????????? ????", ???? ???? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????, ??? ? ?? ??????..?? ??? ? ??? ?????? ???? ?????? ?????? ???? ?????? ????. ??? ???? ?????? ??? ?????? ?? ?????????? ??? ?????????? ??????!"

Owen Spencer says

This short story compilation includes a mix of fiction and nonfiction. Most of it is really outdated, especially the warnings and prophecies that didn't come true. Some parts are interesting, and I learned a few things, but I skipped a lot of pages because it just wasn't compelling enough. Heinlein was scared to death of atomic weapons and he repeatedly tried to warn the public about the high likelihood of a nuclear apocalypse. It's too bad Heinlein didn't live another couple of decades because then he could have witnessed what we see today: Instead of dreading the end of the world, most people seem to be looking forward to the apocalypse, and we wish it would happen sooner than later.

Valerie says

Although I do not usually read short stories, I will make an exception for Heinlein, now and then.

Danny says

Great collection of early stories and articles and commentaries on them. Shows the development of Heinlein as a writer.

Steven says

It is interesting that in the last story of this book, Robert Heinlein writes about the great American culture and about a black woman president who tears down the fence between the USA and Mexico. How extremely disappointed he would have been to see who you actually elected and what he has done.

Nicky says

Lots of fun miscellaneous writings from Heinlein, from a cabaret detective story to a boy scout lunar tale. There's quite a bit of nonfiction, mostly relating to nuclear power, nuclear armaments, patriotism, the armed forces, Russia, and the Cold War. A couple of essays detail the encounter with "pravda" ("truth") that Mr. and Mrs. Heinlein experienced in their trip to the Soviet Union in 1960. There are many prognostications, ranging from alarmingly accurate to quaint in showing their age.

It's probably the biggest hodgepodge of an anthology I've ever read, but there's more than enough good stuff to keep it entertaining.

Angie says

Of all the Heinlein I have read, this was by far his weakest collection, and one of the worst books I've read. I'm so glad it was free, because if I'd paid even 10 cents for this book, I'd want my money back.

Derek says

The Heinlein tome! Some really great stories in here. I enjoyed the forewords and afterwords, which gave great insight into the mind of Heinlein. His opinions on education are well-founded, but a bit misguided.

Darth says

Most of the short fiction in this volume I have read in other collections - so mainly I read this for the non-fiction. The stories are a little interesting, but for most people, feel free to skip this, unless you are super anal and have to read **EVERYTHING** by your favorite authors.

Most of the tales start out on one track, but devolve into a 70-something year old guy complaining - Todays kids are stupid, foreign countries try to rob tourists, money doesn't mean anything if not backed by gold, and everything was better when he was young and in his prime...

I cringe to think what he would say about America today - but I had a good idea what this would be when I went into it, so I think it mitigated the experience for me.

Nathan Titus says

Mainly nonfiction and fairly uninteresting short stories. I never realized how much of a pro military pro police state neoconservative heinlein was. Since the bulk of this book came from that perspective I found it quite unpleasant. I really liked the last part of the final essay, where he briefly switches to fiction and has a president solve all the pathetic problems of the USA in just a few years with a radically common sense approach. Reading it, you almost think it could work. Ended the book on a good high note. Heinlein can be a good writer after all. Unfortunately this book is proof that he doesn't have to be.

The W says

W Rating : B

This was a fun book. This was Heinlein's *Riven Codex*. Many non sci fi stories and papers Heinlein has written with his own personal comments throughout. Read if you like Heinlein and/or getting author jokes.

Austin Wright says

Considered Heinlein's greatest compendium. Spanning 1939-1980. Took me a month to go through the 600 pages.

Bob Rust says

Foreword (Expanded Universe) • (1980) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
Life-Line • [Future History] • (1939) • short story by Robert A. Heinlein

Successful Operation • (1940) • short story by Robert A. Heinlein
Blowups Happen • [Future History] • (1940) • novelette by Robert A. Heinlein
Solution Unsatisfactory • (1941) • novelette by Robert A. Heinlein
The Last Days of the United States • (1980) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
How to Be a Survivor • (1980) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
Pie from the Sky • (1980) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
They Do It With Mirrors • non-genre • (1947) • short story by Robert A. Heinlein
Free Men • (1966) • novelette by Robert A. Heinlein
No Bands Playing, No Flags Flying — • (1973) • short story by Robert A. Heinlein
A Bathroom of Her Own • (1980) • short story by Robert A. Heinlein
On the Slopes of Vesuvius • (1980) • short story by Robert A. Heinlein
Nothing Ever Happens on the Moon • juvenile • (1949) • novelette by Robert A. Heinlein
Pandora's Box • (1966) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
Where To? • (1952) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
Cliff and the Calories • (1980) • short story by Robert A. Heinlein
Ray Guns and Rocket Ships • (1952) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
The Third Millennium Opens • (1956) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
Who Are the Heirs of Patrick Henry? • (1958) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
"Pravda" Means "Truth" • (1960) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
Inside Intourist • (1960) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
Searchlight • [Future History] • (1962) • short story by Robert A. Heinlein
The Pragmatics of Patriotism • (1973) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
Paul Dirac, Antimatter, and You • (1975) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
Larger Than Life: A Memoir in Tribute to Dr. Edward E. Smith • (1980) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein
The Happy Days Ahead • (1980) • essay by Robert A. Heinlein

George says

This was put together in the late 19th from stories written in the late 19th and early 10 plus a few essays.
Quite dated

Scott Golden says

It's a barrel-scraping exercise. Some of it is interesting; other items, not so much.

Cathy Savage says

I was expecting a collection of his fiction stories only to find several (the last third of the book) to be non-fiction essays written in response to the conditions of the day. As these are all old news and not of particular interest to me so I skimmed. The fiction stories were good as long as you remembered the era in which they were written. I find that I prefer his full length novels to his short stories. I guess I just like a "meatier" story. None the less I did enjoy the reread. I have many of the stories in other compilations so shall pass this back to the book sale folks.

Bob says

Short stories and essays presented chronologically. A couple of short stories are hard to find elsewhere, but the best ones can be found in other volumes. The book is filled out with Heinlein's essays, which seem to get more and more out of touch as both he and the twentieth century age.

Joseph Carrabis says

Like Time Enough for Love, I gathered many quotes from this book. It cemented for me that Heinlein was more futurist than science-fiction author, simply a futurist whose outlet was fictional more than directly predictional.
