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Star Wars: Mythology of Climate Crisis?

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Abstract: *Star Wars* effects are a part of daily life, in the galactic empire of the digital world, among various rebels and tyrannical/oligarch regimes are wars and climate crises at every corner where the Sith and the Jedi vary, offering a profound allegory for the enduring battle between good and evil. Within this expansive digital realm, humans see a vast array of factions and ideologies, mirroring the complexities of culture. The valiant rebels, fighting against oppressive forces, resonate with themes of resistance and determination. Conversely, the presence of tyrannical and oligarchic regimes serves as a thought-provoking note on power dynamics and governance.

Keywords: Star Wars, Climate Crisis, Law, Force

George Lucas' early *Star Wars* (1977 –) and the prequels at the end of the millennium have become the ideological myth of the Digital Epokhe of the 2000s. It was therefore necessary to order another pack of *Star Wars* to see how the ideological function of fantasy in the saga incorporates the ideology globally.

In addition to launching the New Hollywood of blockbusters in the 1970s (with/after Steven Spielberg's *Jaws* in 1975), when the saga first aired, Apple II was also showcased at a fair in San Francisco, and this was considered the birth of the PC industry. A year later, the *Space Invaders* game, then Atari's *Asteroids* and *Pac-Man* came, and Nintendo saved the crisis of the eighties. The internetwork of unlimited connection, domains and fields is not far from the Force of the saga.

Star Wars effects are a part of daily life, in the galactic empire of the digital world, among various rebels and tyrannical/oligarch regimes are wars and climate crises at every corner where the Sith and the Jedi vary, offering a profound allegory for the enduring battle between good and evil. Within this expansive digital realm, humans see a vast array of factions and ideologies, mirroring the complexities of culture. The valiant rebels, fighting against oppressive forces, resonate with themes of resistance and determination. Conversely, the presence of tyrannical and oligarchic regimes serves as a thought-provoking note on power dynamics and governance.

Star Wars serves as a rich tapestry of analytical themes, inviting for an exploration of profound concepts of experience. Amidst the galaxies, wars and climate crises abound. The juxtaposition of these struggles against the backdrop of a fantastical universe prompts to contemplate the parallels between fiction and reality.

The saga was a woke rebound of the new liberal turn in the Cold War's "pissing contest," rather than an ideology. The US President of the initial period was Ronald Reagan – the co-founder of new globalization ('neoliberalism') – a *Star Wars* fan who launched a strategic defense program known as the "Star Wars Initiative." The belief in the global order needed to be strengthened and maintained.

Western Buddhism has been referenced for the saga in reference to the ethic for the dominant ideology of the global order. For "the monk" Yoda advises: "Let your fears go, Anakin (let-it-go)". Only then one would have the balance of the good and the evil (yin-yang) in the force. The ethical kernel of liberalism: "laissez-faire / let them do." The core of the "let-go" motto.

Although no law, no judges, no lawyers, no courtrooms were seen in the saga, it is obvious that there is a law of the universe. The "galactic senate," which is at the centre of political turmoil, the tyrannical emperor and the rebels, and the spread of international (intergalactic) trade (trade federations, guilds, and galactic routes such as the silk and spice routes). The universal themes in *Star Wars* point out that the destiny of the planet earth is not that different from that of the galaxy far, far away.

Anthropocene and Human Conscience

In the *Mythologies* (1972), Roland Barthes described an "irresponsibility device" colouring the world as a means of denial. It refers to the way cultural myths and symbols are used to deflect responsibility or to deny the true nature of things. Barthes argued that these myths and symbols create a sense of false reality, allowing individuals and societies to avoid facing inconvenient truths, and functioning as a tool for evading responsibility and perpetuating crises and distorted worldviews.

The most interesting is to describe the *epokhē/ἐποχή* from where *Star Wars* built a myth: the Anthropocene/Capitalocene? The "Winter is Coming" slogan from the *Game of Thrones* would be a good fit to caption the spirit of the mythic concepts of *Star Wars*, with its epic battles of the good and evil, mirroring the global struggle to name crises. The concept of the Force binds the galaxy together, reflecting the interconnectedness of all life on Earth and shared responsibility for protecting the planet. In parallel to the *Star Wars* myth, the urgency of the climate crisis is akin to the galaxy's battle against the dark side.

A key intersection of the force of the climate crisis and that of *Star Wars* lies in the concept of human conscience. Characters in the saga often experience moments of conflict between the allure of the dark side and the path of the light, emphasizing a struggle for human autonomy against overarching forces. The dual character of the force mirrors the human condition, where protagonists and antagonists often grapple with their choices and the ethical implications of their

actions. In this way, the Force serves as an allegory for the struggles inherent in ethical decision-making, creating a path for characters to lead their destinies through conscious choices.

Consider the monstrous weapon known as the Death Star that symbolizes the extreme consequences of unchecked technological advances and environmental destruction. Just as the Empire wants to dominate and control the galaxy, humanity often struggles against temptation at the expense of sustainability. The Death Star's catastrophic impact mirrors the potential and exponential consequences of Earth's own environmental neglect, manifesting in rising sea levels, extreme weather patterns, and loss of biodiversity.

Force of Law

In the realm of politics of science and fiction, few concepts have resonated as deeply as the Force in the *Star Wars* universe. This mystical energy binds the galaxy together, offering a profound philosophical thought into notions of power, ethics, human agency, and climate.

On a different yet intriguing plane of thought, Jacques Derrida's concept of "Force of Law" (1980) provided an analytical perspective to explore the mystical complexities of authority and justice. By highlighting the inherent contradictions within legal frameworks, derridean force illustrated how justice is often at odds with legal authority. This tension becomes evident in specific case laws or judicial decisions that may uphold the letter of the law while simultaneously contravening the spirit of climate justice.

Derrida asserted that force of law functions with an acknowledgment of this foundational violence. Likewise, the debates around the Anthropocene and the anthropogenic causes of climate crisis, the human causes traced an original violation of the climate and the environment, prompting a reevaluation of how climate crises—both literal and metaphorical—serve as catalysts for legal reform and change. Rivers, for instance, would be recognized as living subjects in law.

Isabelle Stengers' response book *In Catastrophic Times* (2015) looked at the living planet amid crisis, incomprehensible to describe and uncountable to economize even with Big Data, the uncontrollable radical alterity of the planet earth. The climate crisis, as explored by Stengers, reveals the limitations of human knowledge and technological capabilities in the face of ecological upheaval. The word "Anthropocene," in this sense, encapsulates the profound influence of human activity on the planet, leading to a state of environmental crisis that defies simplistic solutions.

It would not be absurd to think of the calls for climate justice and resistance as efforts to strengthen the belief in law in a way. For sure, humans forget the end of the world because of daily life. At best, they may look for an "external force" or UFO instead of conceiving the

atmosphere as a huge object that speaks for itself. When a storm floods, the only criticism is limited to understanding the end of the human species through urbanization and profit.

Under the United Nations framework, The Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 stood as a pivotal global effort to address the climate crisis, aiming to limit global warming and mitigate the effects of climate change. The UN serves as the real-life alliance, working tirelessly to unite nations in the climate change struggle for a sustainable future.

A reevaluation of the traditional linear understanding of time would urge contemplation on the ever-changing landscape of human experience and the diverse possibilities that lie ahead. Exploring the irresponsibility devices that contribute to the climate crisis would prompt critical examinations of the myths and symbols that surround the earth, questioning their true impact, and dismantling mythical narratives, paving the way for consciousness and accountability.

Futurity of the Earth

Absolute determinants of the existing climate justice are found on a presumption of an irreducible, infinite “idea of justice” for some other that would bring the “sustainability.” The irreducible is different from the future that always reproduces itself in the present.

The myth, or rather, the symptom of the spirit of the present *epokhē*, suspended world and time, is that the old rule ends somehow: non-law, in law, is the instance of the founding or revolutionary moment of law. There are three aporias of law at work in this dissolution: the *epokhē* of the rule, the ghost of the undecidable, and the obstruction of the horizon of knowledge.

The philosophy of the future is deeply explored by Jacques Derrida around the idea of justice “to arrive” in the “Force of Law”, which he interprets as the unfolding of events, encapsulated by the term *à-venir* in French, of what Sigmund Freud described in the 1927 book *Die Zukunft einer Illusion / The Futurity of Illusion*: an idle expectation. The concept challenges conventional perspectives on the future by portraying it not as a predetermined destination but as an ongoing and dynamic process of becoming terrestrial, underscoring the unknown nature of what is to become from the crises and the arrival of climate justice.

Bruno Latour's last dive into the neo-colonial theories, *Down to Earth* (2018), literally called for existing in "The New Climatic Regime". Latour did not opt for a new type of colonial exhortation to save the “Earth,” for the defense of “Becoming Terrestrials.” The concept urges individuals and societies to acknowledge and embrace their interconnectedness with the Earth with a sense of responsibility and stewardship towards the environment. In referencing neocolonialism within the context of climate denial, Latour's analytical perspective prompts readers to question and reassess the prevailing narratives surrounding climate change, thus contributing to a more nuanced and informed discourse.

In this sense, both the Force and the force of law underscore the tension between individual choice and the gravitational power of larger systems— be it a cosmic energy or a codified legal framework such as what the Paris Climate Agreement envisions from the participating countries.

The *Star Wars* mythology resonates with audiences across generations, and the myth of climate change calls for recognition of the human role in shaping the future of the earth. In the era where human activity and the modes of production have a profound impact on the Earth's systems, the parallels between the myth and the reality of the climate crisis serve as a reminder of the duty to safeguard the environment for the present and the future.

A new epic theatre of dialectical thought is close to what is happening in today's world. The doctrine of a "unity of the opposites" cannot explain the struggle's pluralities in this theatre where the new "perspectives" reveal themselves. Authorities might opt for refraining from disclosing truths.

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