

Star Wars

The CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

I. Movies, Story & World

George Lucas - Early Life

- June 12, 1962 - miraculously survived a car race accident
- Lucas's father owned a stationery store, and had wanted George to work for him when he turned 18. Lucas had been planning to go to art school, and declared upon leaving home that he would be a millionaire by the age of 30.
- Self-described as a Methodist Buddhist.
- After graduation, tried joining the United States Air Force - was turned down because of his numerous speeding tickets.
- American Graffiti
- Work with friend Spielberg on Indiana Johns



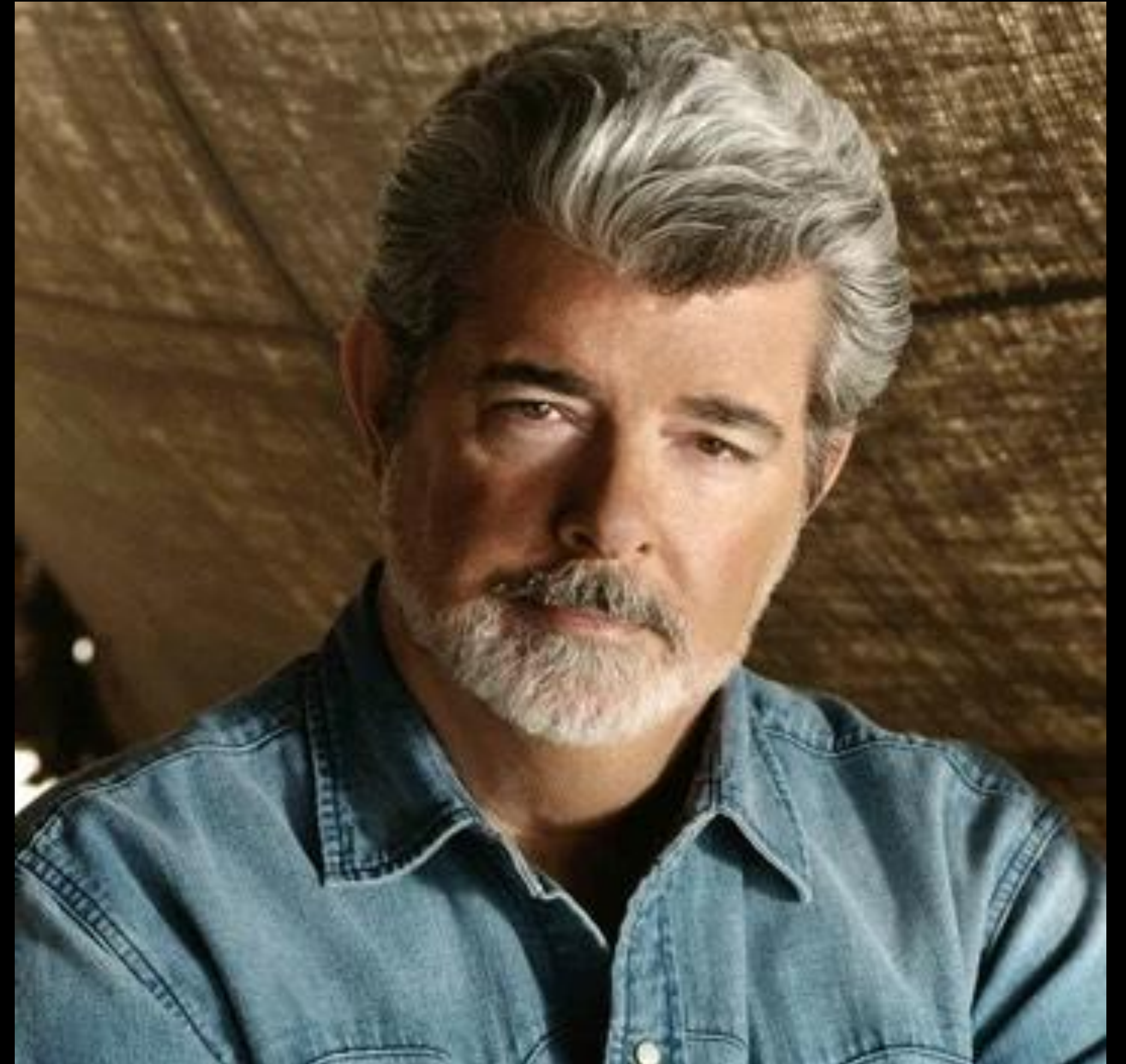
George Lucas - Film Career Season I (1973-1983)

- 1977 - Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope
- 1980 - Star Wars Episode V: Empire Strikes Back
- 1983 - Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi
- unofficially canceled the sequels.
- Money: Lucasfilm has earned hundreds of millions of dollars from licensed games, toys, and collectibles created for the franchise.
- Helped Akira Kurosawa with «Kagemusha».
- Owned Pixar for 7 years before Steve Jobs.
- Skywalker Sound, LucasArts (games), Industrial Light & Magic (VFX), THX Ltd (equipment for filming)



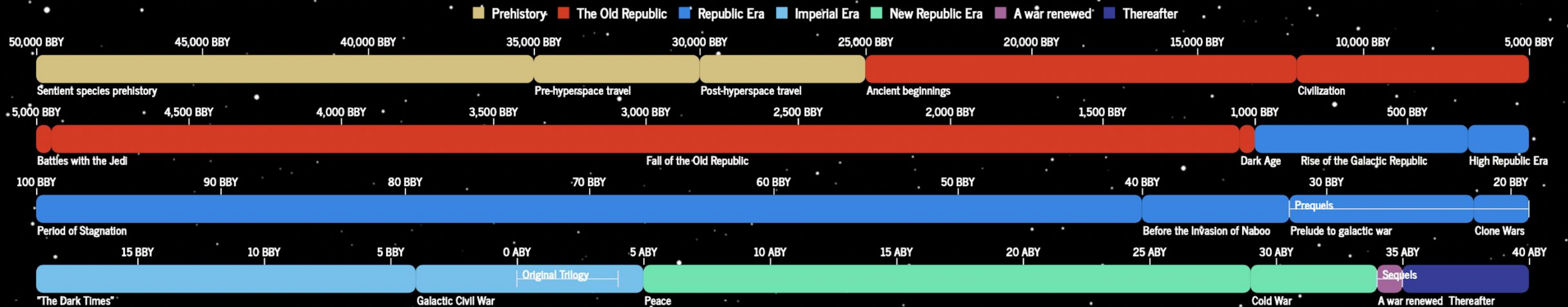
George Lucas - Film Career Season II (1994-2005)

- 1999 - Star Wars Episode I: Phantom Menace
- 2002 - Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones
- 2005 - Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith
- Motivation: art, money and CGI
- Notice: episode names of trilogies are mirrored
- 1997 - special edition of Episodes IV-VI («Han shot first»)
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars cartoons
- Indiana Johns 4
- With the sale of Lucasfilm to Disney, Lucas is currently Disney's second-largest single shareholder after the estate of Steve Jobs.



Star Wars Canon Timeline

Still, the current *Canon* timeline is vast, even without all of the events from *Legends* stories. Below is a recap of the major eras in the current Star Wars canon. Years are marked as either occurring before the Battle of Yavin (BBY), or after (ABY).

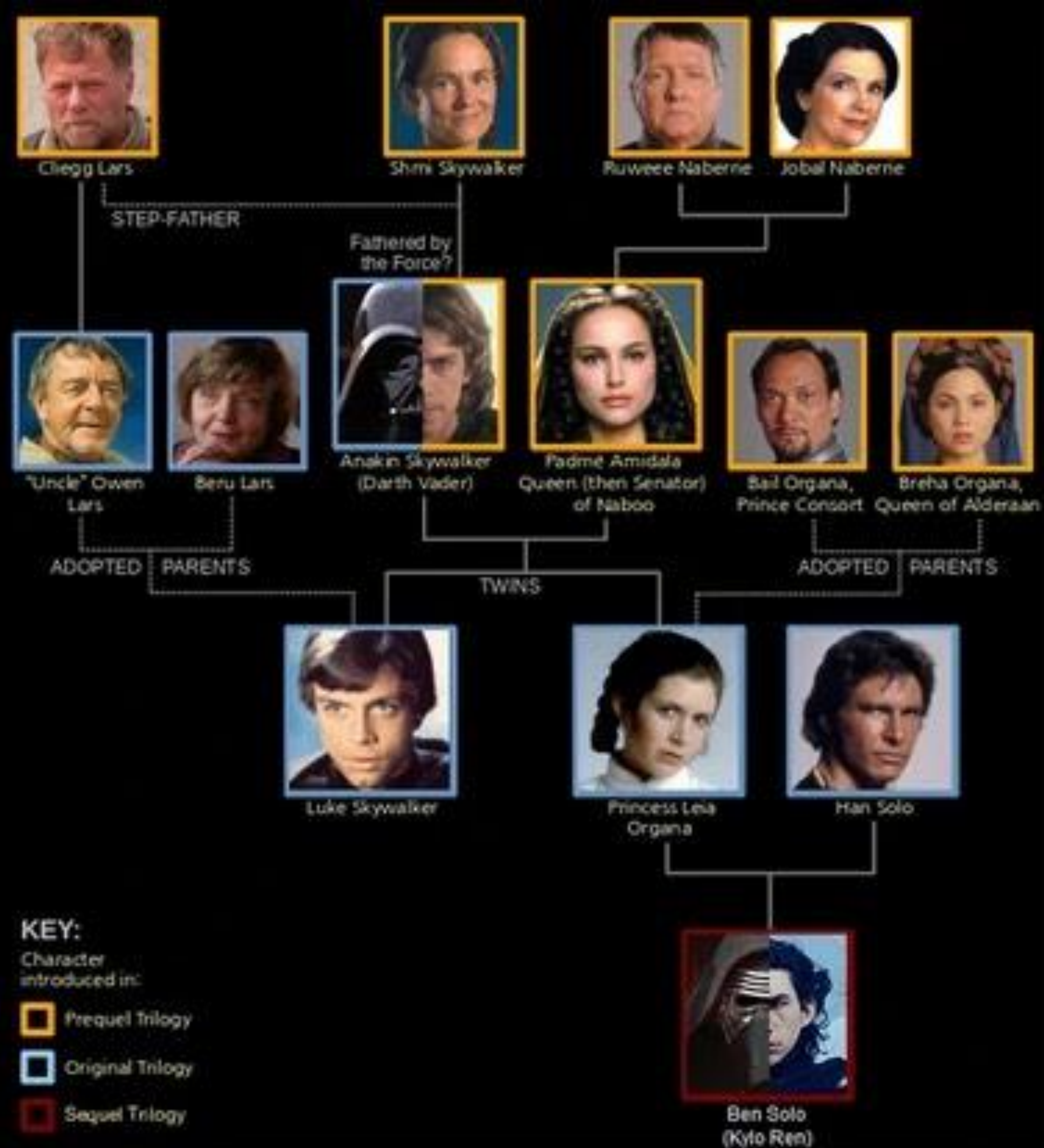


@vastava, Github -

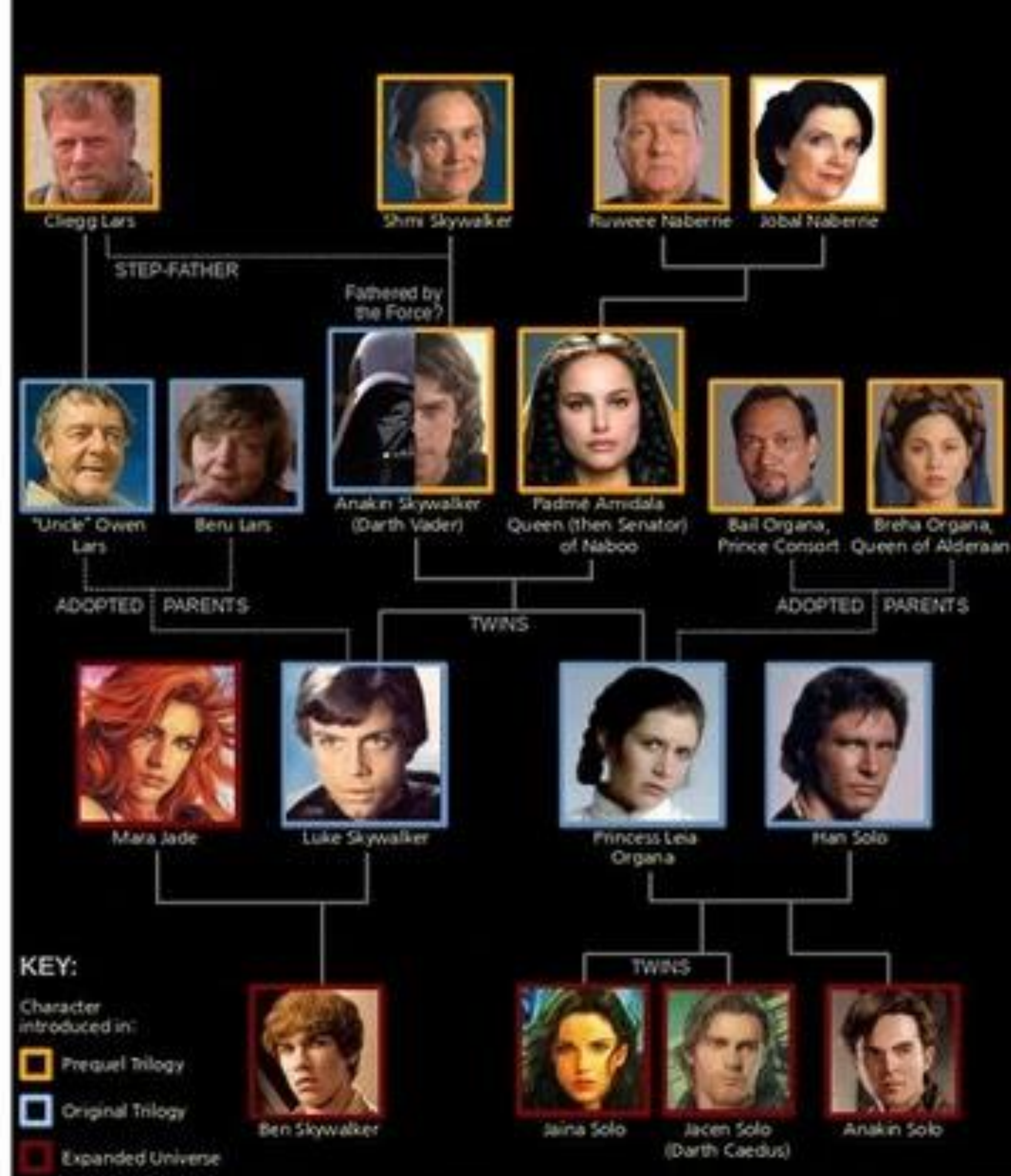
<https://vastava.github.io/starwars-timeline/> @DavidLozzi, GitHub -

<https://timeline.starwars.guide/>

-> PDF detailed timeline



Disney Canon



Legends

STAR WARS

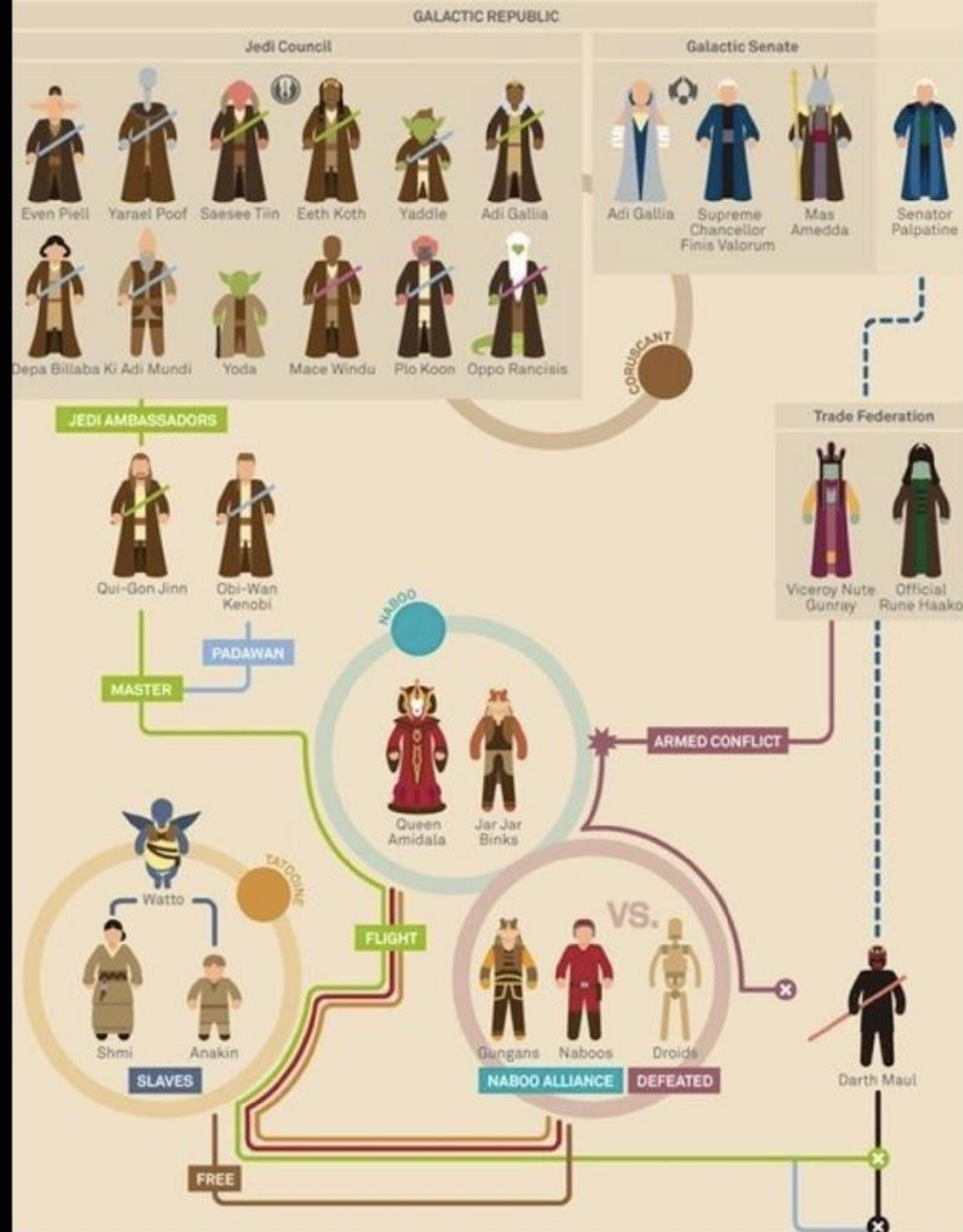
INFOGRAPHIC

Episode I THE PHANTOM MENACE

George Lucas 1999

32 bBY

Smell has engulfed the Galactic Republic. The taxation of trade routes to outlying star systems is in dispute. Hoping to resolve the matter with a blockade of deadly battleships, the greedy Trade Federation has stopped all shipping to the small planet of Naboo. While the congress of the Republic endlessly debates this alarming chain of events, the Supreme Chancellor has secretly dispatched two Jedi Knights, the guardians of peace and justice in the galaxy, to settle the conflict...

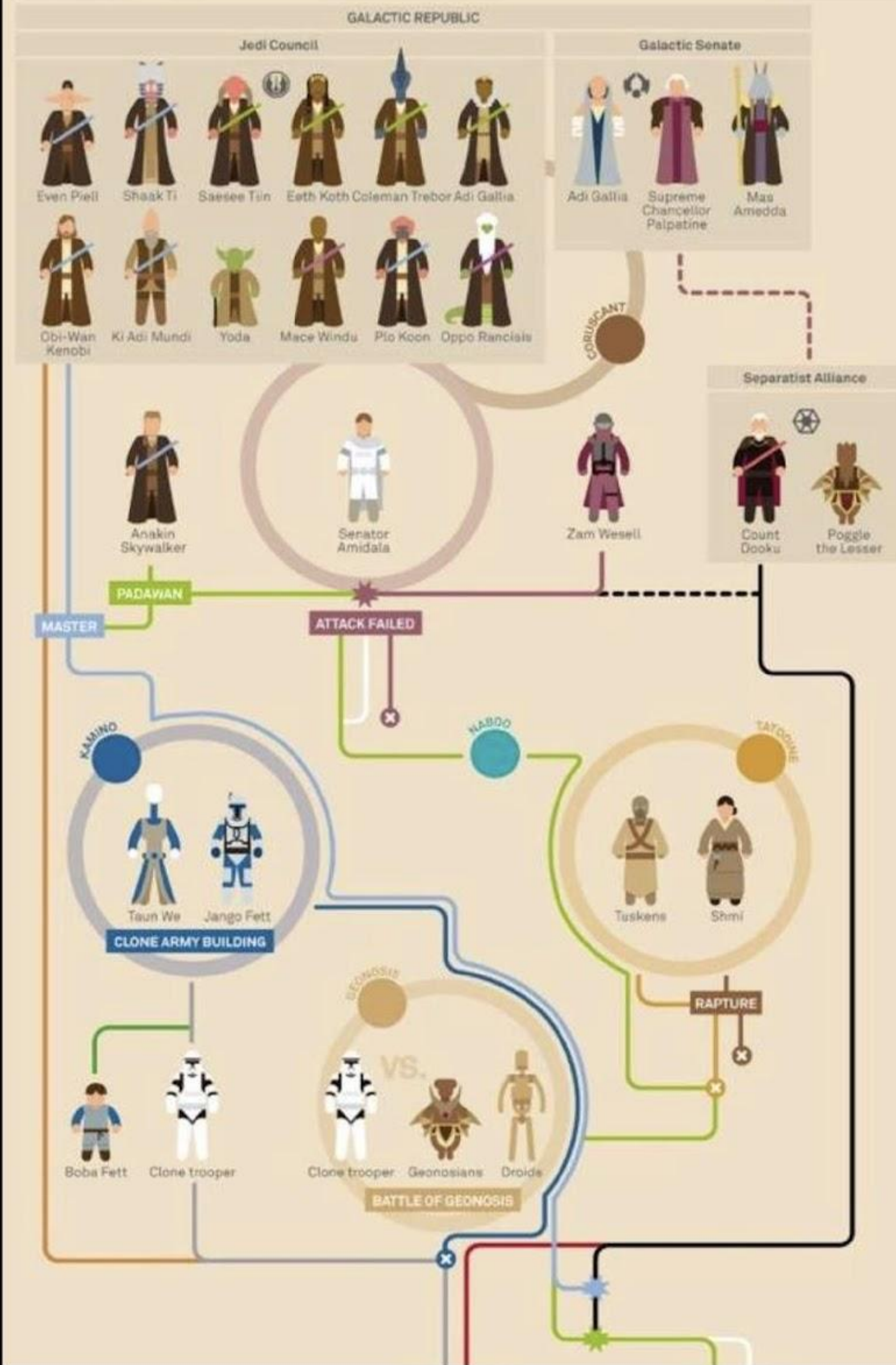


Episode II ATTACK OF THE CLONES

George Lucas 2002

22 bBY

There is unrest in the Galactic Senate. Several thousand solar systems have declared their intentions to leave the Republic. This separatist movement, under the leadership of the mysterious Count Dooku, has made it difficult for the limited number of Jedi Knights to maintain peace and order in the galaxy. Senator Amidala, the former Queen of Naboo, is returning to the Galactic Senate to vote on the critical issue of creating an Army of the Republic to assist the overwhelmed Jedi...

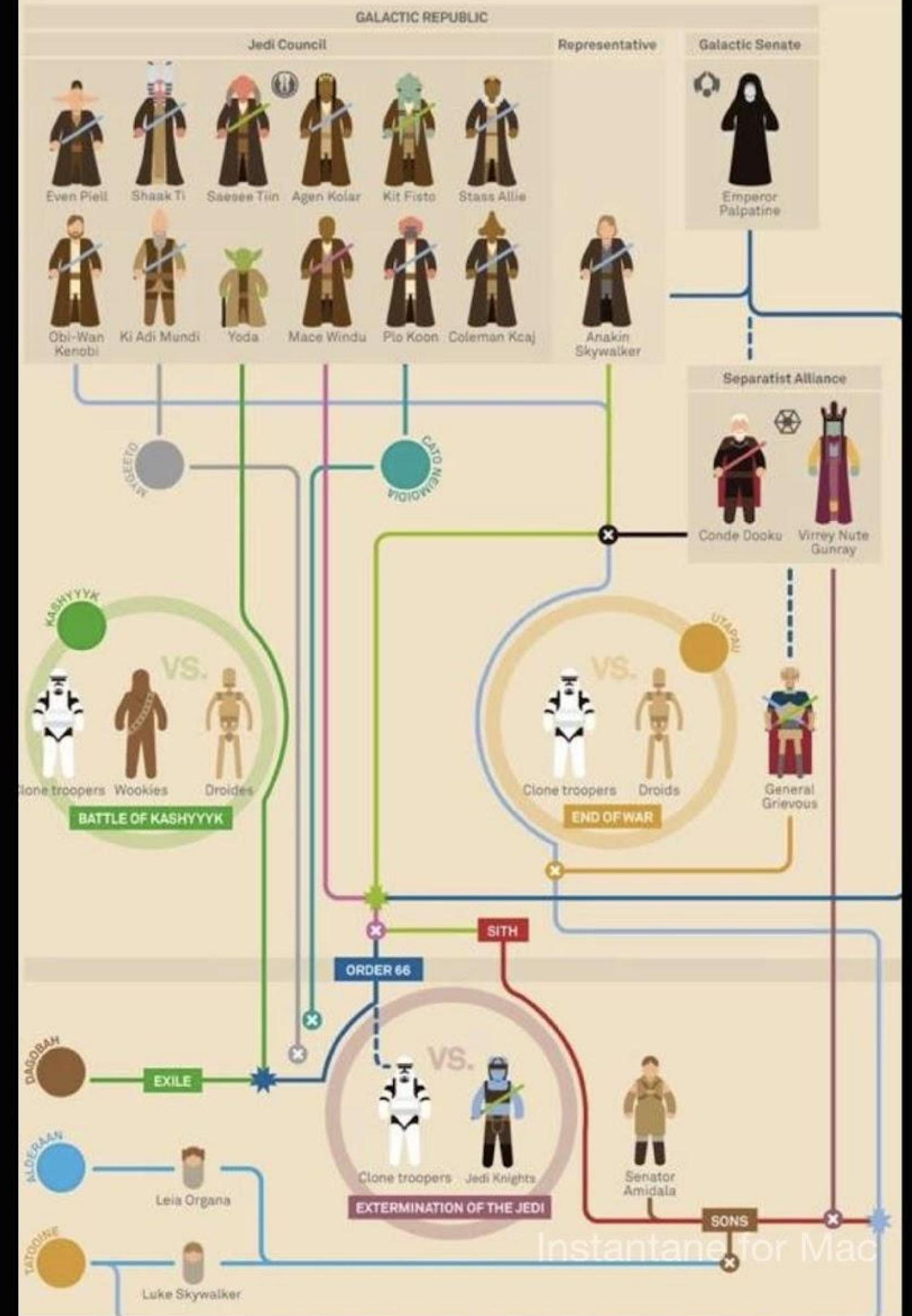


Episode III REVENGE OF THE SITH

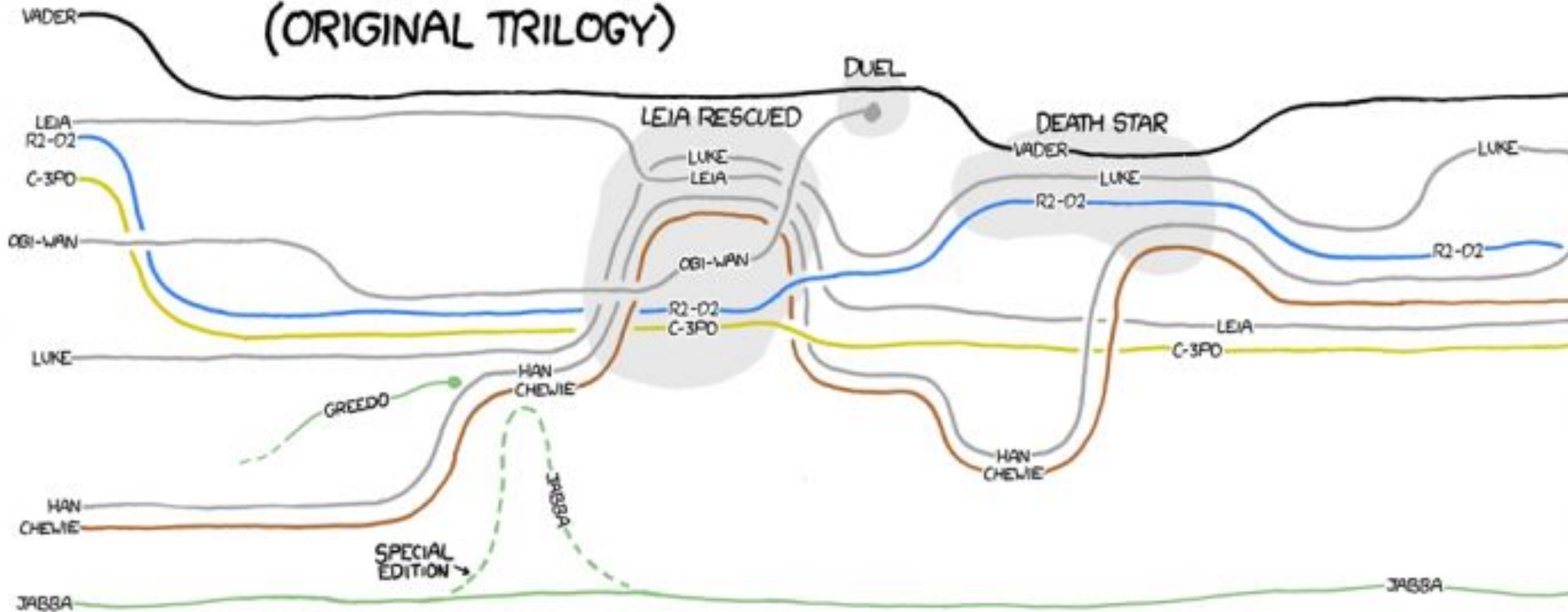
George Lucas 2005

19 bBY

War! The Republic is crumbling under attacks by the ruthless Sith Lord, Count Dooku. There are heroes on Both Sides. Evil is everywhere. In a stunning move, the fiendish droid leader, General Grievous, has swept into the Republic capital and kidnapped Chancellor Palpatine, leader of the Galactic Senate. Separatist Droid Army as the Attempts to flee the besieged with their valuable capital hostage, two Jedi Knights lead to desperate mission to rescue the captive chancellor ...



STAR WARS (ORIGINAL TRILOGY)





Instantans for Mac

Jidaigeki & Western

- Jidaigeki (時代劇, lit. «period drama») genre gave name to «Jedi»
 - Yoda: «4'11» club - Takeda Sōkaku (jujutsu) & Gozo Shioda (aikido)
 - Katana, kimono, Vader's helmet
 - Episode IV is 30% «The Hidden Fortress» by Akira Kurosawa
- Westerns made in Europe
 - Clint Eastwood
 - Sergio Leone
 - «A Fistful of Dollars» (1964) etc.

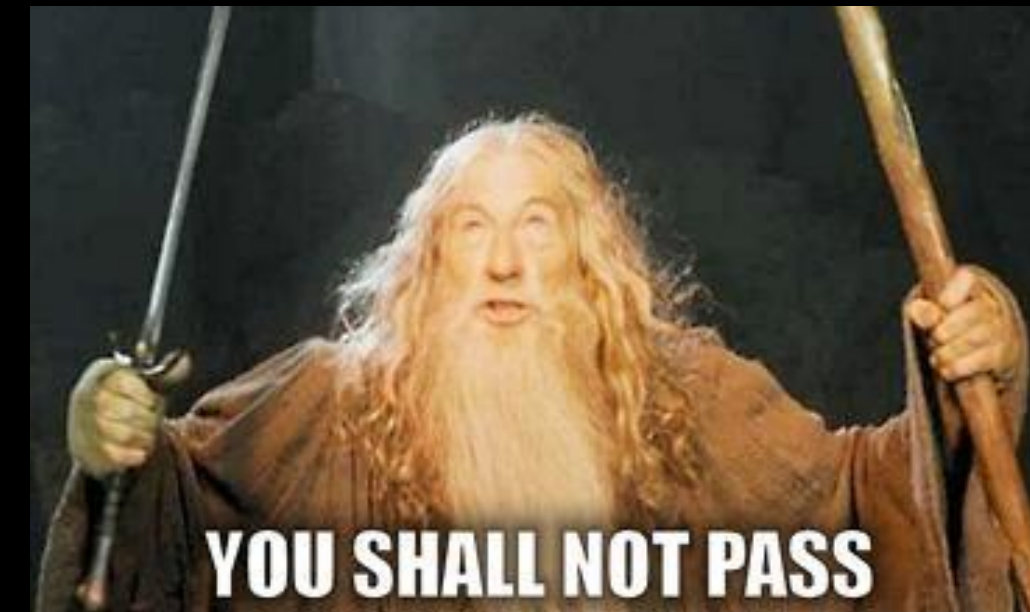


Sword & Sorcery, Arthurian Cycle

Element	<i>Star Wars</i> 1977	<i>The Lord of the Rings</i> 1954–55
Wise old man	Obi-Wan Kenobi sacrifices himself fighting Darth Vader, then guides Luke through the Force	Gandalf dies saving Fellowship from the Balrog, then guides Frodo telepathically
Innocent protagonists	Artoo and Threepio, carrying stolen data tapes, supported by the team	Frodo and Sam, carrying the One Ring, supported by the Fellowship
"Hellish war machine"	Death Star	Mordor
Enemy troops	Stormtroopers	Orcs
Evil wizard	Grand Moff Tarkin	Saruman
Dark Lord	Darth Vader	Sauron

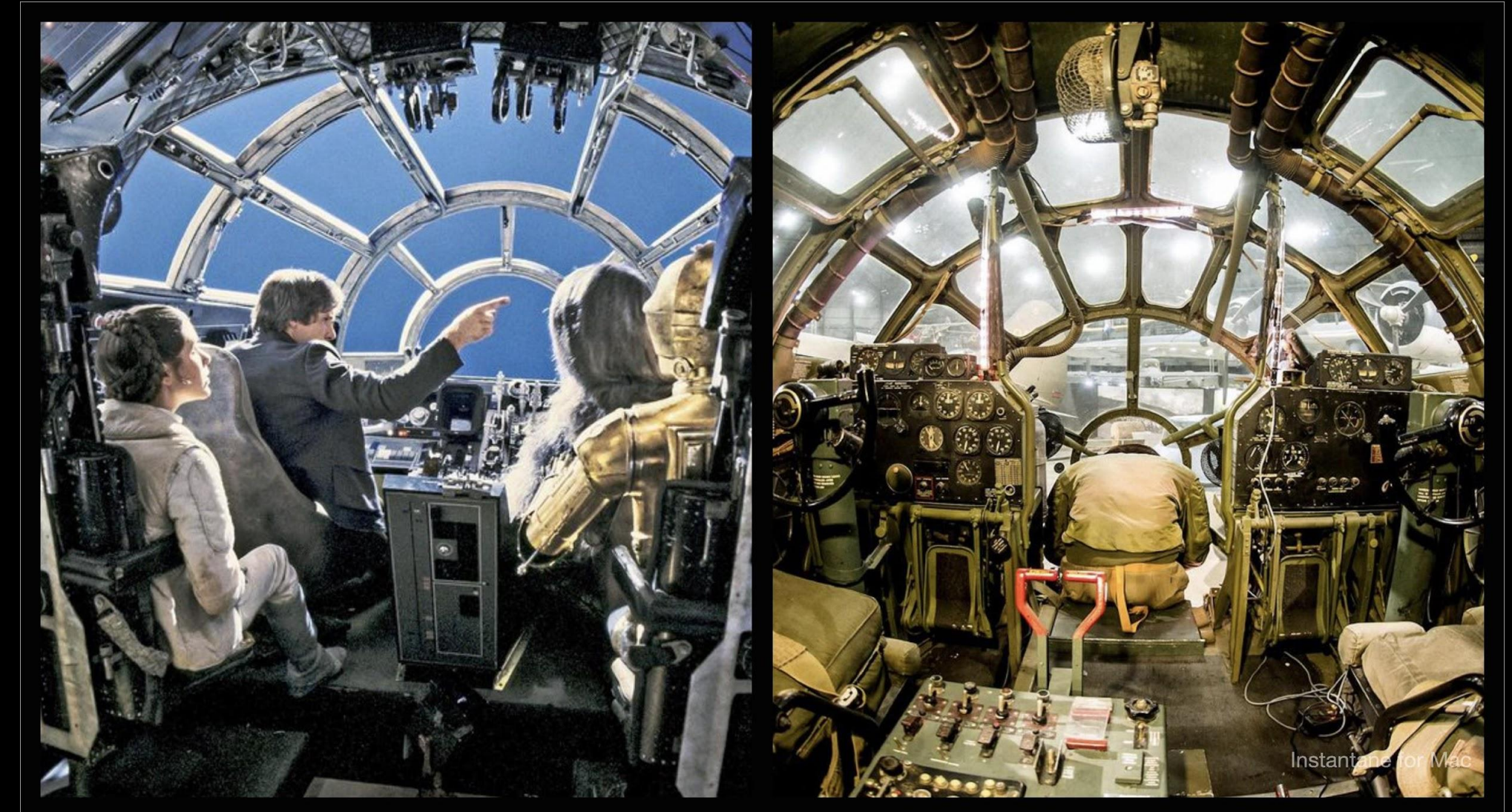
both are early adulthood, both have notable mentors etc.

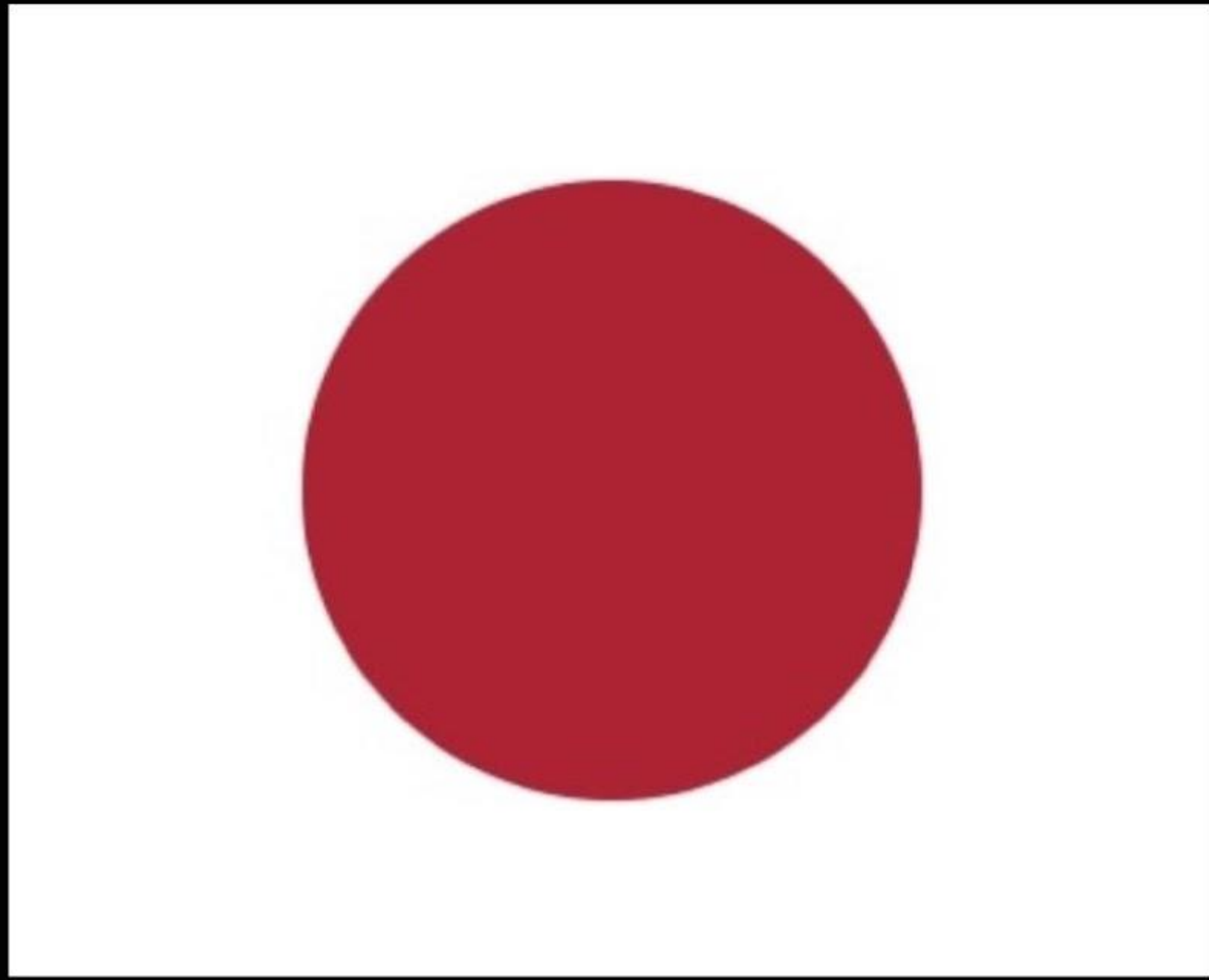
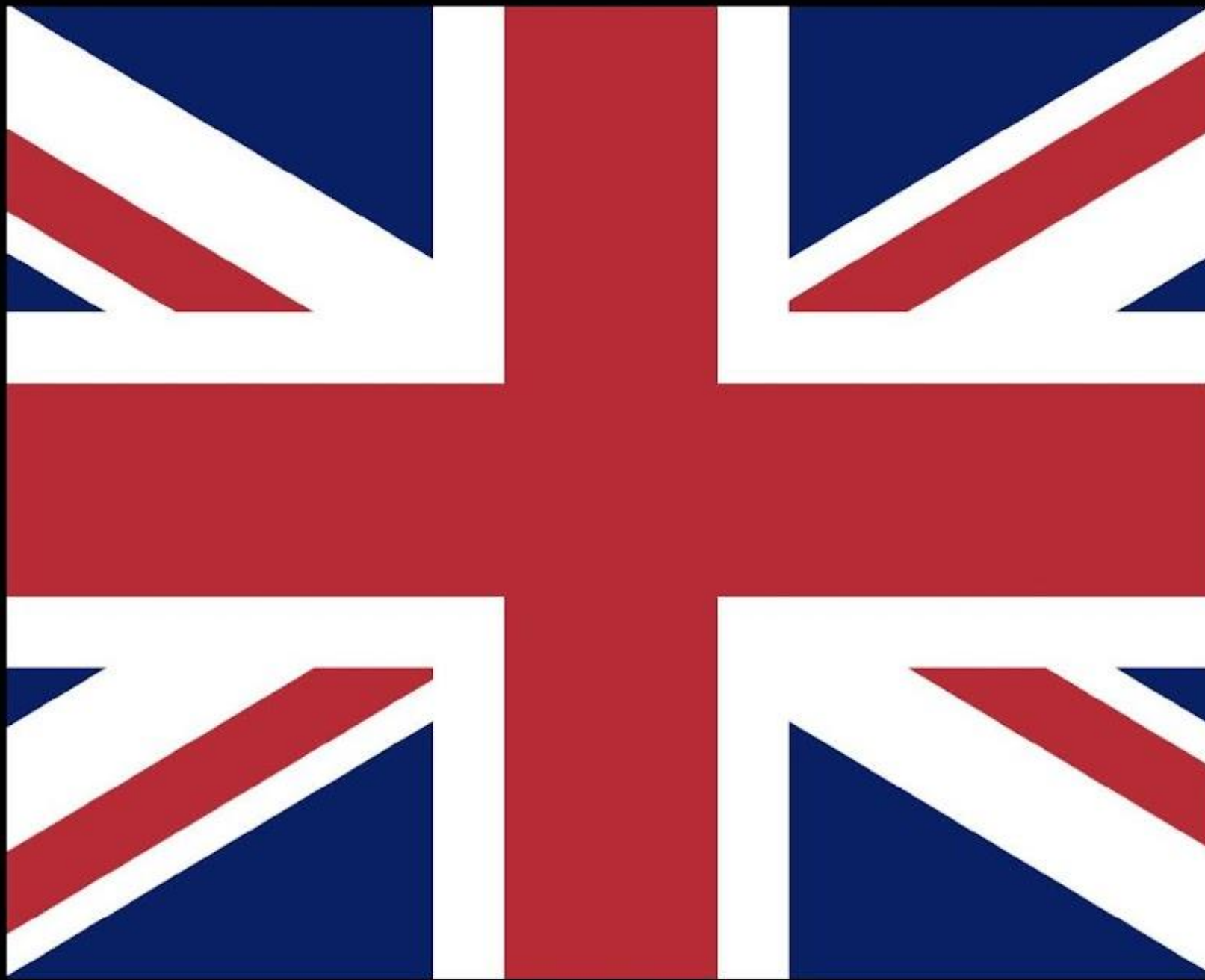
- Sword & Sorcery - compared to Tolkien's LoTR:



Space Opera & WW2 Dogfights Movies

- Space Opera:
 - Edmond Hamilton - 1st to think of lightsabre
 - Buck Rogers, Flash Gordon (TV, comics)
 - Dune (Frank Herbert, 1965)
- WW2 Dogfights Movies:
 - Millenium Falcon - Boeing B-29 bomber
 - Attack on 1st Death Star echoes kamikaze attacks on US Navy
 - WW2 Dogfight movies: «Battle of Britain», «The Dam Busters», «633 Squadron»

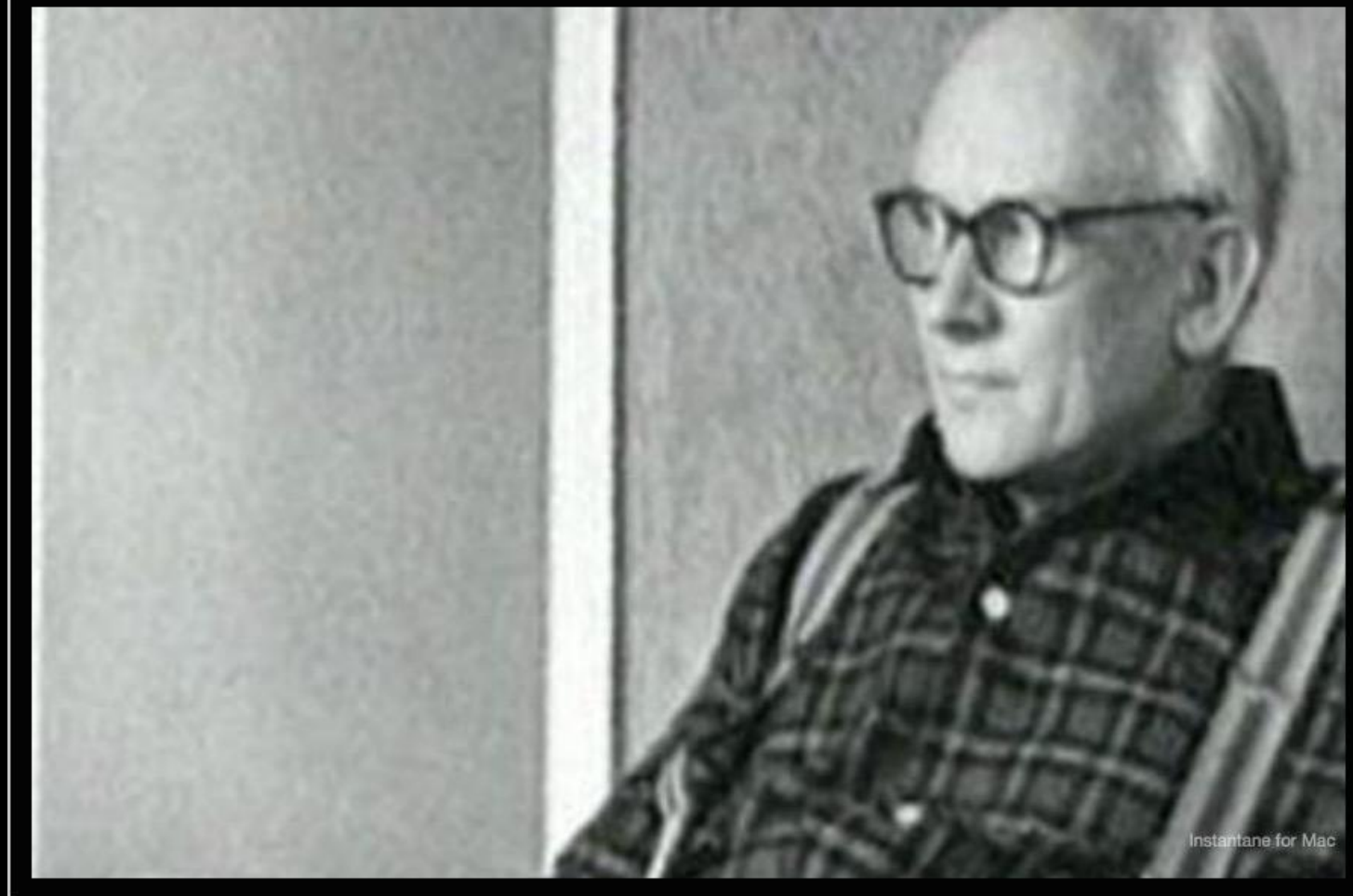




Instantane for Mac

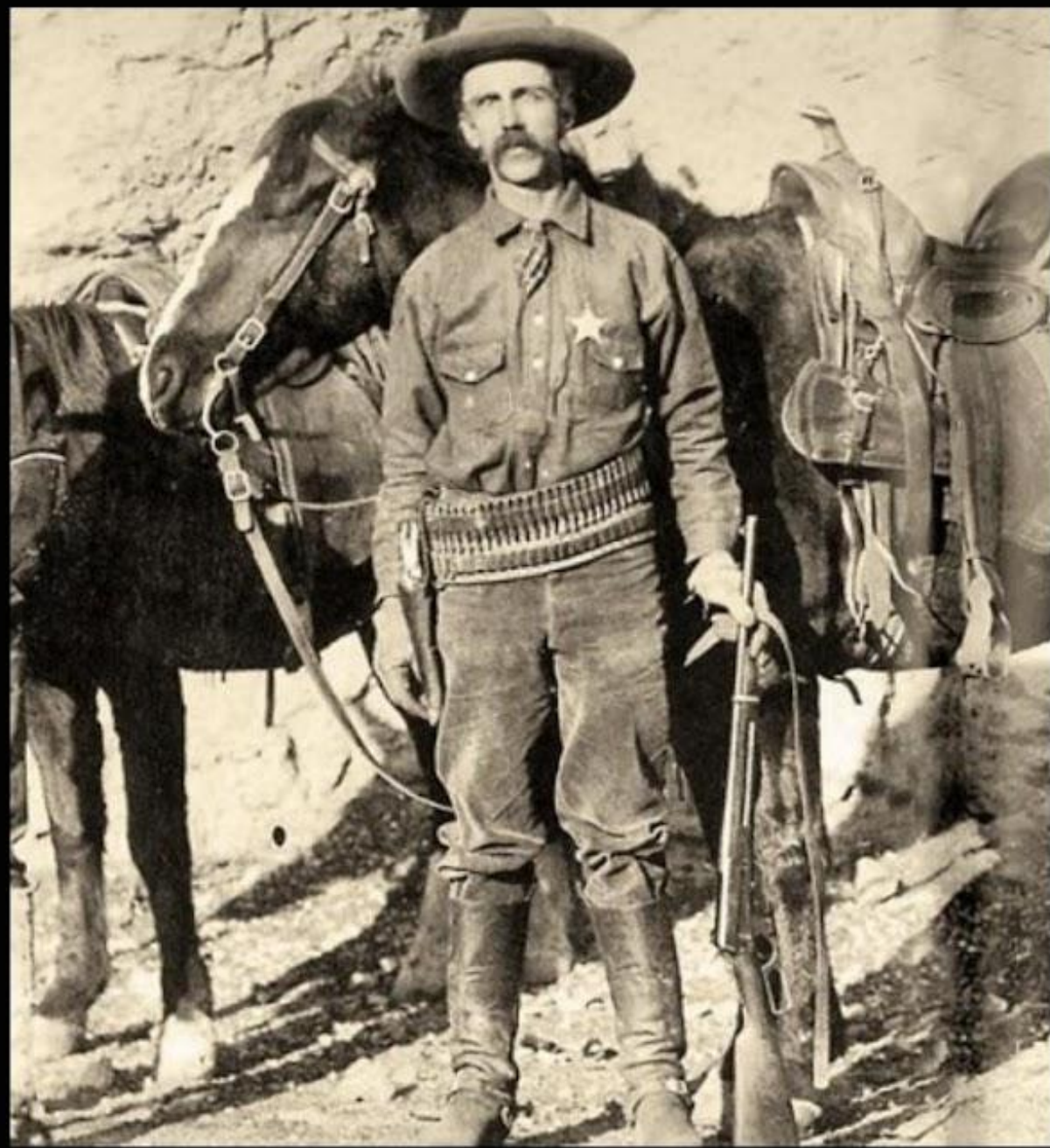
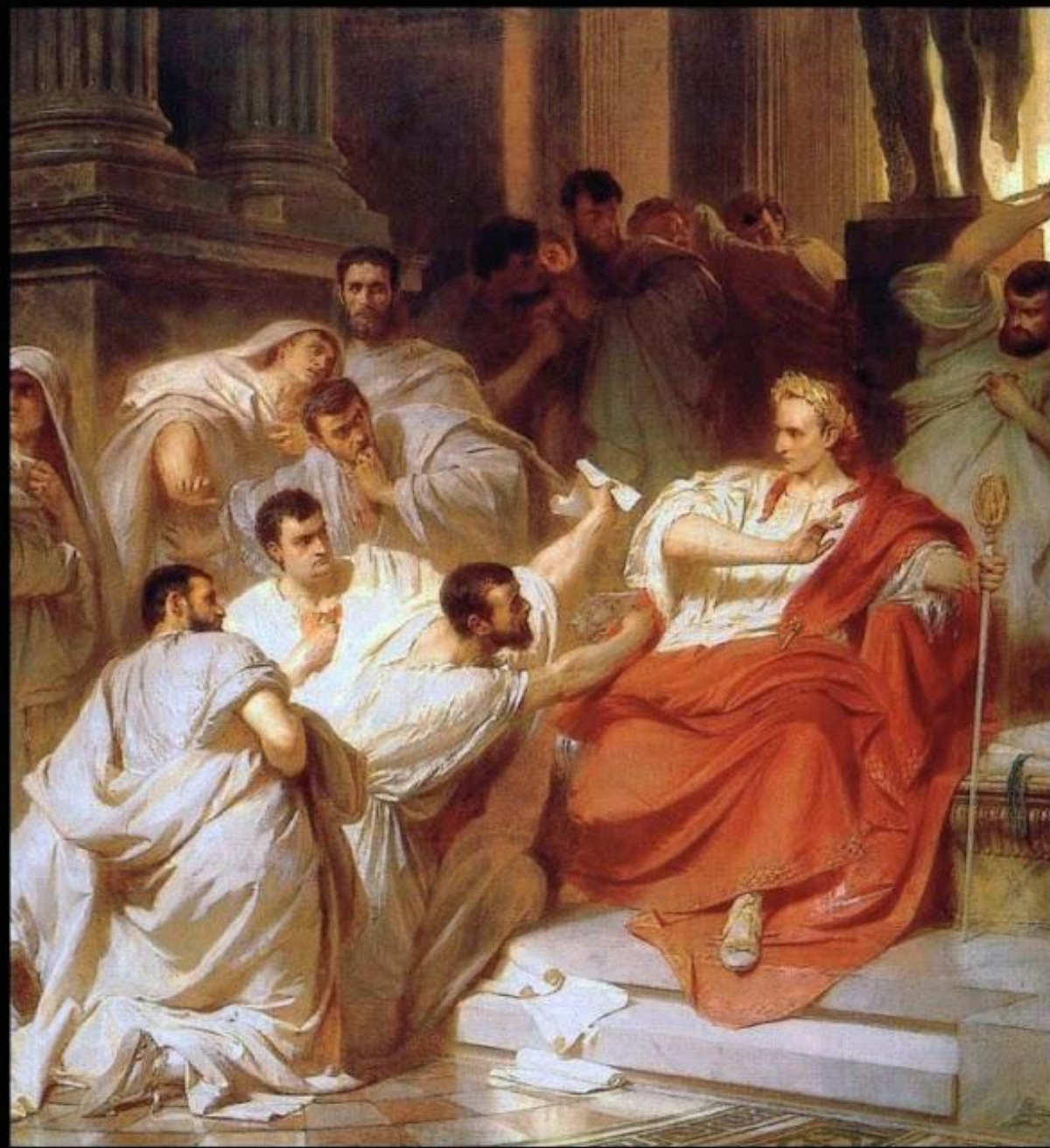
СССР

- Пропп, Владимир Яковлевич - «Морфология сказки»
- Клушанцев, Павел Владимирович - режиссёр и создатель спецэффектов (в т/ч/ придумал астероиды из картошки)
 - Дворянин, не был репрессирован из-за своей незаменимости
 - Создал жанр документальной фантастики
 - «Дорога к звёздам»
 - «Планет бурь» - летающий автомобиль
 - «Марс» - собака, Chewбасса (также: пёс Лукаса в машине)
- 1988, Москва, Лукас: «Клушанцев — крёстный отец „Звёздных войн“».
- Влияние: Лукас, Кубрик («2001 год: Космическая одиссея», Роберт Скотак (Терминатор 2, Титаник)
- «Туманность Андромеды» 1967, Дар Ветер и дедушка R2D2 (реж. Евгений Шерстобитов)



Other Countries

- Nazi Germany
 - Flag of the empire, insignia, uniform
 - Totalitarian elements of design
 - One of 'inspirations' for the Empire
 - Part of Vader's helmet - Stahlhelm
- Rome
 - Whom did Senate ask for help?
 - Position of Supreme Chancellor
 - Senate
 - Votum of Unconfidence
 - Republic turn into Empire
 - Emergency powers, Military tribune
- UK
 - Knighthood, Obi Wan
- USA
 - Cowboys, Han Solo
- Japan
 - Jidaigeki, Yoda
 - Kamikaze



Instantane for Mac

II. Philosophy and psychology

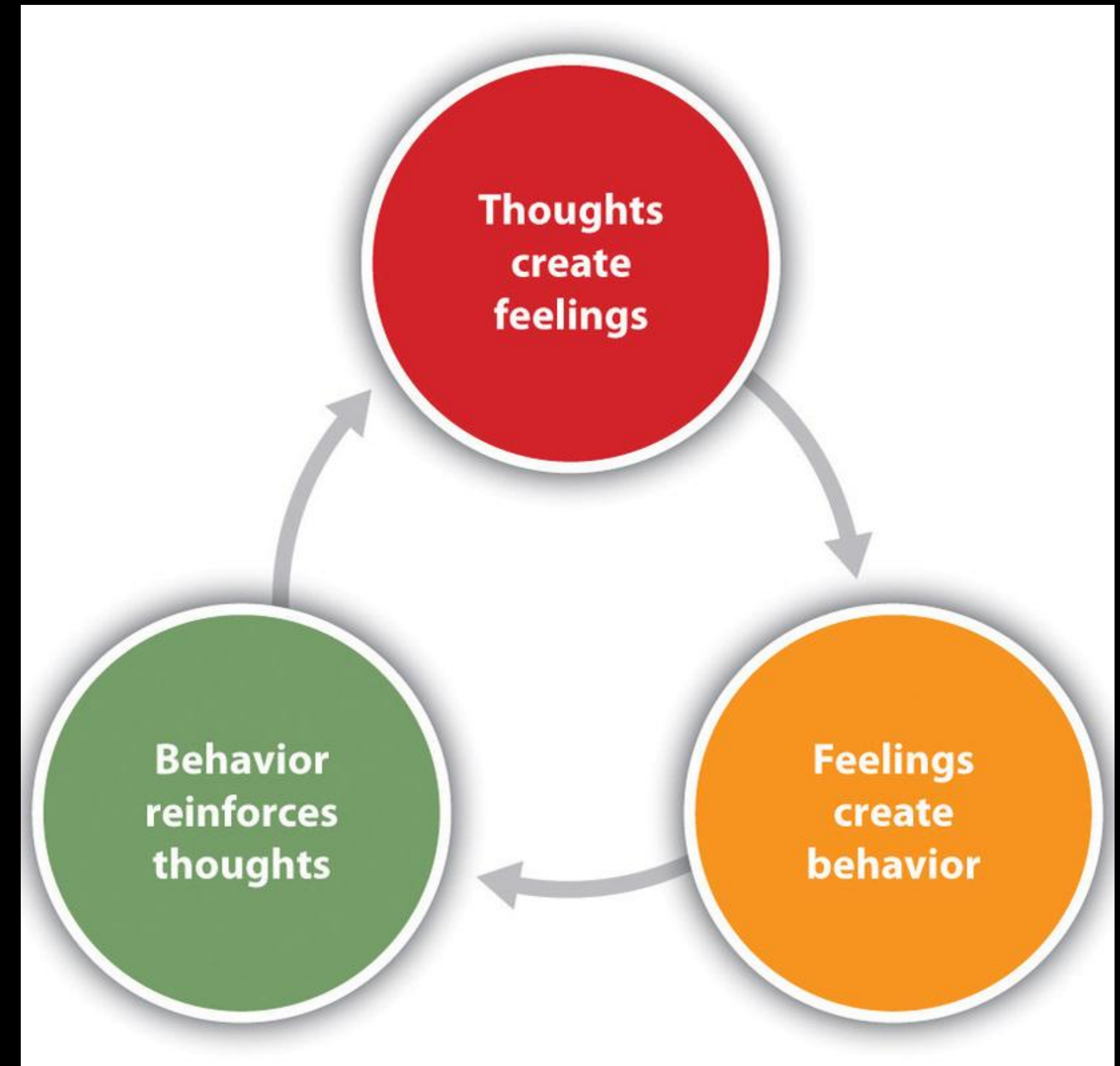
Hero's Journey - Joseph Campbell

- Atheist/Non-theist/Hindu/Buddhist
 - «God is a metaphor for a mystery» ([God-Building](#) to the max)
 - «Follow your bliss» motto, derived from Hindu Upanishads
- professor of literature
- «The Hero with a Thousand Faces» - Hero's Journey concept
- Conquering fears - «The cave that you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek»



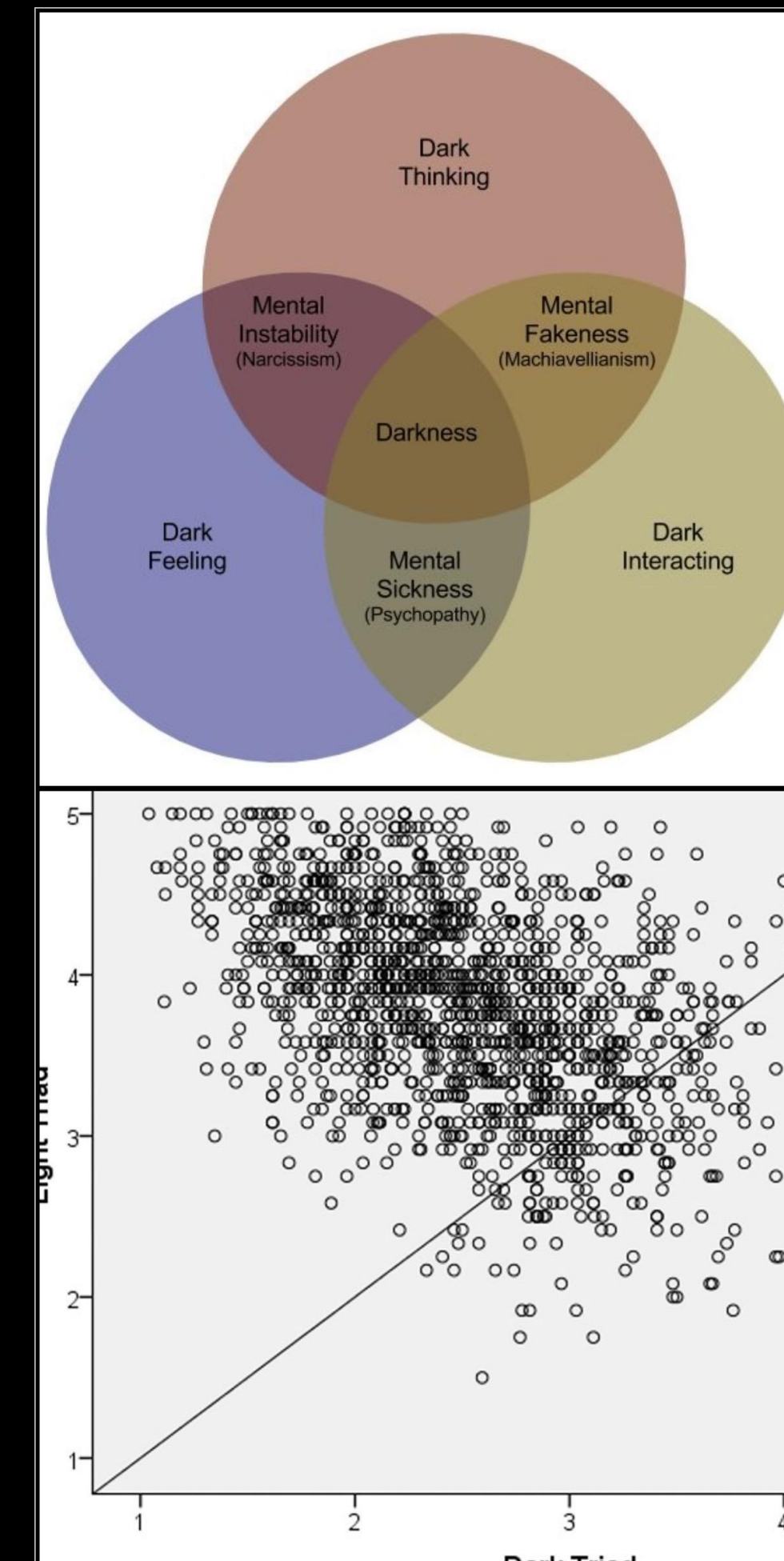
Cognitive Behavioural Theory

- Mentoring
- Behavioral bias: Luke, Han Solo, Obi Wan
- Expectancy theory: “Do or do not... there is no try.” — Yoda
- Theory of planned behavior: “Never tell me the odds.” — Han Solo
- Fight-or-flight instinct: “Feel, don't think. Trust your instincts.” — Qui-Gon Jinn
- Anxiety issues: “Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering.” — Yoda



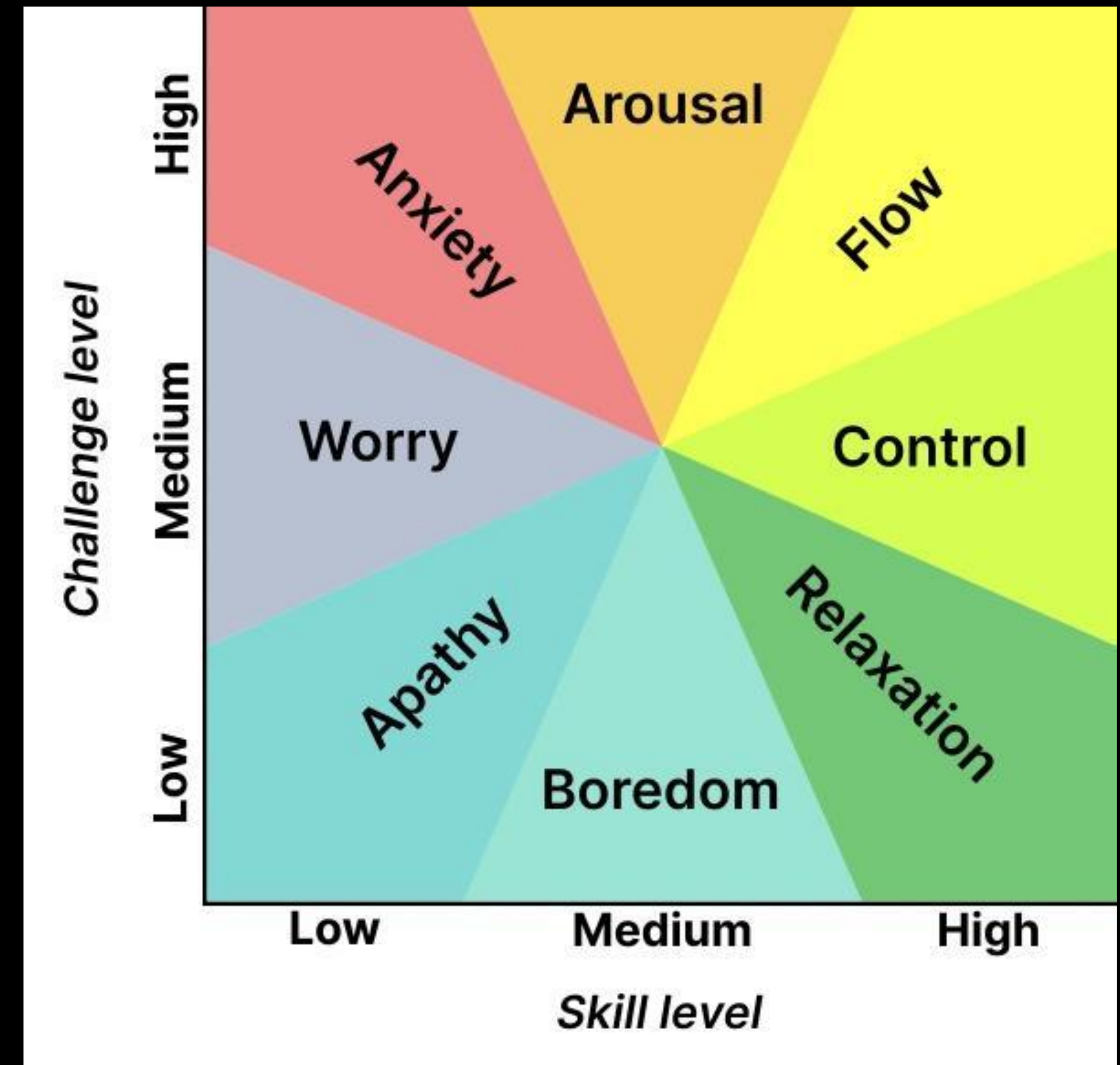
The Dark

- Dark triad of Psychiatry:
 - Machiavellianism
 - Narcissism
 - Psychopathy
- Light triad of personality traits:
 - Humanism
 - Kantianism
 - Faith in humanity
- Studies: the light triad is uncorrelated with bravery or assertiveness.



The Flow

- «Счастливые часов не наблюдают»
- Csikszentmihályi's 2004 TED talk: Flow state = all attention (~110 bits/sec) allocated
- Experienced most likely in high-challenge, high-skills situations
- Saga:
 - Lightsaber duels
 - Force powers
 - Driving (speeders, flying cars, pod racing)
 - Dogfights
 - Super-precise movements (long jumps etc.)



Stoicism

- self-control, fortitude, reason, ascetic exercise, calm
- «Virtue consists in a will that is in agreement with Nature.» - focus
- The four [cardinal virtues](#):
 - [Wisdom](#)
 - [Courage](#)
 - [Justice](#)
 - [Temperance](#)
- In some cases, stoics considered suicide was a good option



Stoicism in the Saga

- Focus on the present (Luke, Anakin)
- Fear of Death (Anakin, Yoda)
- Meditation - Jedi meaning vs Marcus Aurelius meaning
- Three tenets of the Jedi Order:
 - The Force
 - Knowledge
 - Self-discipline
- Jedi Code, a mantra: «Emotion, yet peace. Ignorance, yet knowledge. Passion, yet serenity. Chaos, yet harmony. Death, yet the Force.»

Chivalry

- Léon Gautier's Ten Commandments of chivalry, set out in the work *La Chevalerie* (1891), are:
 1. Believe all that the Church teaches
 2. Defend the Church
 3. Defend the weak
 4. Love the country
 5. No recoil before thine enemy.
 6. War against the infidel
 7. Perform scrupulously thy feudal duties, if they be not contrary to the laws of God
 8. Never lie
 9. Be generous
 10. Be the champion of the Right and the Good against Injustice and Evil.

Bushido

- Eight virtues of Bushidō (as defined by [Nitobe Inazō](#), 1900):
 - Righteousness
 - Heroic Courage
 - Benevolence, Compassion
 - Respect
 - Honesty
 - Honour
 - [Duty](#) and [Loyalty](#)
 - Self-Control

Q&A

- psychology
 - do you experience flow state regularly?
 - do you think star wars present a good role model?
 - What do you like more of such genre - Star Wars or Narnia or Harry Potter or Tolkien? Do they differ?
 - Does machine man Vader have something in common with modern man's psyche?
 - Anakin: borderline personality disorder?
 - How do you conquer your biggest fears? How did you do that before you became Orthodox?
 - What lead Anakin to become a monster?
- philosophy
 - Nature of good and evil in Saga vs Orthodox Christianity?
 - Free will and determinism in Saga vs Orthodox Christianity?
 - Nature of the Force?
 - AI?
 - Feminism in Saga?

III. Religion

Lucas

- George Lucas: The Force embodies «a concept of religion based on the premise that there is a God and there is good and evil.»
- George Lucas: «I was raised Methodist. Now let's say I'm spiritual. It's Marin County [California, a very liberal area]. We're all Buddhists up here.»
- George Lucas: «All the religions are true, they just see a different part of the elephant.»
- Afraid of creating a basis for religion in original trilogy, Lucas introduced the ~scientific ~basis of midichlorians in the prequels.
- Campbell's works serve as a pathway for comfortable agnosticism / faith in one's heart / God-Building

Modern Syncretism: New-Age

- Syncretism - synthesizing religion from several sources.
- New-Age cult/movement:
 - Occultism, Pantheism, Hinduism, Esotericism
 - Pacifism, Eclectism
 - Spirituality: yoga, meditations, vegans
 - «Alternative medicine», Feminism, Environmental activism
 - Spiritual marketplace, soviet God-building monetized

Christianity in Star Wars

- Christianity
 - Star Wars is the story of fall and redemption
 - Reclusion in the desert - compare: Desert Fathers
 - Yoda in cartoons: «Old sins cast long shadows»
 - Jedi robes
 - Darth Maul
 - Virgin birth and the prophecy of the Chosen One
 - Parallel's with King David
 - One employee of LucasFilms invented interpretation of Jedi as «Jesus disciple»

Other religions in Star Wars

- Zen Buddhism (probably, Alan Watts's edition)
 - Yoda
 - Neglect towards flesh («crude matter»), scripture
 - "Pain, suffering, these are the paths to the darkside»
 - Force is non-theistic
 - «Attachment is forbidden, possession is forbidden»
 - «Only Sith deal in absolutes»
- Taoism
 - Moral Dualism - Good and Evil are equally powerful, yin-yang
- Gnosticism: disregard of the flesh, dualism God-demiurg
- Zoroastrism [maybe] - dualism, also

Fictional Jedi Oath & Tenets

- No belongings other than what can be carried on oneself
- No marriage
- No insubordination
- No revenge
- No killing an unarmed opponent
- No breaking the law
- Lifelong public service

IMO: the Dividing Line

Layer of Sage	✓ Acceptable	✗ Not Acceptable
Psychology	✓ Role Model, Intuition	✗ The rest
Philosophy	✓ Cardinal Virtues	✗ The rest
Aesthetics	✓	
Movies as an art	✓	
Religion in Saga	✗	

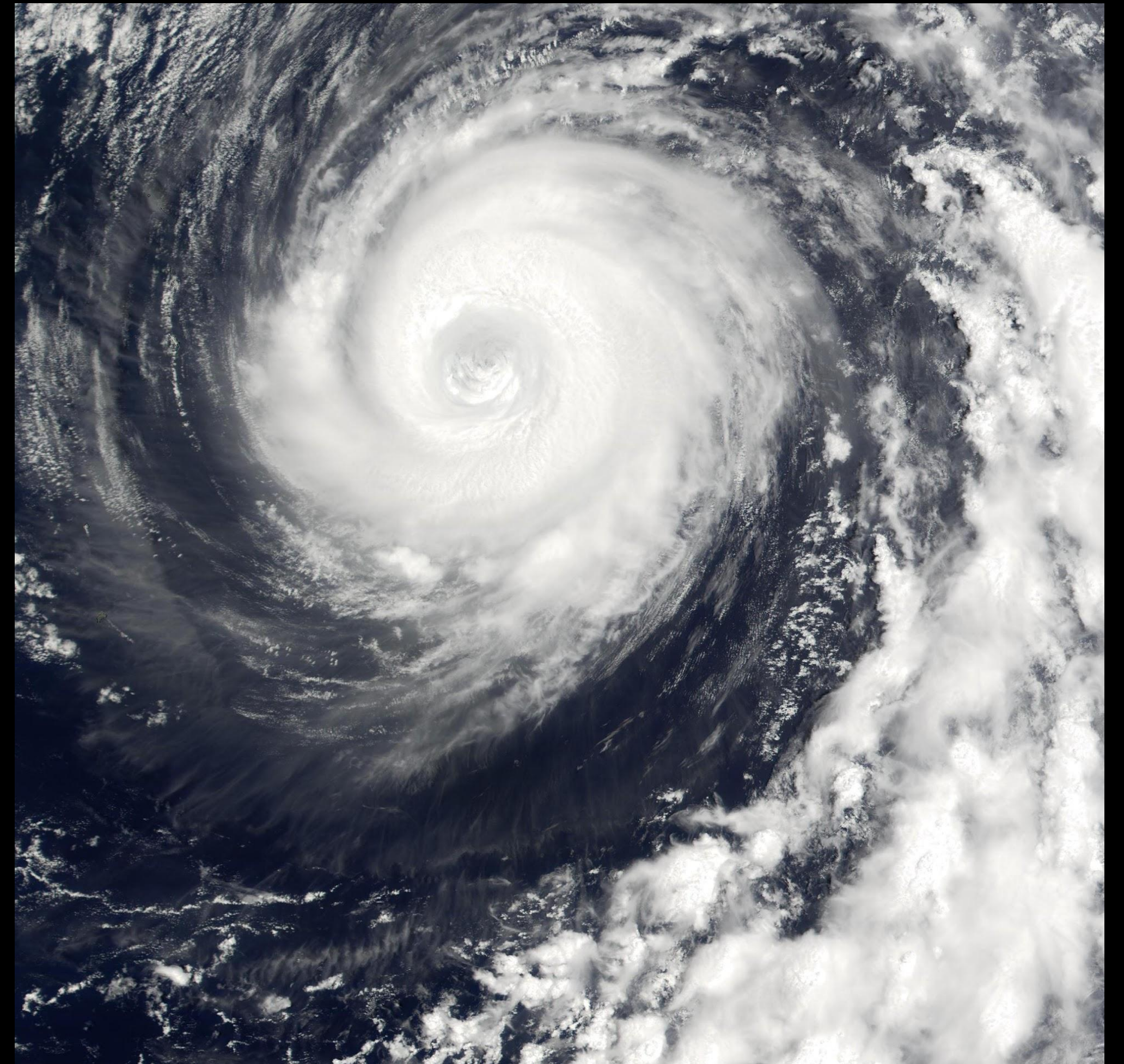
Q&A

- Is there a point in fighting for civilization for Christian? It's doomed after all.
- Moral dualism - good and evil are equally powerful in saga?
- Only sith deal in absolutes?
- What comprises the fall to the dark side?
- How is the concept of the force linked to eastern religions? Is it similar or different from magic & witchcraft? Superpowers?
- What's wrong with «Pain, suffering, these are the paths to the darkside»?
- Does Jedi/Sith clothing in Saga symbolize something?
- What is attachment? Is it a sin - to not be able to let go of a loved one?

Jedi Way [Telegram Channel Ad]

- **Motivation: deficit of heroism and triumph of consumerism in the modern world**
- **Focus: personal growth, Jedi as a role model**
- **Basis - Orthodox Christianity**
- **Researches - Bible, the Fathers, philosophy, psychology**
- **Agreed with my confessor and several faithful people who's opinion I trust**

<https://t.me/orthojedi>



Credits

- RPU for the place
- Joshua Laurin for the opportunity
- Philipp Champion for the encouragement