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Star Wars: The Clone Wars, Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith, Star Wars: The Clone Wars1,216 votesWhere He Came From: The future emperor of the galaxy, Palpatinebegan his life as a young aristocrat on Naboo.While still on Naboo, Palpatine met a traveling businessman who was, in reality, a SithLord named Darth Plagueis. Plagueis took Palpatine under his wing, and under the Sith's dark tutelage, Palpatine eliminated his father. Palpatine remained in politics throughout his descent into darkness, and as his political influence grew stronger, so did his power. Eventually, Palpatine felled Plagueis and became the Sith Master. His Dark Side Bona Fides: Palpatine was one of the most successful Sith Lords (if not the most successful) to ever wield a redlightsaber. The prequel films documented his rise to power, in which he became the indefinite chancellor of the galactic senate, then eliminated the vast majority of the Galaxy's Jedi population and declared himself emperor of the galaxy. His most evil act of all was orchestrating the destruction of Alderaan, an entirely peaceful planet. HisStrongest Moment: Palpatine'sstrength was mostly in his brilliant tactical mind, but it is also notable how he basically never lost a fair fight throughout the series. He held his own when multiple Jedi Masters came to apprehend him in Revenge of the Sith, and he defeated Luke in Return of the Jedi. His greatest feat of strength was probably when he took on Jedi Master Yoda, the leader of the Jedi. In a fight between the leader of the Sith and the Jedi, Palpatine came out the clear victor.Powers & Abilities: Telepathy, Levitation, ForceStar Wars: The Clone Wars, Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope, Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi1,405 votesWhere He Came From: Darth Vader's life story was told from start to finish throughout the Skywalker saga. As a young boy, he was enslaved on the planet Tatooine. A Jedi named Qui-Gon Jinn found him and brought him to Coruscant, where he began his Jedi training at a much older age than was typical. As he grew, he developed feelings for Padme Amidala, the former Queen of Naboo, which led to his temptation to the dark side at the hands of Darth Sidious. Convinced the Jedi were misled, he helped Palpatine execute Order 66, solidifying his place at the Dark Lord's side. His Dark Side Bona Fides: Darth Vader led the march on Coruscant's Jedi Temple, where he famously slaughtered Jedi of all ages, including a group of helpless younglings. Darth Vader's mighty fist was equally as important as Palpatine's mind in achieving control of the galaxy. His Strongest Moment: Darth Vader's strength was constantly on display throughout his appearances. While his assault on the Jedi Temple in Revenge of the Sith and brutalization of the Rebels in Rogue One are well-documented, Vader's most impressive feat of strength was actually shown in Darth Vader #13 as part of the Vader Down storyline. In the book, Vader was taken downand went up against most of the Rebel Army on his own. Instead of surrendering, he activated the Rebel's grenades with the Force, taking out most of them in one swift move.Powers & Abilities: Telepathy, Levitation, Force1,132 votesWhere He Came From: Revan, the protagonist of the video game Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic,like most Jedi was brought into the Order at a young age and trained to be a guardian of the Republic. Revan disagreed with how the Jedi handled the Mandalorian war, so he disobeyed orders and got involved directly with his friend Malak. They investigated rumors of Sith involvement in the fightingand discovered a secret Sith empire. Disenfranchised from the Jedi, they readily accepted their new place among the Sith. His Dark Side Bona Fides: Revan sought out ancient Sith artifactsand eventually discovered the Star Forge, which was capable of generating the basic building blocks of the universe. Revan used it to create an infinite fleet of starships. As a Sith, he naturally used that fleet to take on the Republic, costing countless lives. His Strongest Moment: Revanwas something of a warlord, whether fighting for the Galactic Republic or against it. He was able to use his immense Force abilities to alter the tide of war. For example, he used the Force to instantaneously make Jedi jointhe Sith, andto augment the power of his followers during conflicts.Where He Came From: Darth Nihilus,before he was a Sith lord, was a target of the conflict between the Mandalorians and the Republic. The Republic's forces, led by a Jedi general, fired a superweapon on Malachor to end the conflict. It terminated basically everyone on and around the planet, but Nihilus somehow survived. In the aftermath, Nihilus acquired an insatiable hunger that he could only momentarily satisfy by draining the life force of those around him. Due to his strange condition, he was eventually found by a Sith named Darth Traya and trained in the ways of the Dark Side. His Dark Side Bona Fides: Alongside a fellow Sith named Sion, Nihilus dispatched his master because she did not want to wage an all-out conflict against the Jedi. He then went on a rampage across the galaxy in which he greatly reduced the Jedi's forces. His Strongest Moment: Darth Nihilus was known as the Lord of Hunger due to his unique ability to consume the life-force of entire planets, whichhe did to the world known as Katarr. Darth Nihilus's strange curse that caused his insatiable hunger also erodedhis body.Sohe bonded his soul to his Sith armor before it was too late. His physical body was no more, andhis armor became his only connection to the physical world.807 votesWhere He Came From:Darth Baneexisted 1,000 years before the Clone Wars. During his time, he fought against the Jedi Order as a member of the Brotherhood of Darkness. He was around for the end of the Sith Empireand watched as the Jedi Order defeated the Sith. Darth Bane was the sole survivor, becoming the de facto new Dark Lord of the Sith. His Dark Side Bona Fides: Darth Bane proved his value to the Dark Side by creating the Rule of Two. He believed the Jedi Order was able to defeat the Sith due to a weakness in the Sith Empire caused by infighting. He decided that at any given time, there should only be two Sith, and he set in motion the plan that would eventually allow the Sith to overthrow the galaxy 1,000 years later. His Strongest Moment: In the new Star Wars canon, Darth Bane is the sole survivor of the destruction of the Sith, but it isn't known why or how. Still, even in ambiguity, this is an impressive act of strength.Where He Came From: AlthoughDarth Plagueis's past was fleshed out more in the now noncanon Star Wars Legends books, little is known about Plagueis in the Disney canon. His origin is a mystery, but fans do know that he took Palpatine on to be his apprentice. He was completely obsessed with immortalitybut ultimately couldn't save himself from his own apprentice. In the Legends canon, his birth was preordained by the current Sith Lord, Darth Tenebrous, who brought together two people he felt made a worthy couple to sire an apprentice for him. His Dark Side Bona Fides: Too little is known about Plagueis's exploits in the current canon, but in Legends, his potential for evil was shown early. While still at preschool age, he used a Force mind trick to convince one of his classmates to take their own life. Later, after discovering his master had a second apprentice, Plagueis defeated the apprentice but kept him alive to experiment on. His Strongest Moment: His greatest power, according to Palpatine, was his ability to harness midi-chlorians to create life. This ability, along with his unusual penchant for prophecy, was where Plagueis's true strength came from, not brute force. There are two main factions in George Lucas Star Wars universe the Jedi and the Sith. The former represent the Light Side of the Force and are the protagonists of Lucas world, while the latter are practitioners of the Dark Side of the Force and are the antagonists. The Sith are extremely powerful Force users but are presented as antagonists with a very dark history, which is why we havent seen too many members of the Sith Order. With that lack of info, you might wonder who is the most powerful Sith. Some of these characters are quite skilled and are among the most powerful characters to ever have existed in George Lucas fictional universe. In this article, we at Fiction Horizon are going to bring you a list of the 20 most powerful Sith Lords of all time, as they appeared in Lucas franchise. Lucasfilm Kreia, a controversial Jedi master, sought to create a new Jedi Order to liberate beings from the Forces influence. However, her quest for understanding led her to embrace the Dark Side, becoming Darth Traya and forming a Sith Order. Betrayed by her apprentices, she abandoned the Dark Side, trained the Jedi Exile, and confronted her past by bringing down the remaining Jedi and Sith. Her journey began after being expelled from the Jedi Order due to Revans fall, and it culminated on Malachor V, where she discovered the dark secrets influencing Revans transformation. Ultimately, Kreia saw Revans fall as a rise to greater power beyond compassion and tolerance. Lucasfilm Darth Malak, initially known as Alek Squinquargesimus, was a Sith Lord during the Jedi Civil War, trained alongside Revan. They defied the Jedi Council during the Mandalorian Wars, adopting the name Malak as a symbol of their cause. After the Battle of Malachor V, they returned as Darth Revan and Darth Malak, sparking a destructive war. Ultimately, Revans redemption and defeat of Malak were orchestrated by the Jedi, with the Exile putting an end to the Siths resurgence and the downfall of Darth Traya and her Sith triumvirate. Lucasfilm Tulak Hord, a former Jedi turned Sith, lived around 5300 BBY and discovered the Sith Worlds, eventually becoming the Dark Lord of the Sith after Ajunta Palls death. Renowned for his unmatched lightsaber skills and strategic prowess, Hord fought and expanded the Sith Empires influence. He mentored a student named Ortan Cela and clashed with the ambitious Sith Aloysius Kallig, ultimately killing him. Hords Sith Holocron was taken by Kallig before his death, and Hord was later buried in a tomb on Korribans Valley of the Dark Lords. Lucasfilm Darth Maul, originally a Dathomirian night brother named Maul, became a Sith Lord under Darth Sidious command during the Naboo blockade. After killing Qui-Gon Jinn, he was defeated and believed dead, spending years in exile on Lotho Minor. Revived by his brother Savage Opress, Maul sought revenge on Obi-Wan Kenobi, forming alliances and conquering Mandalore. His plans were thwarted by Palpatine, leading to imprisonment, escape, and eventual death at the hands of Obi-Wan on Tatooine. Lucasfilm Count Dooku, also known as Darth Tyranus, was a Jedi Knight and master of Qui-Gon Jinn. After Qui-Gons death, he embraced the Dark Side, becoming a Sith under Darth Sidious. As a key figure in the Clone Wars, Tyranus orchestrated conflicts, leading the Confederacy of Independent Systems against the Republic. Skilled in the Force and lightsaber combat, he faced Anakin and Obi-Wan in battles but was ultimately beheaded by Anakin on Palpatines orders, furthering Anakins descent into the Dark Side. Tyranus was a formidable Sith Lord with mastery over complex Force techniques. Lucasfilm Darth Malgus, originally Veradun, was a formidable Sith Lord during the Great Galactic War and Cold War. After killing his master Darth Vindican in the Battle for Korriban, he attacked Alderaan and sustained serious injuries, leading him to wear life-sustaining armor. Malgus later infiltrated the Jedi Temple on Coruscant, killing Jedi Master Ven Zallow. Unlike typical Sith, he focused on expanding Sith territories through expeditions to the Unknown Regions. Years later, Malgus seized the opportunity to ascend the Emperors throne during the Emperors retreat, establishing a new empire. He gained significant support from military officers and Moffs, rebuilding the factory and upgrading Revans HK-47 assassin droid. Malgus used Ilums crystals to create an invisible fleet and space station, announcing the dissolution of the Dark Council and proclaiming the dawn of a new empire. Lucasfilm Darth Sion, known as the Lord of Pain, was a Sith Lord and disciple of Darth Traya. His body, shattered and scarred, defied death through sheer willpower, hatred, and the Dark Side. Responsible for the great Jedi massacre, Sion believed the Sith had eradicated the Jedi, targeting the Exile after the Mandalorian Wars. Thought dead, he resurfaced on Korriban, facing the Exile again on Malachor V. Despite his physical immortality, the Exile convinced Sion to break free from Darth Trayas influence, leading to his final defeat and release from eternal pain. Lucasfilm Ben Solo, also known as Kylo Ren, is the son of Leia Organa and Han Solo; he was initially trained as a Jedi with great potential by Luke Skywalker but turned to the Dark Side, serving the First Order and Supreme Leader Snoke. Notable for killing his father, Han Solo, in The Force Awakens and later eliminating Snoke in The Last Jedi, Kylo Ren experiences redemption in The Rise of Skywalker. Influenced by his connection to Leia and the ghost of Han Solo, he sacrifices himself to revive Rey and ultimately dies in the process, completing his journey back to the light side of the Force. Lucasfilm Darth Nihilus, a powerful Sith Lord, played a key role in wiping out the Jedi in 3951 BBY. With the unique ability to absorb power from beings and objects, he devastated entire planets, including Katarr. Spiritually linked with Darth Sion, he spoke an ancient Sith language and trained a student, Visas Marr. Despite his formidable power, Nihilus was defeated by the Jedi Exile on the Ravager during an attack on Telos IV. His true identity, hidden behind a mask, remained unknown, and after his defeat, the Dark Side consumed his lifeless body, leaving uncertainties about his fate. Lucasfilm Naga Sadow, a Dark Lord of the Sith around 5000 BBY, ascended to power after Marka Ragnoss death. Sadow aimed to expand the Sith Empire into Galactic Republic territory, leading to the Great Hyperspace War. Despite defeating his rival Ludo Kressh, Sadows plans failed, contributing to the Sith Empires fall. Following his defeat, he retreated to exile on Yavin IV, entering stasis. Centuries later, Jedi Freedon Nadd awoke Sadows mind, becoming his apprentice. Nadd eventually killed Sadows ghost in 4400 BBY, with Sadows grave located on Korriban. Lucasfilm After losing most of his limbs in a duel with Obi-Wan Kenobi, Darth Vader adapted to a new lightsaber style and endured daily pain. Serving as the Emperors enforcer, Vader instilled fear even among his allies in the Galactic Empire. Despite failing to retrieve Death Star plans, he discovered the Rebel Alliances base on Yavin IV. The Death Star was destroyed by Luke Skywalker, prompting Vader to chase the rebels to Hoth. Capturing Han Solo and Leia Organa, he lured Luke into a confrontation, revealing their familial connection. In the battle aboard the second Death Star, Vader turned against the Emperor to save Luke, sacrificing himself and embracing the Light Side of the Force. His body was cremated on Endor, bringing balance to the Force. Lucasfilm Bane, once a trainee, became a powerful Sith in the Brotherhood of Darkness under Lord Kaan. After surviving an attempt on his life, Bane sought revenge on Ruusan, temporarily aligning with the Sith against the Jedi. Disappointed with the Siths disunity, Bane survived the destruction, formulating the Rule of Two to ensure the Siths survival. He discovered the concept in Darth Revans Holocron and adopted brutal training methods. Bane took Darth Zannah as his apprentice, and their quest for Sith knowledge led them to Dxun. There, Bane acquired orbalisk armor and further strengthened his connection to the Dark Side before training Zannah on Onderon. Lucasfilm Freedon Nadd, once a Jedi turned Sith, sought power and became a king on Onderon. After his death, his sarcophagus became a source of dark energy. Nadd was the master of King Ommin and later took Satal and Aleema Keto as his apprentices. Jedi apprentice Exar Kun awakened Nadds spirit, leading to a confrontation. Nadd forced Kun to embrace the Dark Side to save his life. Eventually, Kun used an amulet to destroy Nadds spirit. Later, during the Onderonian Civil War, the Exile and her companions faced Sith masters in Nadds tomb on Dxun, defeating them and finding Nadds lightsaber and Holocron. Lucasfilm Ulic Qel-Droma, once a Jedi Knight, turned against the Sith sect Krath to avert their threat. Captured and tortured with Sith poison, he dueled Exar Kun, leading to the spirit of Sith Lord Marka Ragnos appointing Kun as the new Dark Lord and Qel-Droma as his apprentice. Ulic commanded the Krath Army, achieving victories. In a blind rage on Ossus, he killed his brother Cay, leading to Jedi exile. As a hermit on Rhen Var, he awaited his end. When approached by Jedi Vima Sunrider, he reluctantly trained her. Later, confronted by Jedi seeking revenge, Ulic was killed by a spaceman named Hoggon, and he passed over to the Force, finding peace. Lucasfilm Marka Ragnos, a Sith-human hybrid born on Korriban, became the Dark Lord of the Sith after defeating Simus in a duel. Under his rule, the Sith Empire flourished, but chaos ensued upon his death, leading to the Great Hyperspace War. In 5000 BBY, Ragnos grave on Korriban played a role in a power struggle between Sith rivals Naga Sadow and Ludo Kressh. Centuries later, Tavion Axmis sought to resurrect Ragnos by using a powerful scepter. Jedi Jaden Korr intervened, preventing the resurrection and destroying the scepter. In the ensuing battle, Tavion summoned Ragnos spirit, but Korr ultimately defeated Ragnos and sealed Tavions body in the tomb on Korriban, preventing the Sith Lords return. Lucasfilm Revan, initially a Jedi, played a crucial role in the Mandalorian Wars, leading the Republic to victory but facing the lure of the Dark Side. Later, as Darth Revan, he and Malak betrayed the Sith Emperor, establishing their own Sith Empire. After Malaks betrayal, Revans memory was erased by the Jedi, and he eventually returned to the Light Side. In the Jedi Civil War, Revan defeated Malak and destroyed the Star Forge, ending the conflict. He then ventured into the Unknown Regions to face a greater evil. Captured by Darth Nyriss, he was betrayed by Sith Lord Scourge, leading to his defeat by the Sith Emperor. Revan was held in stasis for centuries until freed by a Republic task force, leaving a legacy that influenced the Sith teachings of Darth Bane and the Rule of Two. Lucasfilm Darth Plagueis, a Muun and head of the Banking Clan, was a powerful Sith Lord who sought dominion over the galaxy. He mastered the manipulation of midichlorians, attempting to prevent death and create life. His apprentice, Darth Sidious, learned most of Plagueiss knowledge but betrayed and killed him while he slept. Plagueiss original plan involved eliminating strong Force elements undetected by the Jedi. Despite full control of midichlorians, Plagueiss arrogance and celebration of Sidiouss political rise led to his downfall. Sidious, intoxicated by power, murdered Plagueis to ensure the Sith Rule of Two endured. Plagueiss tragedy lay in his inability to save himself despite his mastery over life. Sidious considered Plagueis a teacher but not a true master, as he had deviated from the Sith plan for galaxy dominance, focusing on his quest for immortality. Lucasfilm Darth Vitiate, also known as Valkorion and Tenebrae, was a powerful Sith Lord who lived around 5000 BBY. After the fall of the Old Sith Empire, he took control, leading the Sith into hiding on Dromund Kaas and becoming the first Sith Emperor. Vitiate extended his life through dark rituals and machines, indirectly influencing galactic events. He orchestrated Revan and Malaks fall, sparking the Jedi Civil War. In 3681 BBY, the Sith Empire, rebuilt under Vitiate, waged war against the Republic. Despite the unexpected success, Vitiate offered peace, leading to the Treaty of Coruscant. He temporarily withdrew, leaving the Dark Council in charge. Vitiate, using a possessed body as the voice of the Emperor, manipulated events. After losing a voice on Voss, he sought a new one in the temple of the dark side on Dromund Kaas. The hero of Tython destroyed his voice, sparking a new galactic conflict. Vitiate later founded the Eternal Empire of Zakuul, displaying confidence in its eternal dominance and the ability to reshape the galaxy. Lucasfilm Exar Kun, a powerful Sith Lord in the Galactic Republic era, played a key role in the Great Sith War alongside Ulic Qel-Droma, Krath, and Mandalorians. After a ritual on Yavin IV, he was imprisoned in the Massassi Temple, with his spirit enduring for millennia until finding peace in 11 ABY. Exar Kun is credited with inventing the double-bladed lightsaber. On Yavin IV, he encountered the descendants of the Massassi culture, avoiding sacrifice through the Dark Side and defeating Freedon Nadd to become the Dark Lord of the Sith. Using Sith artifacts, he subjugated the Massassi and uncovered Naga Sadows battleship, becoming a formidable Sith. Ulic Qel-Droma led a Jedi fleet to Yavin IV in 3996 BBY to end Exar Kuns regime. In a final ritual, Kun separated his mind from his body, unleashing immense power countered by the Jedi. The temple and Yavin IV were consumed by flames, and while the Jedi believed him defeated, Exar Kuns spirit lingered on the jungle moon during the Second Galactic War. Lucasfilm Sheev Palpatine, also known as Darth Sidious, is the primary Dark Lord of the Sith, a former politician, and the main antagonist in the Star Wars saga. Trained by Darth Plagueis, his mission is to restore the Sith order and eradicate the Jedi through a galaxy-wide plot. Initially a Senator for Naboo, he rises to become Supreme Chancellor of the Galactic Republic, manipulating events to ignite a war between the Separatists and the Republic. Using his mastery of the Dark Side, political skills, and knowledge of the Republics workings, Palpatine gains full powers, prolonging the Clone Wars to strengthen his grip. In 19 BBY, he declared himself Emperor, orchestrated the Great Jedi Purge, and transformed the Republic into the Galactic Empire. He turns Anakin Skywalker into Darth Vader, his apprentice. Palpatines reign ends in Episode VI as Vader kills him. However, he returns in Episode IX, meeting his final demise at the hands of Rey, his granddaughter. Have a Sith Lord to add to the list? Let us know in the comments below!Background of the Star Wars universe outside of the feature filmsStar Wars has been expanded to media other than the original films. This spin-off material is licensed and moderated by Lucasfilm, though during his involvement with the franchise Star Wars creator George Lucas reserved the right to both draw from and contradict it in his own works. Such derivative works have been produced concurrently with, between, and after the original, prequel, and sequel trilogies, as well as the spin-off films and television series. Commonly explored Star Wars media include books, comic books, and video games, though other forms such as audio dramas have also been produced.With the exception of the animated The Clone Wars TV series, non-film material produced prior to April 2014 was collectively known as the Star Wars Expanded Universe (EU). Lucasfilm, now under Disney, later rebranded the Expanded Universe as Star Wars Legends and declared it non-canonical to the franchise. Most works produced after April25, 2014 are part of the official canon as defined by Lucasfilm, although a handful of Legends media has still been released after said date.The first Star Wars spinoff material was Star Wars: From the Adventures of Luke Skywalker (1976), the novelization of the 1977 film. Lucas later commissioned Alan Dean Foster, who ghostwrote the novelization, to write a sequel, which resulted in Splinter of the Mind's Eye (1978). Lucas originally intended to use this as the basis for a potential low-budget sequel to Star Wars, but when it became one of the most successful films of all time, Lucas decided to write his own story for the film sequel, The Empire Strikes Back (1980).[1] While this was in production, Lucas approved the Star Wars Holiday Special (1978), with which he had limited involvement.Running from April 1977 to May 1986,[2][3][4] the Star Wars comic book series from Marvel Comics met with such strong sales that former Marvel editor-in-chief Jim Shooter credited it with saving Marvel financially in 1977 and 1978.[5] The series became one of the industry's top selling titles in 1979 and 1980.[6] An adaptation of the third theatrical film, Return of the Jedi, was released as a separate four-issue limited series (19831984).[7]Two novel trilogies with original storylines were written, The Han Solo Adventures by Brian Daley (19791980),[8] and 1983's The Adventures of Lando Calrissian by L. Neil Smith.[9][10] Daley also wrote radio dramatizations of the original trilogy, which aired in 1981, 1983, and 1996.The first Star Wars electronic game was released in 1979 by Kenner,[11] followed by a handful of Atari and Parker Brothers video games in the early 1980s, mainly adaptations of film scenes.Two spin-off television films focusing on the life of the Ewoks, introduced in Return of the Jedi, aired in 1984 and 1985. The furry creatures were also the subject of an American/Canadian animated television series produced by Nelvana, which ran for two seasons between 1985 and 1986. A sister series, Droids, features the further adventures of R2-D2 and C-3PO. In 1985, Marvel Comics' Star Comics imprint published a bi-monthly Ewoks tie-in comic, which ran for two years, and in 1986, published an eight-issue Droids series.[12] The two series featured a crossover storyline.[13]The Star Tours ride was opened at Disney Parks in 1987 to commemorate the saga's 10th anniversary.Following the series' 10th anniversary, the release of Star Wars spin-off media was largely halted. In 1987, the fan newsletter Bantha Tracks was absorbed by the official Lucasfilm magazine, which focused on the company's projects outside of Star Wars.[10] Some fans feared that the franchise had come to an end, and the period between 1987 and 1991 has been called the "Dark Times."[10]There were some bright spots in this era, however. In 1987, West End Games began publishing Star Wars: The Roleplaying Game, and the subsequent ancillary role-playing game material such as sourcebooks, gamebooks, and adventure modules. These have been called "the first publications to expand greatly beyond what was known from the vintage era of the movies," and would serve as a resource for a number of franchise novelists.[14]The lack of new Star Wars material ended with the 1991 release of Timothy Zahn's novel Heir to the Empire.[10] Heir to the Empire, which reached #1 on The New York Times Best Seller list,[15] began what would become a large collection of works set before, between, and especially after the original films.[16] StarWars.com wrote in 2014 that the novel "jumpstarted a publishing program that endures to this day and formalized the Expanded Universe".[16] It introduced, among others, the popular characters Grand Admiral Thrawn and Mara Jade, and was followed by the sequels Dark Force Rising (1992) and The Last Command (1993).[16][17] The Thrawn trilogy is widely credited with revitalizing the Star Wars franchise.[16][18][19] In The Secret History of Star Wars, Michael Kaminski suggests this renewed interest was a factor in Lucas's decision to create the prequel trilogy.[19]Around this same time, the comics license was transferred to Dark Horse Comics, who launched a number of series set after the original film trilogy, including the popular Dark Empire sequence (19911995) by Tom Veitch and Cam Kennedy.[20] The comic launched months after the first Thrawn novel and was a sequel to those novels; it notably resurrected the film characters Emperor Palpatine and Boba Fett. Zahn was critical of the concept of resurrecting Emperor Palpatine through cloned bodies, feeling it undermined and contradicted the meaning of the ending of Return of the Jedi.[21]The Jedi Prince series of young-reader novels, released between 1992 and 1993, depicts Luke, Leia, and Han about a year after Return of the Jedi.[22] The Truce at Bakura (1993) depicts the immediate aftermath of the aforementioned film.[22] In 1993, Dark Horse published Tales of the Jedi, expanding the fictional universe to the time of the Old Republic, approximately 4,000 years before the films. Later, the series spawned the Knights of the Old Republic computer roleplaying games, which led to many new productions set during the Old Republic era, such as the Bane Trilogy and the Knights of the Old Republic comic line.[23]In 1994, Lucas Licensing's Allan Kausch and Sue Rostoni discussed the relationship between Lucas' creations and the derivative works by other authors:Gospel, or canon as we refer to it, includes the screenplays, the films, the radio dramas and the novelizations. These works spin out of George Lucas' original stories, the rest are written by other writers. However, between us, we've read everything, and much of it is taken into account in the overall continuity. The entire catalog of published works comprises a vast historywith many off-shoots, variations and tangentslike any other well-developed mythology.[24]The 1996 Steve Perry novel Shadows of the Empire, set in the as-yet-unexplored time period between The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi, was part of a multimedia campaign that also included a comic book series and video game.[25][26] The multimedia project was largely meant to reinvigorate the franchise ahead of the prequel trilogy, along with Lucas's 1997 Special Editions of the original trilogy.[27] Lucas incorporated elements of the Expanded Universe into the Special Editions; for example, Coruscant, the New Republic capital planet created by Zahn in the Thrawn trilogy, made its film debut in the Special Edition of Return of the Jedi,[16][28] before being featured more heavily in the prequel trilogy. An eponymous comic book series, later subtitled Republic, launched in 1998 and introduced Ki-Adi-Mundi ahead of his appearance in the films.[29]In 1999, Star Wars book publishing moved from Bantam Spectra to Del Rey Books. A new series set between 25 and 30 years after the original films, The New Jedi Order (19992003), was written by multiple authors and introduced a new threat: the Yuuzhan Vong, a powerful alien race attempting to invade and conquer the entire galaxy.[30][31] The first novel in the series, R.A. Salvatore's Vector Prime, killed off popular character Chewbacca.[32][a]Before 1999, the bulk of Expanded Universe storytelling explored the time periods either after Return of the Jedi or long before A New Hope (e.g. the Tales of the Jedi series). The time period shortly before the original trilogy (including the rise of the Galactic Empire and the personal histories of Anakin Skywalker and Emperor Palpatine) was left open for Lucas to develop in the form of a prequel trilogy, which began with Episode I: The Phantom Menace (1999).The character Aayla Secura, introduced in 2000 in the Republic comic book series, appears in Episode II: Attack of the Clones (2002).[33][34] The 2003 animated series Clone Wars and various spin-off books, comics, and video games explore the titular conflict in more detail leading up to Episode III: Revenge of the Sith (2005).[35][36] Ahead of the film's release, Lucas announced a 3D "continuation" of Clone Wars,[37] which was released as the animated film The Clone Wars (2008) and a television series of the same name (20082020).[38] These reveal that Anakin had a Padawan learner, Ahsoka Tano, during this period.[39] Various characters seen only briefly in the films or in other spin-off material are featured in more depth. At this time, Lucas denied any plans to ever make a Star Wars sequel trilogy.[40][41]As of 2004, over 1,100 Star Wars titles had been published, including novels, comics, non-fiction, and magazines. Then-president of Lucas Licensing, Howard Roffman, estimated that there were more than 65 million Star Wars books in print. He said, "The books are a way of extending the fantasy of Star Wars. The movies have had a really profound effect on a couple of generations. Star Wars has become a cultural touchpoint, and our fans are avidly interested in exploring more stories."[31]"Holocron" redirects here. For the The Clone Wars episode, see Holocron Heist. For the Rebels episode, see The Holocrons of Fate.Originally, Lucasfilm tracked the narrative content of the Expanded Universe in story bibles,[42] alongside official reference books such as A Guide to the Star Wars Universe (1984/1994) and the Star Wars Encyclopedia (1998). In 2000, LucasArts lead tester Leland Chee was hired as Continuity Database Administrator for Lucas Licensing, and developed a database of franchise continuity based in part on 1998's encyclopedic Star Wars: Behind the Magic CD-ROM.[b] The database came to be known as the Holocron,[42][44][45][46] a term used within the Star Wars universe for "ancient repositories of knowledge and wisdom".[47] The Holocron consists of over 55,000 entries for franchise characters, locations, species, and vehicles.[42]Lucas Licensing's managing editor Sue Rostoni said in 2001, "Our goal is to present a continuous and unified history of the Star Wars galaxy, insofar as that history does not conflict with, or undermine the meaning of Mr. Lucas's Star Wars saga of films and screenplays."[48] Lucasfilm's director of fan relations Steve Sansweet clarified:When it comes to absolute canon, the real story of Star Wars, you must turn to the films themselvesand only the films. Even novelizations are interpretations of the film, and while they are largely true to George Lucas' vision (he works quite closely with the novel authors), the method in which they are written does allow for some minor differences ... The further one branches away from the movies, the more interpretation and speculation come into play. LucasBooks works diligently to keep the continuing Star Wars expanded universe cohesive and uniform, but stylistically, there is always room for variation.[49]In August 2005, Lucas said of the Expanded Universe:I haven't read any of the novels. I don't know anything about that world ... But I do try to keep it consistent ... if I come up with a name or something else, I look it up and see if it has already been used. When I said [other people] could make their own Star Wars stories, we decided that ... we would have two universes: My universe and then this other one. They try to make their universe as consistent with mine as possible, but obviously they get enthusiastic and want to go off in other directions.[50]Regarding the Holocron database in 2012, Chee said: "What sets Star Wars apart from other franchises is that we develop a singular continuity across all forms of media, whether it be the films, TV series, video games, novels and comics, and the Holocron is a key component to Lucasfilm being able to do this."[51] The Holocron was divided into five levels of canon (in order of precedence):G-canon was "George Lucas canon": Episodes IVI (the released films at that time) overrode the lower levels of canonicity,[52] even when referring to elements introduced in other media. In the words of Leland Chee: "George's view of the universe is his view. He's not beholden to what's gone before."[45]T-canon was Television canon: The canonicity level comprising The Clone Wars, which Lucas co-created.[52]C-canon was Continuity canon: Most of the material from the Expanded Universe including books, comics, and video games.[52] The creation of stories that introduced radical changes in the continuity, like The Force Unleashed video game (which introduced Darth Vader's secret apprentice Starkiller), required Lucas's approval, and he spent hours explaining the character relationships to the developers.[45]S-canon was Secondary canon: Any element introduced in Continuity canon that was contradicted by other material.[52] The Holiday Special is an example, except for elements referenced in higher levels of canon.[45][53]D-canon was Detours canon: Elements of the unreleased show Detours, though primarily intended as a parody of the franchise, were to follow a serial storyline that existed in a low level of canonicity.[54]N-canon was Non-canon: "What if" stories (such as the first 20 issues of the Star Wars Tales comic anthology), crossover appearances (such as Star Wars character appearances in Soulcalibur IV), game statistics, and anything else directly contradicted by higher levels of canon.[52]Since April 2014, the Legends label has been featured on reprints of Expanded Universe works that fall outside the Star Wars franchise canon.In October 30, 2012, the Walt Disney Company acquired Lucasfilm for US$4.06 billion (equivalent to about US$5.56B in 2024 due to inflation).[55][56][44] Subsequently, Lucasfilm formed the "Lucasfilm Story Group", which was established to keep track of and define the canon and unify the films, comics, and other media.[57][58] Among its members are Chee, Kiri Hart, and Pablo Hidalgo.[59] To prevent the planned sequel trilogy from being beholden to and restrained by the plotlines of the Expanded Universe works, the choice was made to discard that continuity.[60][a][c]On April 25, 2014, Lucasfilm rebranded most of the Expanded Universe material with the exception of The Clone Wars as Star Wars Legends and declared it non-canonical to the franchise. The company's focus would be shifted towards a restructured Star Wars canon based on new material.[60][63][64] Chee said in a 2014 Twitter post that a "primary goal" of the story group would be to replace the previous hierarchical canon (of the Holocron) with one cohesive one.[58] However, the final season of The Clone Wars, which was released in 2020,[65] contradicted aspects of the 2016 canon novel Ahsoka. The next year, The Clone Wars spin-off series The Bad Batch contradicted canon elements of the 2015 Kanan comic book series. The Bad Batch executive producer Jennifer Corbett explained that "Everything we did was for a reason and it might not match 100% but it's sort of just wanting to honor what existed but also give another take on it in this story."[66]In 2019, Marvel published a one-issue continuation of its 1977 Star Wars comic series for the company's 80th anniversary, making it the first new story to be published in the Legends continuity.[67][68] In 2021, Del Rey Books announced it would be republishing several popular Legends novels as part of the Essential Legends Collection for the franchise's 50th anniversary, starting with Heir to the Empire, Darth Bane: Path of Destruction and Shatterpoint.[69]In its 2014 announcement, Lucasfilm explained that the only preexisting works to be considered canonical within the franchise would be the primary episodic films and the 2008 The Clone Wars film and TV series.[70][d] The announcement called these works "the immovable objects of Star Wars history, the characters and events to which all other tales must align."[60][63] It was also made clear that a planned Star Wars sequel trilogy, and subsequent works developed within the restructured canon, would not be based on Legends material but could possibly draw from it.[60][63][72] The first new canonical novel was A New Dawn by John Jackson Miller, published in September 2014,[73] acting as a prologue to the animated television series Star Wars Rebels, which was released a month later.[74] Marvel began publishing new Star Wars comic book series in January 2015,[75][76][77] and the Journey to Star Wars publishing initiative included books and comics tying in to the sequel trilogy films.The first sequel trilogy film, The Force Awakens, was released in December 2015.[78] There was some minor fan backlash against the restructured canon, with one group successfully campaigning to buy a billboard pleading for Lucasfilm to continue the original non-canonical Expanded Universe separately from the canon.[79] Rebels supervising director Dave Filoni reintroduced popular Legends character Thrawn into the canon in the 2016 third season of Rebels.[33] Timothy Zahn was hired to write new canonical novels about the character.[80][81][82] Since co-creating The Clone Wars, Filoni has followed Lucas (who incorporated Expanded Universe elements into the Special Editions, prequels, and The Clone Wars) in incorporating multiple spin-off elements into his series.[33][83] Some cancelled The Clone Wars episodes were adapted into books and comics in The Clone Wars Legacy multimedia project.After The Force Awakens, multiple films were released, including the anthology films Rogue One (2016) and Solo: A Star Wars Story (2018), as well as the second and third sequel trilogy films, The Last Jedi (2017) and The Rise of Skywalker (2019). Dozens of novels, comics published by Marvel and IDW, and games like Battlefront II (2017) were released.[84] Additionally, the animated series Resistance, set in the sequel trilogy era, premiered in late 2018 and ran until early 2020.[85]The Mandalorian, a post-Return of the Jedi live-action series written by Jon Favreau premiered in late 2019 on the Disney streaming service Disney+.[86] In early 2020, a final season of The Clone Wars animated series debuted on the streaming service.[65]In February 2020, it was announced that a new line of books and comics, labeled The High Republic, would begin publishing starting in August. The line takes place 200 years prior to the events of The Phantom Menace and will not overlap any films or series currently planned for production.[87]In December 2020, multiple live-action series were announced for Disney+, including Obi-Wan Kenobi, Andor, Lando, three Mandalorian spin-offs, and The Acolyte (set during the High Republic).[88][89][90] On April 2, 2021, several legacy Star Wars films and series were added to Disney+.[91] The Bad Batch debuted on May 4.[92]Multiple comics relaunched in 2020, moving to the era between The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi.[93][94][95]See also: Star Wars Fictional timelineThe Star Wars Legends fictional universe spans multiple eras. The names, symbols, and dates of the publishing eras were first introduced in October 2000[96] and were refined[97] up to February 2015:[98]Before the Republic (pre-25,053 BBY [Before the Battle of Yavin]): The only major releases in this era were the Dawn of the Jedi comic series and novel.Old Republic (25,0531,000 BBY): Includes the Tales of the Jedi comic series, the Knights of the Old Republic video games, The Old Republic MMORPG, the Knight Errant comic series, and the Darth Bane trilogy of novels.Rise of the Empire (1,0000 BBY): The era leading up to and including the prequel trilogy as well as the subsequent reign of the Empire.Rebellion (0 BBY5 ABY [After the Battle of Yavin]): The era of the original trilogy and its associated novels, comics, and video games.New Republic (5 ABY25 ABY): The era following the original trilogy, including the Jedi Prince, X-wing, The Thrawn Trilogy, Young Jedi Knights, and other novel series.New Jedi Order (2540 ABY): The era of The New Jedi Order and The Dark Nest trilogy novel series.Legacy (40140 ABY): The era of the Legacy of the Force and Fate of the Jedi novel series as well as the Star Wars: Legacy comic series.Infinities: Alternate universe stories and parodies that are intentionally set outside of the Star Wars Legends continuity.Speculative fiction portalFilm portalList of Star Wars charactersList of Star Wars Legends charactersList of Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic characters^ a b Discussing the restructured Disney canon in 2014, Chee said the death of Chewbacca in Vector Prime was a key factor in the decision to rebrand the existing Expanded Universe as non-canon.[32]^ This included the first release of certain deleted scenes from the original trilogy.[43]^ All events set after Return of the Jedi, such as the Yuuzhan Vong War (in which Chewbacca was killed) and Boba Fett's escape from the sarlacc, were removed from continuity. Major characters like Mara Jade (and by extension her marriage to Luke Skywalker) and Han Solo and Leia Organa's children were likewise removed. Other notable exclusions from the canon were the Ewoks television movies, the 2003 Clone Wars animated series, the Knights of the Old Republic video games, the Shadows of the Empire multimedia project, and video game characters like Darth Vader's apprentice, Starkiller, and stormtrooper-turned-Jedi Kyle Katarn.[61][62]^ The sole exception is the serialized short story "Blade Squadron" by David J. and Mark S. Williams, which debuted in Star Wars Insider Issue 149 on April 22, 2014, three days prior to the "Legends" announcement. "Blade Squadron" is thus the first canonical Star Wars story outside the original six episodic films and The Clone Wars.[71]

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