



## The Void War

*D.J. Holmes*

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## **The Void War** D.J. Holmes

It's the year 2465, two hundred years since the stars were opened to humanity by the invention of the shift drive. So began the First Interstellar Expansion Era, catapulting humanity into a deadly race for the limited resources of navigable space.

Now tensions between the human nations are threatening to boil over into open hostility. Into this maelstrom steps the exiled Commander James Somerville of the Royal Space Navy. Banished from London to the survey ship HMS Drake he is about to make a discovery that may change his fortunes and throw Britain into a deadly war with its closest rival.

The Void War is a military science fiction novel and first book by new author D. J. Holmes

## **The Void War Details**

Date : Published August 18th 2015

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Author : D.J. Holmes

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Genre : Science Fiction, War, Military Fiction, Space, Space Opera, Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Void War for online ebook

### Mick Bird says

#### Great read

What a great start, I have enjoyed reading this book and look forward to reading more. We see the British fleet stand toe to toe with the Chinese fleet. A new area of space has been discovered, Britain has made a claim. but the Chinese who also have visited the area want it, and are willing to go to war for it. A young commander who has been banished by the king is first on scene, he and his crew find themselves in the thick of it. But there is more to the commander.

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### Stephen Lee says

This was a good first book for the series. It had a two slow spots but was otherwise a good read with solid characters and an interesting adaptation of psudo modern political intrege to a future space colony setting. I recommend it.

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### David P. Duffy says

#### About as Dumb an eBook As it Gets

"The Void War, Empire Rising Book 1," is a badly conceived, poor constructed, and ineptly written wannabe space opera homage to the "olde and goodie" Pax Britannica.

The author is apparently enamored with Victorian, Edwardian, and all of British aristocracy. It's as if "Colonel Blimp," wrote the eBook, without any of the satire or comedy.

The inane storyline concept has Earth's major countries, four (4) centuries in the future, engaged in a mad "land grab," of interstellar planetary colonization. The UN is the quasi-world governmental body that sets the parameters of how things are supposed to play out. China and the Brits are the main players, with lots of elbows and jabs being thrown. FTL travel is possible through "shift" technology, threading void space between dark matter and gravitational fields. The aristocracy of Britain has exponentially expanded, and altruistically rules, with the obsequious consent of the populace.

At 20% into the eBook, I gave up and bailed-DNF. The story was written by an sycophantic Anglophile of delusional intelligence. Normally willing to give a storyline a chance to develop, this one was so ridiculously inane, I could not continue. Additionally, the writing was amateurish and incompetent to the nth degree. Never has the word "Yet...," been used so frequently in writing. The broken syntax, improper grammar, run-on sentences, convoluted speech, tortured narratives, repetitive passages, and boring plots are annoying to the point of being obnoxious.

An adroit editor with a chainsaw, would have difficulty in salvaging a readable story from this morass of drivel. The writing is among the lowest level of ANY eBook I have come across, and we all know there is a lot of bad ones out there.

The eBook is NOT recommended and was accessed via Kindle Unlimited.

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### **Leigh Ives says**

I was pleasantly surprised by this book so much so that I have downloaded the second one of the series straight away.

The store has a lot of substance and the characters are loveable and progressively grow.

The only reason I didn't give 5 stars is because it took me a while to get used to the writing style. The grammar didn't seem right to me but after a while, I got used to this

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### **Ben says**

The overarching story is fine, if very tired, been done a million times before. There are a few attempts to inject some originality, but unfortunately a series of errors due to lack of research and lack of thought in how the various threads have been brought together (or not) means chunks of the story are jarring and often ridiculous. Clearly not much thought has been given over to integrating the various ideas.

The characters are unconvincing. In military sci-fi I expect the military aspects to be at least somewhat realistic, and this can often require a bit of research into military history, procedures, language and such. Sadly in this case, we got as far as the history and called it a day. All the military dialogue in this book is far too conversational, taking twice as many words to say half as much. A cursory check of military conventions would inform you of why this is unconvincing.

The entire romance sub-plot is a ridiculous waste of time. It harks back to an attitude from the C18th without making any effort to really gel it with a story set in the C25th. Linked to this is the entire sub-plot about the role of the nobility in this story. It is unconvincing in its explanation of how it got to this position, which is basically the view of the most stereotypical American when looking at British class system. Was this written for a US market?

I understand the desire to create a new story and the juxtaposition of futuristic space exploration with the past of the C18th has been around for a while now, so I'd have expected a bit of effort to have been put into making that combination believable. Why this effort was not made, I do not know, but the end result is two stories with no relation to each other running in parallel. It is easiest to just ignore the whole royalty sub-plot, you miss nothing of substance and the book becomes marginally more believable.

This book really needed more research and a real effort to merge two very different time periods into a convincing whole. As it is, it's an ok draft, but no more.

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### **Shane says**

Four and a half stars. I had to take off half a star for "shock waves in space". This is a terrific balance of well paced action and richly developed characters. There are plenty of battles and they set a nice pace for action, but it is the characters that really make this story shine.

I have read other reviews that compare this to Hornblower. While the characters are good, they aren't that good (at least not yet). I could see this compared to the later Hornblower series "Flying Colours" and later but not to the early works where Horatio is rising through the lower ranks.

Holmes does a great job of building drama and thinking through technological problems. He has built an interesting universe and has obviously carefully considered how the technology would effect tactics on both a small and large scale. It is this serious tactical consideration that almost makes me believe there could be shock waves in space. I also appreciate the perspective from the Chinese adversaries. It makes them seem more real to see there motivations and considerations. They are not "evil" just tied to their culture and goals for development. It makes them seem more realistic.

A strong start to a potentially great series.

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### **Karma M. Hamers says**

#### **Different from what was expected.**

I found this to be a pretty decent read. Different from a Star Wars/ Star Trek universe. The physics seem to be anchored more to what would be probable if we were to enter space as technology stands today. Missiles taking twenty or thirty minutes to reach their target would definitely make for some suspenseful and stressful moments aboard a spacecraft. How are they not all alcoholics? Good back story with the main characters. Overall I enjoyed the read . Seemed to be quite a few typos though. I don't know if this author is using British English or American English. This could be cause for what I see as typos in the writing. I would consider reading more from this author.

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### **Per Gunnar says**

Third time is a charm. This is the third book that I picked in my little drive to find something new to read. I have kind of felt stuck with a bunch of long running series from the same authors for a while and wanted something new. My two previous attempts, A.I. Destroyer and Supercarrier turned out to be a fairly big letdown. This one however turned out to be almost spot on for me.

The story itself is not bad at all. It is another take on the, perhaps not so new anymore, idea of monarchies in the future. In particular the book focuses on the British monarchy (the good guys) and the Chines who are still stuck in a communist dictatorship. Obviously the latter are the bad guys.

One thing that struck me from the start is that this book, unlike the two previously mentioned books, has a good and solid world building. The author starts off with the basics and gradually builds up an understanding of the world. He is being reasonably detailed without it becoming boring.

The science is quite okay. It is not hard core science and wormholes and stuff for faster than light travel is kind of just assumed to exist but at least it is coherent and not just thrown at the reader as it becomes necessary to fix the story. The military part of the science is quite good indeed and the strategy and tactics

used are plausible.

I definitely liked the combat parts which was well done with a plausible combination of stealth in space, pre-battle tactics and, of course, the actual combat.

I also quite liked the main protagonist as well as most of his entourage. Something that is fairly important for me. There is actually only one person on the side of the good guys that I really did not like. Unfortunately this person is a rather important one.

The bulk of the book is about a (armed) conflict between the British monarchy and the Chinese communists. This, together with the initial world building, could of course have been enough material for an entire series but this book actually has a beginning, middle and an end with a conclusion. The book of course hints where the story will go from there and I am quite interested to see how the main story arc continues. The fact that this is the first book from this author and I really liked it fills me with hope.

So far so good. However there was one story element that I intensely disliked. Of course it is related to the previously mentioned unlikable person. Trying to avoid spoilers I will only say that it involved an arranged wedding. It was so very un-enjoyable to read and, for me, the entire concept was simply revolting. To me it dragged down the book a lot. Before this I was actually considering five stars but after having read that crap I was tempted to go for three stars instead.

In the end I settled for four out of five stars since I truly liked most of the book.

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### **Anthony Romain says**

#### **Excellent**

Best traditions of military sci fi. Kept my attention and I started to care for the main characters. Struggled to put it down. Now going straight on to downloading the next book.

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### **Jesse Deleon says**

#### **Excellent sci-fi space adventure series start!**

I love this kind sci-fi series it may not have the sea and wind. But, the stars and space are just as good! A fan.

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### **aga1971 says**

#### **Loved the book**

Obviously I love these kind of adventures. They bring out the feeling that good things can happen. Take time of from cynicism... Just for now

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## **Beau says**

I'd have given it 4 stars but the writing kept knocking me out of the story.

Whenever a ship exited slip space, it "excited slip space."

The officer on the ship was not a purser, but a "pursuer."

"throughout known space there was five shift passages."

Don't misunderstand, I'm not angry about reading this book. I recognize that authors have styles and sometimes what might be a cultured English writer strikes me as an Ozark redneck bashing a keyboard. It happens. The frequency of mangled English led me to believe that an editor would have despaired of changing the author's voice by trying to force this square book into a round language.

I would agree with other reviewers that the story is more or less derivative, but space opera is a simple genre: get a lot of ships and missiles and fly to a lot of places and use them on the other guys. I am glad we weren't buried under a giant pile of numbers, for instance. I'm counting my blessings.

I'll read the next book, if I can.

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## **Frank Bertino says**

### **Love Lost Career Gained**

James is a hero with the emotional deficits of a man who realizes he will be unable to be with the love of his life. He is a sympathetic realistic character. I really like the military and political science aspects of the story. The battle scenes make me feel like I am right on the bridge of the ship with James. The ending leads us right into the next book which I will get into soon.

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## **Duane Warren says**

### **The Tech is extraordinary**

This is a serious glimpse to the future the first couple chapters took a minute to process there is so much info. I'll be reading them again. but my God once you get into it the story I'd absolutely like a page from a history book. incredible. I commend you D.J. Question? Are you English? sure the answer is in there somewhere it's just that your knowledge of royalty lead me to believe it is more than an American pass time. Or your just brilliant as is this work of art.

Bravo Zulu.

That's a little piece of American naval history. Not so historic tho since I'm still alive and i earned a few during my time in Lebanon. Something for you to look up!!

Thanks again can't wait to read on!

Respectfully

RM3 D.L. Warren

USS Guam LPH-9. 1984-1987

## **BobA707 says**

Summary: Classic space opera, some politics, plenty of action. Odd to have Great Britain as a major space power and I don't know what the author has against the Chinese, but ignoring that it makes for a great mini-war space conflict story. Book 2 here I come.

Plotline: Sort of a series of short stories strung together, each well thought out although a bit more subtlety would have been good

Premise: Not particularly detailed but the 'shift drive' seems to work

Writing: Simple descriptive, the reader is right there in the midst of the action

Ending: Well complete British victory ... what else ?

Pace: Never a dull moment!

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