

Untitled Star Wars Cross-Continuity Timeline – Design and Notes

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Welcome! This document serves as a companion guide to the Untitled Star Wars Cross-Continuity Timeline sheet. This document exists to explain design decisions in regards to building an all-encompassing, cross-continuity Star Wars timeline that pulls from but stands apart from guidebooks and secondary sources.

Notes

General Questions

Why even attempt at fitting Canon and Legends together?—The basic philosophy behind the project can be summarized with a quote from George Lucas: “Art is never finished, only abandoned.” He probably didn’t actually say that, and if he did he was quoting someone else, but the idea that Star Wars is a perpetually-incomplete body of work drives this project. There are two incomplete continuities: the ongoing post-2014 Canon, and the unfinished out-of-production Legends. Parts of Canon make liberal use of referencing Legends works even to the point of implying that certain works are indeed deuterocanonical, for example *Outbound Flight* or the 2003 *Clone Wars* cartoon. Legends, meanwhile, lacks a conclusion to many arcs and plot threads set up towards the end of its life. Indeed, one whole foundational work of Canon, the 2008 *The Clone Wars* cartoon, has tie-in media within the Legends continuity that were not carried forth into Canon.

Subjectively speaking, the Sequel Trilogy lacks a large body of tie-in works that build towards its setup. Legends has novel series that take place in the same time frame as the Sequels that build towards similar themes and a similar setting, but lack a payoff. Therefore, Canon and Legends as bodies of works complement and complete each other. The goal of combining continuities is to create a holistic Star Wars timeline that accepts all of the flaws and challenges inherent in meshing together two somewhat separate continuities as part of the fun and not as obstacles.

How do you get exact dates? What calendar do you use?—This project uses the standard 365-day calendar rather than the more esoteric Galactic Standard Calendar, which is a 10 month calendar where each month is 35 days. The Galactic Standard Calendar is only sometimes used by authors and creators; most of the time, the length of weeks and months reflect Earth dates because authors think in Earth time. There are exceptions; for example, Karen Traviss writes using GSC time. These dates will be converted to Earth dates as well. It should be noted that the New Essential Atlas and New Essential Chronology use calendars of 12 months of ~31 days, but presented in the GrS format. Therefore, I have used the dates provided in those guides for the films as benchmarks for how to find exact dates for other media.

Why not just use the GrS format? In addition to not every event having a concrete GrS date, the GrS format differs from Earth's calendar format: the year starts in the third month, which on our calendar is March. Therefore, events occurring in the first and second GrS month are usually listed as occurring in the year prior. This project has accounted for this difference while converting calendar dates and has adjusted accordingly.

What are hard-retcons and soft-retcons?—Maintaining a timeline that combines material from continuities not meant to fit together requires that one gets creative with how they explain contradictions. Soft-retcons are retcons that fit together two stories by suggesting that there is some missing connection not shown on-screen/page. Hard-retcons are retcons necessary when a story is directly contradicted by another. Please note that these retcons are *suggestions*. They are just one way to reconcile these stories; if they don't work for you, feel free to invent your own. This timeline is far from definitive.

Era-Specific Questions

Why are the years for the Prequel era all wrong?—In order to accommodate both the Legends and Canon interpretations of the Clone Wars period, I determined early on into the project that trying to splice them together was not an option. The 2008 series begins with a very different premise and timeline compared to the 2003 Clone Wars Multimedia Project, and would require the compression or discardment of significant portions of either or both interpretations. Therefore, I opted to fit both interpretations into the timeline without splicing them together by

sliding the timeline backwards to fit three extra years into the Clone War. Therefore we adjust *The Phantom Menace* backwards to the year 35BBY, and *Attack of the Clones* backwards to 25BBY. The CWMMP occupies 25-23BBY, while TCW and its tie-ins (both Legends and Canon) occupy the years 22-19BBY. *Revenge of the Sith* does not move from its date in 19BBY; 19BBY is the only year where the two separate interpretations dovetail.

How can you make *Solo* fit with the Legends timeline?—The approach taken to *Solo: a Star Wars Story* and its tie-ins is similar to [the approach proposed by Joe Bongiorno on his website](#). In essence, the narrative of *Solo* is deconstructed to fit with the narrative created by AC Crispin in her Han Solo trilogy of novels, with the prologue of the film occurring between chapters of *The Paradise Snare* and the bulk of the film occurring before *The Hutt Gambit*. The film's epilogue is a broad retelling of the first two chapters of *Rebel Dawn*. There are many broad similarities between the events of *Solo* and the events of the Legends trilogy that allow for a reconciliation, so long as the reader is able to ignore some of the obvious narrative breaks. Hard-retcons and soft-retcons are provided on the Dark Times sheet to detail how the two narratives fit together.

How can you reconcile the post-ROTJ era from both continuities?—This timeline project takes heavy inspiration from [the narrative proposed by Sinrebirth and contributors in the One Canon thread on theforce.net](#). To summarize: all references from Canon works to the Battle of Endor and the death of Emperor Palpatine are recontextualized as referencing the Battle of Onderon and the Emperor's second permanent death as depicted in *Empire's End* (1995). *Aftermath* (2015) and *Alphabet Squadron* (2019) take place in the same timeframe as the *Jedi Academy Trilogy* (1994) and subsequent Legends novels. Because of this, there are no Canon works from 4ABY after *Return of the Jedi* (1983) until 11ABY after *Empire's End*. For new Canon works, stories are added to the timeline by taking their Canon date and adding seven years.

How does the Sequel Era fit together with the post-NJO novels?—To summarize the progression of the era from the Second Galactic Civil War to the final return of Emperor Palpatine is a large undertaking. The basics are this: the decay of the Galactic Alliance into its constituent member states following the rise of Darth Caedus leads to a centralization push in the former Imperial

Remnant, leading to the eventual declaration of the First Order. This coincides with Chancellor Natasi Daala exiling Luke Skywalker, who unbeknownst to much of the Galaxy has caused the destruction of his academy at Ossus by provoking Ben Solo towards the Dark Side. Therefore the events of *Bloodline* (2017) and *The Rise of Kylo Ren* (2019) roughly coincide with the events of *Fate of the Jedi* (2011).

As for the actual timeline of events: the events of *Legends* are somewhat compressed based on their original in-text dates rather than using the *Essential Guides* as references. The Dark Nest Crisis begins five years after the end of the Vong War in 29ABY and ends a year later; another year later by the Second Galactic Civil War which again lasts into the next year. Two years later, Luke Skywalker is exiled. Therefore, this portion of the timeline lasts 34-41ABY, beginning with *The Joiner King* and ending with *Crucible*. Canon dates maintain their earlier 7-year shift established by resynchronizing with *Empire's End*, but now we add an additional clause: stories that overlap into the Vong War period (25-29ABY) are shifted forward again by 4 years, meaning that these stories have moved by 11 years from their original dates. Luke Skywalker and Lando Calrissian search for Ochi of Bestoon in 32ABY, followed by the declaration of the First Order seven years later in 39ABY, and the destruction of Hosnian Prime six years later in 45ABY. The 11-year jump might be seen as enormous, but the *Star Wars* chronology is no stranger to large shifts in the timeline. It should also be acknowledged that some youthful characters have their age affected by these changes, such as Allana Solo and Rey Skywalker.

Notes

Organization Methods

Calendar Eras—Three eras are in widespread use across the entire timeline project, those being before and after the Battle of Naboo (BBN/ABN), before and after the founding of the Galactic Empire (BFE/AFE), and before and after the Battle of Yavin (BBY/ABY). Save for the second which has in-universe basis, the primary usefulness of these eras is tied to where they stand in the Skywalker Saga. Both the Battle of Naboo and the Battle of Yavin serve to represent the beginnings of the Saga (Episode I and Episode IV). The Founding of the Empire is my preferred calendar era because it marks a pivotal moment in the history of the setting and is depicted in a

saga film. Some projects prefer to use the Treaty of Coruscant (3653BBY), while others use the Battle of Endor (4ABY). While I am open to using these dates for marking calendar eras in the future, for now I find them too obscure compared to arguably more significant moments on the timeline.

Related to this topic: there is no 0BBY or 0ABY on this timeline, because the Battle of Yavin is not an event that occurs on January 1 of a calendar year. The Battle of Yavin happens in the middle of the year 0BY, or “Year 0, the year of the Battle of Yavin.” Events commonly dated to 0BBY or 0ABY have been appropriately moved around according to their internal dates.

Leapfrogging—The leapfrogging method is a method to organize short one-off stories into greater arcs covering the same characters. For example, *Jedi Apprentice* (1999) is an eighteen-book Legends series about the apprenticeship of Obi-Wan to Qui-Gon. In addition, there are a decent number of stories both Legends and Canon covering adventures Obi-Wan and Qui-Gon went on, but have never been given clear dates or relationships to other stories. These stories get organized between arcs of *Jedi Apprentice* wherever appropriate, usually by publication date or astrographic relevance if possible. In essence, each arc of *Jedi Apprentice* is leapfrogged with a shorter story featuring the same characters.

On a larger scale, novels set in the same time frame without specific ideas on when they are set relative to each other may be leapfrogged if the novels are divided into parts. For example, this style of organization has been done with *Dark Lord*, *Kenobi*, and *Jedi Twilight*.

Story-Specific Organization

Tales of the Jedi—Cited on Wookieepedia, *The Essential Atlas* (2009) gives a very different timeline for the Tales of the Jedi comic arcs than what was possibly intended. *Star Wars Insider* 26 (1995) outlined a timeline spanning ten years for the two prequel arcs and ten years for the first five arcs, while current timelines compress the prequel arcs into one year and reduce the timeline to a mere four-year span for the first five arcs. Below is a table illustrating the differences in timelines:

Arc	The Essential Atlas	Star Wars Insider 26
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The Golden Age of the Sith	5000BBY	5000BBY
The Fall of the Sith Empire	5000BBY	4990BBY
Ulic Qel-Droma and the Beast Wars of Onderon	4000BBY	4000BBY
The Saga of Nomi Sunrider	3999BBY	3999BBY
The Freedon Nadd Uprising	3998BBY	3998BBY
Dark Lords of the Sith	3997BBY	3996-3992BBY
The Sith War	3996BBY	3990BBY

For the sake of adhering to authorial intent and increasing the weight these stories had on the overall universe, this project adheres to the timeline provided by *Star Wars Insider* 26. Subsequent stories taking place following *The Fall of the Sith Empire* (1997) have been adjusted by ten years, while subsequent stories taking place following *The Sith War* (1995) and prior to *The Old Republic* (2011) have been adjusted by six years.

Republic Commando: Order 66—Because of Karen Traviss using the Galactic Standard Calendar, most dates after Chapter 3 have to be resynchronized. Traviss’ dating system dates the execution of Order 66 on May 14 or 1089 days after the Battle of Geonosis, putting the novel’s events eight days out of sync with the date established in Matt Stover’s *Revenge of the Sith* novelization, May 22 or three days before Luke and Leia are born. Subsequently, chapters from the novel have been dated from May 22.

Because of the redating from days before Order 66, this novel is one of the few non-TCW Legends works that seeps into the TCW time frame of 22-20BBY.

Preliminary table idea				
Chapter	Days ABG	Unadjusted date	Days BO66	Adjusted date

Blood Ties—The second arc, *Boba Fett is Dead* (2012), is dated to 10BBY in its first issue before subsequent issues date the story to 1BBY. The original date of 10BBY fits better with the timeline given in *Legacy of the Force* (2006) for Boba Fett's separation from his family and the comic's depiction of Ailyn Vel as a child rather than a teenager. Dating the comic to 10BBY also prevents interfering with Boba Fett's very tight timeline in AC Crispin's Han Solo trilogy.

All that being said, moving *Boba Fett is Dead* requires moving *A Tale of Jango and Boba Fett* (2010) as well. *Boba Fett is Dead* takes place one year after the first comic arc; this creates a new problem, because *A Tale of Jango and Boba Fett* makes explicit that it takes place 20 years after *Attack of the Clones* (2002), which should date the story to 2BBY or 5BBY in the adjusted timeline. If the arc is moved to 11BBY or one year before *Boba Fett is Dead*, then Connor Freeman is only 14 when it takes place. He could have inherited the accelerated aging from his clone father, though this would make him biologically older than Boba Fett.

Character Ages

Qui-Gon Jinn: In the Legends continuity, Qui-Gon is born in 92BBY (*Jedi vs. Sith*, 2007) and dies at the age of 60 during the events of *The Phantom Menace* (1999). In Canon, Qui-Gon is born in 80BBY (*Master & Apprentice*, 2019) and dies at the age of 48. Because Canon has introduced the element of Dooku having a padawan prior to training Qui-Gon, this timeline uses Qui-Gon's Canon age to date stories starring him prior to taking on Obi-Wan as a padawan. Qui-Gon's age is adjusted by three years, as the vast majority of characters debuting in the Rise of the Empire era have been.

Ahsoka Tano: Being that she debuts as a teenager in *The Clone Wars* (2008), Ahsoka is one of the few characters whose age is not affected by the additional three years added to the Rise of the Empire era. Her birthdate remains in 36BBY. "Life and Death" (*Tales of the Jedi*, 2022) takes place between 36BBY and 33BBY when she was recruited into the Jedi Order. Her time travel stint from 2BBY to 0BY (*A World Between Worlds*, 2018) reduces her overall biological age by two years. Therefore by her final appearance on the timeline in 16ABY (*The Jedi*, 2020), it has been 52 years since Ahsoka's birth and she is 50 years old.

Boba Fett: Boba Fett's age is a casualty of the three-year adjustment to the Rise of the Empire era. He was created in 35BBY and is ten years old in *Attack of the Clones* (2002). By *Revenge of the Sith* (2005), he is sixteen rather than thirteen as in both continuities. This is unavoidable and perhaps jarring, but remains a necessary side effect of the timeline adjustments. Boba Fett is 51 in 16ABY and by his final appearance on the timeline in 40ABY (*Fate of the Jedi: Apocalypse*, 2012), he is 75 years old.

Lando Calrissian: In the Legends continuity, Lando is born in 31BBY (starwars.com, 2005). In Canon, Lando is born in 43BBY (*The Rise of Skywalker: Visual Dictionary*, 2019). Because *Solo* (2018) establishes that Lando's adventures in the Rafa system occur prior to the events of that story, this timeline uses Lando's canon age to date stories prior to *Solo*. Lando Calrissian is 36 during *Solo*, 40 during *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), and by his final appearance on the timeline in 46ABY (*The Rise of Skywalker*, 2019), he is 89 years old. It is notable that, should Lando appear in stories dating to before the Clone Wars, then his age will be adjusted by three years.

Han Solo: In the Legends continuity, Han is born in 29BBY (starwars.com, 2005). In Canon, Han is born in 32BBY (*Skywalker: A family At War*, 2021). This timeline uses Han's Legends age to date stories prior to *A New Hope* (1977). Han Solo is 22 during *Solo* (2018) and 32 during *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980). Because he is frozen in carbonite for a year, his overall biological age is reduced by one year. Therefore, by his death in 45ABY (*The Force Awakens*, 2015), it has been 74 years since Han's birth and he is 73 years old.