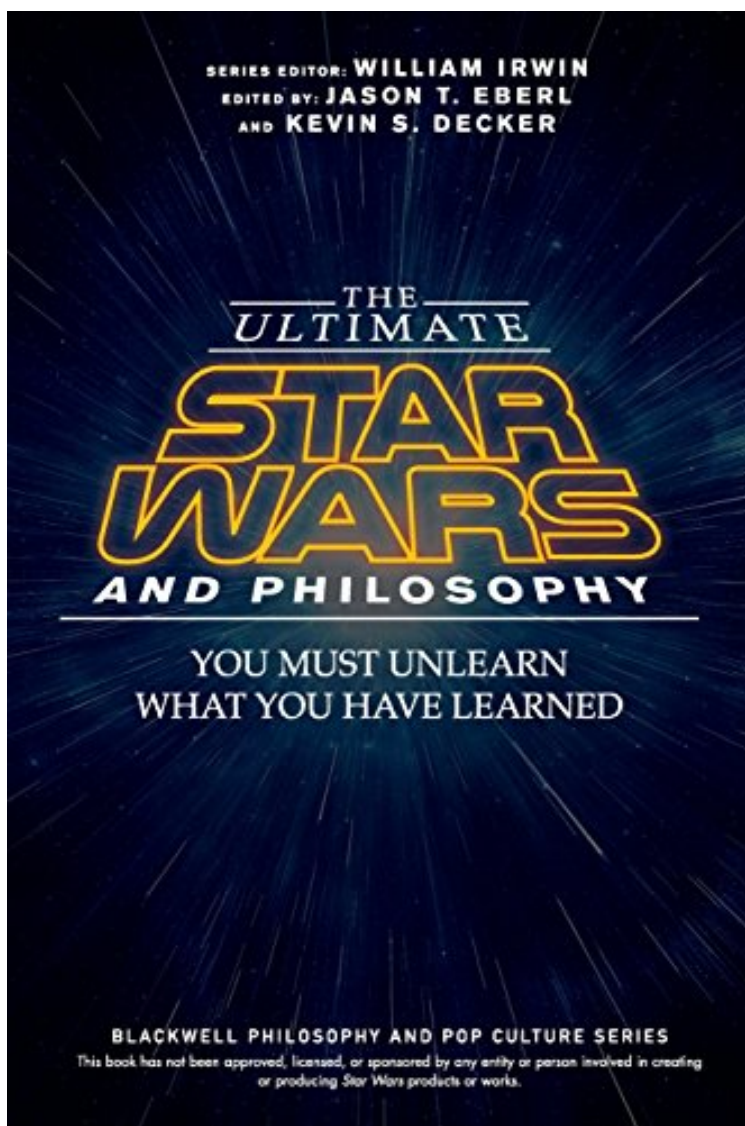


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The Ultimate Star Wars and Philosophy: You Must Unlearn What You Have Learned (The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series)

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From Wiley-Blackwell : The Ultimate Star Wars and Philosophy: You Must Unlearn What You Have Learned (The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ultimate Star Wars and Philosophy: You Must Unlearn What You Have

Learned (The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series):

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Annagreat
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A mixed bag
By Honest Abe
Like so many collected volumes, this one is a mixed bag. The value of a book about Star Wars and philosophy, I think, is in what philosophy can contribute to our thinking about Star Wars or what Star Wars can contribute to our philosophical thinking. Nothing in here really accomplishes the latter, and I didn't really expect them to. If you mostly want to learn about philosophy, you're better off with a book that focuses just on philosophy. However, there are a few interesting papers in here that manage to contribute valuable philosophical ideas to the discussion about Star Wars: -William A. Lindemuth's article suggests that Luke Skywalker is a Kierkegaardian Knight of Faith. The exposition isn't amazing, but the idea is one of the most interesting in the volume. -Adam Barkman and Kyle Alkema fruitfully compare the Jedi order to what Plato says in *The Republic*, and Terrance MacMullan compares that to what Nietzsche has to say. -Cole Bowman gives one of the most insightful (if too brief) feminist perspectives on Star Wars in print. -Marek McGann illuminates the notions of the Force and Jedi training with ideas from Merleau-Ponty. What makes these essays good is that they use philosophical theory to offer interpretations of what's going on in the movies. The problem with some of the other essays in the volume is that they seem more like they're using the movies as an excuse to talk about a philosophical topic that has only marginal relevance to the Star Wars. That way of doing things doesn't add anything to our understanding of Star Wars, and it's not the ideal way to discuss philosophy either, since Star Wars is often more a distraction from philosophical issues than a means of illuminating them. The explanations of philosophical concepts and the positions of historical philosophers are not always accurate and seldom thorough enough for my taste, but I suppose that's all we can expect of a book in popular philosophy. The biggest problem with this volume, however, is that each essay is about 10 pages long, and very little of interest can be accomplished in 10 pages when 20% of your text is fan-service references to Star Wars. If you're really interested in thinking about Star Wars, this book is worth a look, but if you're mostly interested in reading really good philosophy, look elsewhere. Finally, if you're curious whether to buy this book or *Star Wars and Philosophy: More Powerful than You Can Possibly Imagine*, I'd tentatively recommend *More Powerful than You Can Possibly Imagine*. The books are comparable in style and quality overall, but the four best essays in *More Powerful than You Can Possibly Imagine* are better than the four best essays in this volume, and while this volume is longer and gives you more material, *More Powerful than You Can Possibly Imagine* has about as much good material.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Now I understand why it is so universally loved and respected
By JTDk
This is an eye opener. Going back to where the origins of the philosophies of the Jedi, religion and ancient history, George Lucas really did some research when writing the series. Who knew all of this was so deeply imbedded in the series? Now I understand why it is so universally loved and respected. A great read! Not one to read straight through, but to read a bit and then ponder, discuss.

Does it take faith to be a Jedi? Are droids capable of thought? Should Jar Jar Binks be held responsible for the rise of the Empire? Presenting entirely new essays, no aspect of the myth and magic of George Lucas's creation is left philosophically unexamined in *The Ultimate Star Wars and Philosophy*. The editors of the original *Star Wars and Philosophy* strike back in this Ultimate volume that encompasses the complete Star Wars universe. Presents the most far-reaching examination of the philosophy behind Star Wars includes coverage of the entire film catalogue to date as well as the Expanded Universe of novels, comics, television series, games and toys. Provides serious explorations into the deeper meaning of George Lucas's philosophically rich creation. Topics explored include the moral code of bounty-hunter favourite Boba Fett, Stoicism and the Jedi Order, the nature of the Dark Side, Anakin and Achilles in a nihilism face-off, feminism and being chained to a giant slug, cloning, de-extinction, fatherhood, Wookiees, loyalty, betrayal, guardians, republics, tyrants, terrorism, civic duty, friendship, family, and more! Publishing in time for the global release of *Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens* on December 18, 2015, hotly anticipated to become the first film to top \$3 billion in worldwide box office sales.