

Starship Troopers Outline

If Veterans Ruled the World | Starship Troopers

Would You Like To Know More? Author, Book, Movie, Legacy, Exit

Video order: Movie, Book, Author, Legacy

Opening

Helmet-character rant about how civilians run the world, veterans are neglected or forgotten, and everything sucks.

This is a message to all of my fellow veterans and servicemembers, past and present, all over the world. Democracy has failed us. Not wider society, they're fine, they'll always be fine. I'm talking about us specifically. In most countries, the commander in chief of the military is a civilian. We get the occasional veteran, sure, but why are we letting someone who has never served a day in their life decide when and where we go to war? The idea was that a civilian would be far less eager to use the military. Look around, can you honestly tell me that's how it worked out? Perhaps we should try something new... so c'mon you apes, you wanna know better?

Return from Title Card with casual discussion as myself about my own history with Starship Troopers.

In 1997, I was in middle school and the best movie ever was made – Starship Troopers. An alien war movie with boobs, so of course it became one of my favorites. When I was in ROTC in college, I had to write a report on a book which focuses on military leadership... guess what I chose. In the *many* years since, Starship Troopers has gathered quite the cult following. Especially among white millennial men who have probably never served a day in their lives. I know that because I used to be one of them. And I can pretty confidently say that they've probably never read the book either. [Would you like to know more? ... arrow clicks on Movie.]

Movie

TF Flag intro, explaining that I have to talk about the movie plot.

MI Flag plot summary of movie.

They did keep fighting, they haven't won yet.

Nebula Sponsor Skit

MI Flag plot summary of 2 and 3

Horror movie. Christian Musical.

MI Flag plot summary of 4 and 5

Scifi Action Movie.

Ferrets Doing Their Part

Book

TF Flag explanation of plot.

Paul Verhoeven only read the first two chapters, found it incredibly boring. The movie is so much more popular than the book that if you saw the movie first, the book seems reasonable by comparison. You're also going to subconsciously carry over some of the information to plug into the plotholes. As you're reading the battle scenes, you're probably picturing something like this in your mind, when you should be seeing this.

Mention Chapter 1 in chronological order. So, if you see any comments about how I don't mention the Skinnies from the start of the book, you know that they didn't make it past the first few minutes. The bugs laid a trap for us didn't they? No, that's not what Rico looks like in the book, he's actually Filipino – though we don't learn that until the very last chapter.

You don't need to accept a medical discharge, they will let you continue serving.

They've developed a perfect moral philosophy and political system, nobody revolts. Like Atlas Shrugged, this is fiction. The premise, where the world descends into lawless anarchy following World War 3 in 1987, hasn't happened.

The book doesn't have any of those fun propaganda films, instead we spend most of our time in three different civics classes. High school, basic training, and officer candidate school. It's basically a sci-fi version of Atlas Shrugged about patriotic militarism instead of the economy.

In terms of plot, the book and movie are completely separate pieces of media. In terms of message, the movie was pretty much spot on.

Unfaithful adaptation. If they remade the movie, I don't think you'd actually enjoy it. All the stuff you like is from the movie. Service Guarantees Citizenship, Would You Like To Know More, Are you doing your part, C'mon You Apes (Chapter Intro, never said). The Bugs in book vs. movie.

They actually did make a more faithful adaptation in the 80s. They also white wash Rico into a blonde hair, blue eyed Argentinian and make him into a high school football star. What a bizarre thing to copy.

Author

TF Flag

Exploration of Heinlein's life

Written by a guy who got a medical discharge two years before WW2. So he is a veteran but like... you kinda understand why he's glorifying fighting for your country so much, right?

Book was written as a reaction to halting nuclear testing. Promoted militarism and duty to country.

Jury duty parallel, most of you don't actually want to serve.

Draft existed at the time.

Contemporary criticisms and accusations of fascism.

The Forever War by John Haldeman as a response.

Legacy

MI Flag

Pop Culture, movies and video games influenced by Starship Troopers

Let's be honest, if you clicked on this video, you're probably a big fan of video games, in which case you're seeing Starship Troopers references all the time, maybe without realizing it.

Aliens, Power Armor – Fallout, Drop pods – Halo, Bugs/Zerg – Starcraft

Political influence

Assumes veterans are benevolent.

Bugs are an existential threat, events of the book/movie justified.

9/11 Parallel to Bug Meteor in Movie. Reminder that the movie is about the United States.

Director's commentary released in 2002.

Terrorism was also an "existential threat." Efforts to reinstitute the draft.

Liking the movie, making memes about it or even quoting it, does not make you a fascist.

Wanting its exclusionary political system kind of does.

The book was a suggestion for what America should become. The movie was a warning about what America was becoming. Fascism is not just the Nazis. Mussolini was a fascist, in fact, he's the origin of the word. Hitler was a fascist too, but also an ethno-nationalist, it's possible to be more than one thing. Some would say that Stalin, a communist, was also a little fascist. Let's take a look at the definition. He doesn't hit all of them, but most of them. How many of these does America check off?

The book advocated for militarism, it was a suggestion for what America should become. The movie was a warning about fascism built on Heinlein's militarism. Oh, you think there isn't any crime in the movie? A murderer was captured this morning and tried today. Sentence, death. Execution, tonight at 6. Sounds like he had a lot of due process. Oh, but there's no oppression in the movie. Yeah, there also isn't any voting, but there is this. I want to have babies... and it's a lot easier to get a license if you're a citizen. That's eugenics... meritorious eugenics – only people who have earned it can have kids? But that's a bit of a stretch, so how about we check one of the deleted scenes. They're not citizens, they have money so they don't need to be citizens. Rich people don't have to join the military? Not only is that classist... it sure sounds like the current system doesn't it? So America, maybe you need to heed the warning of your favorite alien-war movie, because you're kinda becoming a little fascist... in fact, you've kinda been that way for a long time. Would you like to know more? Exit.

Skit Ideas

A sock thief was captured this morning and tried today. (Ferret in pirate shirt) Guilty. Sentence: death. Execution: Tonight at 6. All net. All channels.

If you think you're psychic... maybe you are. Federal studies are being conducted in your community. (CuriosityStream)

Everyday, federal scientists are looking for new ways to kill bugs. (Exterminator character) The only good bug is a dead bug. Your basic arachnid warrior isn't too- Whoa wait. You do know that bugs, insects, and arachnids are taxonomically three different things, right?

Everyone's doing their part, are you? (Ferrets attacking Funkopop) The war effort needs your effort, at work, at home, in your community. (Creepy laughter/clapping)

Anyone who tells you that the movie botched the politics of the book is wrong – one of them was a suggestion, while the other was a warning.