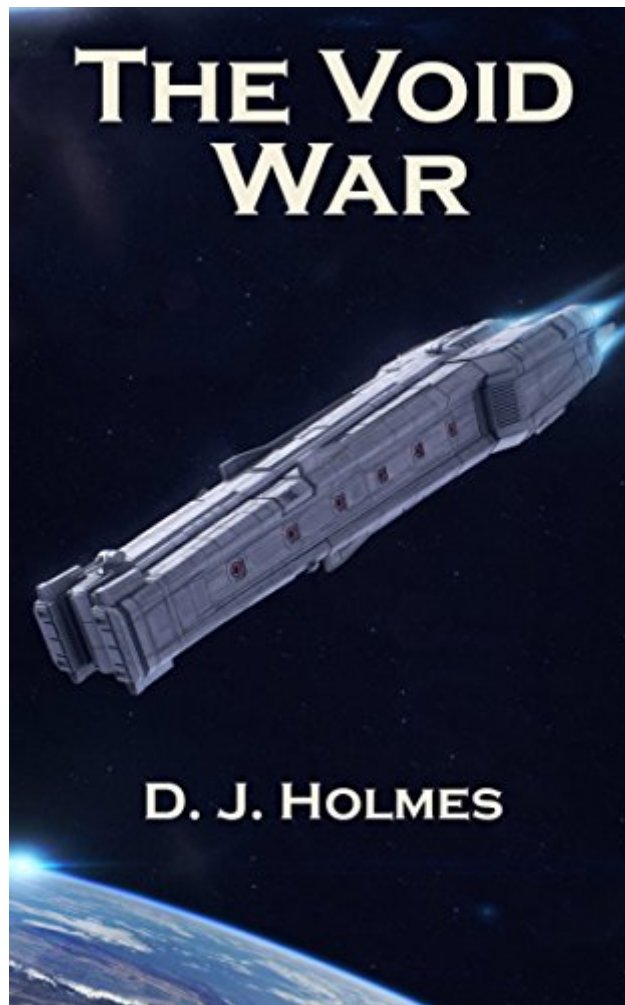




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The Void War (Empire Rising Book 1)



Synopsis

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

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Customer Reviews

Worth a readPros1) Interesting universe2) The main character is developed enough3) There are no glaring deus ex machina plot twists that i can recallCons1) Some typos and grammatical errors that would be absent if the book was properly edited.2) The love for the Brit monarchy/aristocracy is a bit too rampart and juvenile. Even the queen's most faithful groupies probably don't believe aristocracy equals meritocracy...3)I had some issues with the science as well.e.g One can't have so finely tuned

gravimetric sensors without a deeper understanding of the field. There should be more applications described if they had that tech level. Instead the ship systems were a patchwork of different tech levels. 4) The main character came out of a YA novel. He is emotionally 15 years old at most. Despite the cons I kept reading. Hopefully the next installment is better.

What an outstanding book! Contemporary science was used, no guys carrying a 45 cal pistol. The story line was excellent, great characters, new ideas in warfare, it has it all. The war is set in a believable setting involving dark matter and full of action and suspense. If you liked Heinlein, Asimov, and Silverberg, you will like this.

I thoroughly enjoyed *The Void War* - it had an exciting fast-paced plot with plenty of battle action grounded in hard science. Characters were likeable and I have to say I felt some sympathy for the lead character, James Somerville, Duke of Beaufort who finds himself on a lowly navy survey ship, the *Drake* as a result of his father's business practices. In the Britain of the future, the aristocracy are image-conscious, particularly regarding public perceptions. When his father gambles away a large portion of the family wealth, causes thousands of employees to lose their jobs and then commits suicide, James finds that his own good name is tainted by association. To make matters worse he falls for the wrong girl - the King's daughter, Christine and thus finds himself on the *Drake* for the next two years. In that time China has made several discoveries - the Void, and several worlds that fall in the goldilocks zone with resources that could make them a power to be reckoned with. Unfortunately, against UN regulations and Acts, they choose not to inform the UN. Britain seizes an opportunity to lay claim the Chinese discoveries when James discovers the same Void and planets - they register their claims before a closed session of the UN, much to the chagrin of China. From that point on China declares war on Britain. Holmes has written an engrossing story of war in space and the logistics of carrying war out to the stars; Holmes uses some solid science to further make his future believable. While there are a number of proof-reading errors, this should not put off future readers from what is an extremely good debut novel. A highly recommended read.

I am a fan of space military science fiction, especially with good believable technology. In this novel DJ does a good job of balancing believable technology, nothing too *Buck Rogers*, with sound military strategy, and some good character development. It makes for a good space opera read. Unlike many sci-fi novels, Holmes does not assume the Earth joins together into a single world government. He incorporates the dynamic of the earth's existing nationalities and their politics into

the landscape of the future. It adds a bit more reality to the novel. The characters are also developed as real people with real faults and self doubts. Their loves, sense of duty and life situations enhance the fabric of the story. Like most heroes in real life they rise to the occasion, overcoming their own self doubts and situations to do what has to be done. I could not fault the technology, liked the characters, and was kept interested in the story line. All in all was a good read and I am looking for the next in the series.

It takes a while to adjust to the writing style--heavy on the descriptive prose and some information dumps found in unrealistic dialog. Once you get into the book, however, the story is a well told familiar tale. There is plenty of action, wonderful tactics and strategy, a good deal of fleet action and the characters are interesting. I enjoyed the length of the read and what appears to be the start of a good series. 5 stars for the price, length, action, strategy, tactics and interesting science. The minor typos were not a distraction. I will purchase the next book in the series.

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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