



Star Wars: Imperial Handbook

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As the Imperial Empire expands, high-ranking officials from each branch of the Imperial Military have set down tactical guidelines and procedures for all newly ascending commanders. Set in-universe, this compendium of ordinance, mission reports, and Imperial philosophy was intercepted by members of the Rebel Alliance, some of whom also left commentary scribbled in the margins. Housed in a deluxe case that opens with lights and sounds, this never-before-seen Imperial Handbook is perfect for Star Wars fans no matter which side of the Civil War they're on. Hardcover. 160 pp. INCLUDES: mechanized case with lights and sounds, introduction note by Luke, and a specially designed die-cast Imperial military medal

Star Wars: Imperial Handbook Details

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From Reader Review Star Wars: Imperial Handbook for online ebook

Chronomorphosis says

It's a really pretty read - the art is wonderful, the cover is slick, and the black edges to the pages is REALLY slick - I have it front and center among all my Star Wars books, it makes for a beautiful display book. The actual written content leaves something to be desired. Sometimes the writing is pretty good, but at other times it seems disjointed and doesn't flow very well. At its best it's informative and entertaining, at its worst it reads like something my 10-year-old nephew would come up with. The rebels' commentary can be pretty humorous at times, but it doesn't really add much to the content other than "The Empire is really bad, guys". Speaking of. One thing I could have done without is the over-the-top constant "subtle" comparison of the Empire to Nazi Germany. We all KNOW the Empire is the enemy, it really doesn't have to be hammered in every single paragraph. The moral history lessons were very heavy-handed and painfully obvious in this book. I get that the Empire is supposed to be The Bad Guy (tm), but it would have been nice if they'd tried more for keeping with the Star Wars "feel" instead of going through so much painstaking effort to equate Imperials and Nazis. All in all when I got to the end of the book I had nearly forgotten I was reading Star Wars.

Caleb Hobbick says

This book was so amazing! It told everything about the Empire's military forms. It has every kind of Stormtrooper, starfighter, starships, and a lot of other things about the empire like tips on how to be a good commander and such. It was so cool. It's like living in the Empire when you read it.

Jonathan Hicks says

This beautifully presented 160-page hardback book is just the thing you need now that the war against the Empire is pretty much over. The Battle of Endor is finished and the Emperor has fallen, and now that peace is finally breaking out across the galaxy there are many things surfacing, and this book (distributed to the Imperial forces before the Battle of Yavin) makes for interesting reading.

The book is introduced by Luke Skywalker and details the ins and outs of the Imperial war machine, from the military, the navy, the army, the stormtrooper corps, the Imperial doctrine itself and some notes from Palpatine himself. Throughout the book there are hand-written notes about the content by high-ranking rebel officers, even Han and Leia, and the whole thing feels like a war report prepared and annotated by the victors.

And that's my first problem with the book. The introduction by Skywalker looks like it was typed on a 1940s typewriter. That's a design choice that immediately pulls me out of the atmosphere of the setting as I'm pretty sure that there were no Underwoods in the Star Wars galaxy. A stylised computer screen would have worked just fine and suited the style of the rest of the book, which is crisp and well laid out.

My other issue is that the annotations can be sometimes humorous but are ultimately pointless. As I'm reading the book and I'm learning about the Imperials, a distracting note or remark grabs my attention. It

doesn't ruin the book but I don't feel that it adds the charm and personalisation that it intends.

Other than that the book is really good – the design is excellent, especially the stark black and white cover and black-trimmed pages, and it's an easy read. The artwork is excellent throughout (the recruitment posters are an exceptionally nice touch) and the details aren't exceptionally deep but it gives you an excellent idea of exactly how the Empire operated.

As a life-long fan and an avid player of the Star Wars roleplaying game when it first came out in the 1980s, it reminded me very much of the Imperial Sourcebook. The details - such as the structure, the different Imperial departments and even the design of the Imperial garrison – threw me back and it was a nice read.

Apart from my obvious issues with some aspects of the design choice it is a good book. Star Wars fans with deep knowledge of the way the Imperials ran things might not learn anything new from this, but those wanting to know more will get a lot out of it. Not only that, it looks great on a collector's bookshelf.

Recommended.

Ashley Hiller says

Definitely some gem handwritten commentary from the rebel gang, but honestly who needs to know how many regiment squadrons are in a battalion thing? Unless you're writing a 1,000,000 word Imperial war fanfic and you've got, like, a very picky fandom audience, and your last story got too many bad reviews (Comic Book Guy "actually-ed" you to death), so now you're rising from the ashes and researching every damn detail to regain your rightful place in the fanfic author hierarchy...then sure, this book is for you. Lucasfilm - we want detail, but not *that* kind of detail.

Also can anyone write Han as anything other than simple-minded and oafish? Anyone? Bueller?

Tristan says

So I really did not like this at all. I've wanted this book for so long. I've seen it online and on so many book shelves but never had the time to read it or the money to obtain it. Sadly, this is something I'm glad has fallen into Star Wars legends.

In terms of the Star Wars universe, this is meant to serve as a officer's handbook, an introduction and guide to their new responsibilities and duties within the empire. So why does the book read as if the Empire know they are the bad guys of the story? The trick to any good villain, individual or organization, is to make them think they are the hero. There are constant notes and mentions of how they will oppress, subjugate, kill and discriminate without mercy. Does the empire do this? Of course they do, but would they use those words when talking to each other? Would subjugate not become liberate? oppress become pacify?

The jotted down notes made by the rebel characters seem unnecessary and out of character. Whilst some do seem to provide insight of tactics, beliefs and ideas on how to use this new information against the empire, others just put down their thoughts that serve no real purpose. The book could benefited without the margin

writings and still serve its job as a means to learn of the empire, or perhaps have empire character write in the margins. It would be interesting maybe to see notes that offer 'on the ground' insight about the info, and also characters that are maybe losing faith in the empire and reveal secrets and negative views.

I will say that the information inside the book is really delightful to read. Learning about the history of the empire, its battle tactics, the design and flaws of their ships, but it seemed no matter how much I read I just couldn't take in any of it on the first read. I was having to read and re-read paragraphs over and over again.

The art laced and placed throughout is truly beautiful. The details and textures in each one invites you to look upon them and take in the small details, especially in the full page illustrations, the more you look the more you see.

It does make me worry the other books like it (The book of the sith/jedi, the bounty hunter's handbook) which I have also had an interest in reading. If they are of a similar vein to this then maybe they aren't the books for me to read, but certainly for someone else.

TheFangirl says

It's nice to discover more about the military aspect of the Empire, but I would recommend this book to pure Star Wars fans only, because it's extremely detailed.

Spencer Roberts says

I loved the notes in the margins by famous people, especially Wedge and his notes from the X-wing series

Jan 16th--Jan 22nd 2018 - for personal records

Dave Wenzlick says

Not as good as the Sith and Jedi books in this series.

Brandon St Mark says

While this isn't a comic, I'm also not counting it towards the 20 novels I want to read this year (my actual goodreads goal of course counts everything I read towards it, so by its count I've already finished my goal. But I'm only counting actual novels) because it's a tie-in book. I just don't think I should count it because I'm really trying to focus on reading novels again since I think single issue comics has taken away a decent chunk of my reading time (not that I don't enjoy the single issues, but I also am an SFF and mystery reader at heart).

Anyway, I thought this was pretty fun. I oddly liked the "comments" in this one more than I did the Jedi and Sith books. Leia and Mon Mothma were my favorites.

Overall I think this little miniseries is interesting, but since it was written before 2014 it isn't part of the Canon, so it's not really essential reading for Star Wars fans anymore. But still I think they're enjoyable if you wanted to pick them up. Now I just have the Bounty Hunter book left.

Kevin says

Not bad; gives interesting insight into how the Empire operates on a philosophical level.

Jazmine says

The artwork is amazing and the black edges on the pages make the book look really cool. The actual context though is not that great. It does have what are supposed to be handwritten notes to the reader in the index from Madine, Han, Leia, and tons more which is a cool element to this book. I would recommend to any Star Wars fans out there!

Jim says

Part propaganda and doctrine, part technical manual, this beautifully designed "handbook" provides a wealth of details on all things Imperial. At times a little too dry and frustratingly stingy with comprehensive illustrations, there's still a lot of interesting breakdowns of the different branches of the Imperial military, command structure, ships, and weaponry all presented in a faux guide for Imperial officers.

Derrick says

I hate giving a Star Wars book a negative rating, because I absolutely love Star Wars. My favorite franchise, easily. This book however was sooooo boring. I read another type of these books, the Jedi Order book, awhile ago, and it was great. It was interesting throughout, and the things I learned about the Star Wars universe in it have stuck with me, because I found them interesting. This book however gave a lot of facts and figures, numbers about troops that could never be remembered, not that you would even want to. There were a lot of army-like statistics that just don't make for a good read. Anyways, skip this one. Read Jedi Order though, and I have a good feeling about the Sith Code too, even though I haven't read it yet, but I plan to. (Sith Code was a companion to the Jedi Order, while the Imperial Handbook was made much later with a different vibe.)

Tres Herndon says

Although this has passed into "Legends" it was still an entertaining read. Still confused how a Legion of the Empire's best troops (as defined in this book) were defeated by a bunch of Teddy bears. Well, I guess if not, no Ep. VII and VIII which, as I'm writing this on 1/1/17 is my most anticipated movie of the year (duh).

Craig Ranallo says

Part propaganda and part technical manual, the *Imperial Handbook* is a sleek, slick copy of an in-world guidebook given to newly promoted Imperial officers shortly before the Battle of Yavin. It details the principles of Imperial doctrine as well as history, makeup, battle tactics, and weaponry of the Imperial Navy, Army, and Stormtrooper Corps as well as a section on the secret development of super weapons, all bookended by statements from Emperor Palpatine himself. The "story" of the guidebook is that it fell into the hands of Rebel high command and so the book is filled with handwritten notations in the margins from Luke Skywalker, Leia Organa, Han Solo, Mon Mothma, Wedge Antilles, General Crix Madine, and General Carlist Rieeken. The sections that got into the technicals and specifics of weapons, squad numbers, platoon numbers, etc. were a little dry, and the notations didn't add a whole lot, but it was interesting to see how the Empire presented itself to its officers. The vague mentions of Darth Vader's presence within Imperial military matters were humorous, and the sections on the Royal Guard, the Tarkin Doctrine, and the Emperor's writings were well done. Enjoyable for us mega-nerds.
