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Understanding SJW logic and why it is destroying science fiction

April 28, 2015 at 7:00pm

Various people during the whole Hugo/Sad Puppies kerfuffle have remarked 'I don't understand the logic.' This is an attempt to explain it. Because there is a logic. It's not even a complicated logic and here's the fun part: I sort of agree with the logic.

The first point that has to be recognized as historically valid: White males have dominated the planet's art, music, culture, politics and wars for centuries and often deliberately at the expense of non-European, non-white, etcetera. This is historically unquestionable and unassailable. The sole exception to that might be music but even there various 'persons of color' who were excellent musicians were relegated to second class status purely for reasons of color.

(There's also the issue of 'why could white males, who were always seriously outnumbered and almost always seriously outgunned do all that?' but let's not get into that. It's an interesting topic but I'm doing the devil's advocate thing here.)

There are two ways to look 'forward' with this. Try to allow a level playing field and hope that various 'historically persecuted minorities' will eventually catch up (which based upon world per capita income is happening rapidly on an international basis) or deliberately tilt the playing field in favor of various historically persecuted minorities.

So let's drill this down to Science Fiction. Science Fiction has, historically, been something that looked to the future of technology and societies and tried to glean what might be possible. It has also, often, been an avenue for proposing change. Many of the most 'misogynistic' and 'racists' authors of the early SF years were, in fact, far FAR ahead of their time in proposing racial and gender equity or near equity.

To the Social Justice Warriors (their term and not one of derogation in their eyes) of SF fandom, the TRUE PURPOSE of Science Fiction is solely and ONLY such promotion. Let me repeat that as an axiom:

To the Social Justice Warriors of Science Fiction publishing and fandom, the true and only purpose of science fiction is to promote increased equity in the arena of social justice.

The purpose of science fiction is not to tell a good story. Most of what people call 'good stories' are not stories that promote social justice. So 'good story' or not good story, (and there we get to matters of taste) they are not good science fiction. Good science fiction is only that science fiction which promotes social justice.

If there is a choice between two good social justice stories, the choice is not based on which is the better story or which is better written. At that point you look at which promotes social justice better. So if Author A is a person of color or a transgenderist and Author B is a cis-male, even if he is a social justice warrior, the BETTER STORY is that which is written by the person of color or transgenderist UNLESS such person writes a story which does NOT promote social justice in which case they are a traitor and shall be treated as such.

The sole an only point is to view every work in a lens of 'how does this promote social



John Ringo

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Notes by John Ringo

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justice?'

One clear example that I know of: Redshirts.

Redshirts by John Scalzi was a fairly banal Star Trek fan-fic that featured a cast of Security that as I was told (never read it) was a fair SJW cross-section.

John Scalzi, although a cis-male, has relentlessly promoted social justice in various venues including purging the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America of persons who oppose the militant social justice approach or were otherwise in the way of promoting social justice.

John Scalzi has written good social justice books.

John Scalzi is therefore a good person to vote for an award even if it's for a fairly banal book that frankly could barely have been published were it not for his contacts and already being a fairly popular author. (Like me, people will publish his grocery list. I think every SF author at one time or another has considered a Redshirt type book and has taken a pass because, honestly, most of us have more couth.)

This is nothing against John, he's a pretty decent author and Old Man's War was pretty good. But let's face it, he's got to be a bit ashamed of getting a fucking Hugo for 'Original Science Fiction Novel' for a Star Trek fan-fic. If he's not, shame on him.

But the reason he got one was he talked the talk and walked the walk of whatever new insanity and inanity the SJWs come up with. How he even keeps up I have no clue. They are CONSTANTLY changing the goal posts. And while most of it is, to most people, insane and inane there is a logic.

And that's the other side of the story.

How do I know all this? My sister is a militant gay and I've heard all of it for decades. Including things like 'If one of 'my' people does something absolutely reprehensible it is just fine and they are good people because they are 'my' people. If one of 'your' people so much as seems potentially vulnerable we will rip them to shreds without a shred of evidence.'

Been in that situation, thanks. In my own family. So, yeah, very familiar with it and, yeah, very fucking sick of it and, yeah, very tired of tilting that particular windmill so I don't anymore.

Hugos were trashed decades ago after Orson Scott Card won for Ender's Game. EG was a great novelette. (I liked the book less.) But the HORROR of a person who was opposed to aspects of SOCIAL JUSTICE and a devout MORMON winning the HUGO award!

That's when the SJWs really circled the wagons and they've been circled ever since. Because militant social justice warriors.

Now the barbarians are assaulting the wagons and the SJWs are really getting ready for a do-or-die stand. Because of the philosophy. Because of the importance in their eyes. (And, understand, it's SERIOUSLY important in their eyes. Everything having to do with Social Justice is Serious. One of the undertones of the Sad Puppy opposition is that Sad Puppies does NOT take things SERIOUSLY enough.) And because with the demise of most of the fandom they support (see other post) they really don't have anything important left. They lose the Hugos they've not only lost the high ground they've practically lost the war.

About why Social Agenda is destroying science fiction:

A few years back on USENET (which dates this) there was a post.

JOHN RINGO IS SINGLE-HANDEDLY DESTROYING SCIENCE FICTION!

The post was a sort of a joke, sort of serious and was about what was called the 'Ringo Book of the Month Club' when I was not only churning out novels but they were selling like

hot cakes. The poster, who worked in a bookstore in Ontario, was complaining that 'we unload cases of John Ringo books but good authors like (insert various names here, some SJW some not) we barely get a trickle.'

Because, well, market. Because, well, I sell.

I really didn't mind the post. It was both despairing and somewhat self deprecating and I replied in kind. I noted that I thanked the poster for the compliment. I loved science fiction and I'd hate to see it go away but being responsible for singlehandedly destroying something that big, even if it was something I loved, was sort of an honor!

But that's the point. Baen, which doesn't only publish 'conservative' authors but does only publish 'cracking good stories' without caring one iota about Social Justice as a point is increasing in sales. Other houses have a few huge titles that NEVER are Social Justice titles and slews of SJW titles that by and large pull DOWN their sales.

By and large the only reasons and I mean the ONLY reasons, that SJ titles get published are:

1. Promotion of social justice by social justice true believers which infest mainstream publishing.
2. The author is already a big name and can get away with a few SJ titles without killing their sales.

When 1 occurs with a new author they often only are able to hang around by sucking up to the SJWs in publishing despite their lousy sales. Because the truth is, SJ titles tend to do very poorly.

Proof?

Every single house in the industry has seen a continuous drop in sales dating back to the '70s when social agenda fiction became mainstreamed and everyone jumped on the 'New Wave' (early version of SJW) bandwagon.

Baen, which only publishes cracking good tales, has seen a continuous increase. Across the board. Not one or two best selling titles. (Which are never SJW, by the way.)

I don't know if social agenda fiction is truly the cause of Sad Puppy Disease.

But I do know, and can track the numbers, that social agenda fiction REALLY is singlehandedly destroying science fiction.

Damn. I'd really hoped it was me.

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 N Emilio Desalvo, David Alderfer, Jesse Barrett and 352 others like this.

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 **Dan Southwick** What the fuck is a Chimay?? Sounds like some lousy Flip beer.
9 hrs ·  1

 **John Ringo** Belgian brewery from the 1400s. The Domaine of beers. Glorious stuff.
9 hrs ·  8

 **Dan Southwick** Ah, kk. Well, in THAT case. Fat Tyre is a Belgian Lager style as well. So perhaps your Chimay is also a quality beer as well! I however cannot lay my hands on a 7 or 8 hundred year old beer as easily as you clearly can!
9 hrs ·  1

 **Brian Lee Durfee** I enjoyed Red Shirts. Also Wheel of Time. I love a lot of Baen writers too. But honestly, I am ashamed to read many Baen Books in public cuz the covers are often crap (you made mention of folks judging books by the covers earlier). As a pro artist myse... [See More](#)

9 hrs · Edited ·  2



Russell David Humphress They still make it Dan... <http://www.chimay.com/en/en.html?IDC=27> I've never had it, but it's on my list of things I'd like to try.



Trappist beers and cheeses, traditional Belgian beers, Trappist monks, public assistance

-Trappist beers and cheeses, traditional Belgian beers, Trappist monks,...

CHIMAY.COM

9 hrs



Dan Southwick You got a point there, Brian. I can recall some Prince Roger covers that had NOTHING to do with the interior of the book, and while you cannot say Baen was the only one guilty of such, they did have it happen more than most.

9 hrs ·  4



Dan Southwick Hmm, I wonder how I would go about getting some of that action way out here in the wilderness.

9 hrs ·  1



Brian Lee Durfee Well, Mr Ringo was taking some writers to task for producing things like Red Shirts. I'm just calling it like I see it too. And, no, Baen isn't the only publisher to screw up a cover or two.

9 hrs



Dan Southwick Frankly I am both amazed and happy that somehow we have managed to get Fat Tyre shipped up here to Alaska. I doubt we will be seeing a craft monk's belgian brew up here anytime soon.

9 hrs ·  1



Russell David Humphress You need to find a Transpolar shipping company 😊

9 hrs



Dan Southwick Oh, we have lots of those. I, in fact, deal with them every single night. By the dozen. But getting some beer properly shipped from Europe or wherever would be difficult to arrange, methinks.

9 hrs ·  1



Dan Southwick And most of the planes I deal with are coming out of China, Russia, and points East.

9 hrs ·  1



Paul Johnson [Larry Correia](#). A great article for the campaign...

8 hrs ·  1



Michael Maultsby [John Ringo](#), I prefer the Rochefort. Forgive the spelling and I'll take a 6, 8, or 10 in cold weather. I tend to drink lighter beers in the warmer months.

8 hrs



Tim Deters [John Ringo](#) - when I was a pitiful and poor paratrooper, I drank a LHD's well deck worth of Milwaukee's Best, so I withdraw my thrown stone.

8 hrs ·  1



Dan Southwick Some of those cheap beers really were better than you would have thought....there was a cheap beer we always got when I was a fire fighter, Schmidt or something like that. It always had wildlife on the cans. And you could buy a case of that for the co... [See More](#)

8 hrs



Irene Fenlason All I want is a good story. John writes great stories, as did Heinlein , Hughart etc

7 hrs · Edited ·  4



Mark Roberts After reading this article and the comments, I now understand something that had puzzled me. I know someone very closely that is an avid reader and is always talking about how great some books are. This person loves science fiction and is very smart... [See More](#)

7 hrs · Edited ·  2



Dan Southwick Indeed. And now you have identified yourself. You are a wrongfan too.

7 hrs



Larry Denno Interesting perspective. And one that I have to agree with. Of the few books with the underlying SJ theme that I ever liked, only Modesitt's The forever hero stands. And that is mainly environmental responsibility. So I guess there really are no SJ books I like...

6 hrs



Paul Johnson [John Ringo](#) - This isn't just in science fiction. It the media in general.

<http://youtu.be/vrt6msZmU7Y>



Bill Whittle on The Narrative: The origins of Political Correctness

Bill Whittle on The Narrative: The origins of Political Correctness

YOUTUBE.COM

5 hrs ·  1

Vanessa Landry I think I know which bookstore that was. The person who wrote the article got what he wanted-- the store owners changed their selections. A year or two later, the book shop closed forever. Thank you so much, Social Justice Warriors.

5 hrs ·  1

Bill West I've been going over my TBR pile since this has started. When I first started reading, The big black DEL REY logo decorated the spine of everything I read, because I trusted them. Then they got rid of most of their stable. Now it's Baen, because I trust they print what I want to read. There are other publishers that I will buy from, but most of my reading comes from Baen these days.

5 hrs ·  1

Ernie Ashford Although said by others I must chime in. IMNSHO its all about the story. Does the author grab my attention ? Is the story entertaining and engaging ? I have been reading SF for pushing 35 years and have read and reread more books than I care to guess... [See More](#)



5 hrs ·  2

HT Dang Chimay is the best damn beer/ale ever!!! And I'm not even a beer drinker. Also, I read Red Shirt and somewhat enjoyed it because of the Star Trek connection, plus the plot was weird. However, it didn't really grab me like Scalzi's other books. Too ... [See More](#)

4 hrs

Stephen Saintonge John, I'm so sorry to hear that you aren't destroying sf single handed. I'll try to think of something else for you to ruin, but, let's face it, it just won't be the same. ;-(

3 hrs ·  2

Stephen Saintonge Paul Astin:
You're right about OCR. An eBook I was reading recently (THE FIRST WAR OF PHYSICS; ok, but not real good) had so many typos, and such bizarre ones, that I got the paper copy and cross-checked. They weren't there.

3 hrs

Charles Prael Real beer or bust. I drank the good stuff in college - still do.

3 hrs

Bud Ableman [John](#), or anyone. I cant find Ender's Game short..... only the novel. When and in what was it published. Thanks.

3 hrs

Bud Ableman Nevermind. Got it.

3 hrs

Nitay Arbel "The Last Centurion" (which I admit to enjoying) was pretty good "counter-message fiction". But let's be honest --- if all Baen published were books like that, it wouldn't be Baen. The weakest thing [Tom Kratman](#) ever wrote was "A State of Disobedience".... [See More](#)

2 hrs

Nikhil Pillarisetti Redshirts isn't usually trashed as message fiction itself, just as not particularly epic. Most honestly rate it in the 2-3.5 star category, even among the SPs. But it's a clear example of a book getting the nod due to the author's SJWery.

2 hrs

Gary Poole I've been an SF fan since about the time I learned to read. Birthdays and Christmas were as much about getting books and getting toys. And I read anything I could find in the library. Over the years, I began to notice I was drifting towards a certain g... [See More](#)

1 hr ·  2

John Ringo [Gary Poole](#) My mom actually pointed out to me keeping an eye on publishers as a way to know what to read.

1 hr ·  2

Gary Poole [John](#) - Aren't you supposed to be asleep?

1 hr ·  1

Richard Brandt Can anyone actually name me ONE of these "SJW" people who believe "the true and only purpose of science fiction is to promote increased equity in the arena of social justice" and "not to tell a good story"? Because the only time you name someone, it's ... [See More](#)

1 hr

Morgan Vergara Mr. Ringo. For what it's worth, I'm probably what you would describe as an SJW. I've never taken the label myself, mostly because I don't do labels. That said, I'm perfectly willing to discuss anything you'd like to discuss. What shall we talk about?

1 hr

Joseph Capdepon II Do you know why I like Catholics even if I am not one?

They have a saint for beer. Saint Arnold. Local microbrewery named after him, and they brew fantastic beer.

1 hr



John Ringo Why should I choose to read A book based upon the color of a person skin or their gender or lack there of? Why should I choose to read a book based on the politics or philosophy thereof? Both of these have been promoted by the social justice warriors. Why in fact should I take their opinion about anything? And if I do not why does that make me a bad person?

1 hr · 2



Kevin McMahon Dan Southwick, on the beer comment, Fat Tyre is not anywhere close to a belgian style beer. Decent in its own right, but not belgian style. Anything from Ommegang is going to be a belgian style, as well as the aforementioned Chimay, Gulden Drak and s... [See More](#)

57 mins · Edited



John Ringo [Richard Brandt](#) Go read the article written by some flaming liberal about not reading a book that is written by a white heterosexual male for year. It's somewhere above. As for discussing specific Hugo nominees and winners I stopped reading Hugo shorts ... [See More](#)

1 hr · 2



Morgan Vergara "Why should I choose to red a book based upon the color of a person's skin of their gender or lack thereof?" -- Simple answer, you shouldn't. If that criteria is not important to you, then it's not important to you. I will accept that your criteria ... [See More](#)

51 mins



Brent Rasmussen I tried reading Connie Willis due to the Hugo hype, but I couldn't get through even half of her first book. I was floored that a novel about something as exciting as time travel could be so boring. On the other hand, I've read everything you've ever written, and on the strength of your recommendation I just bought the entire Monster Hunter series and I'm loving it.

45 mins



Audra Richards As far as your readers go, I'm likely a minority (foreign and liberal by US standards). I grew up with SciFi, I read at a young age and my Dad gave me Heinlein, Farmer, Clarke and Herbert to read. I don't care what an author's politics are, what I c... [See More](#)

45 mins · 1



Andrew Young Wait, lost in this discussion was "publish my grocery list." [John](#) you got a new book coming out based around your grocery list? Dang it, I am just going to add you to my monthly bill paying program.

45 mins



Mike Johns Redshirts isn't the strongest Scalzi novel, but it isn't a fanfic. Yes it does contain characters in a universe that is suspiciously similar to Trek, but it isn't played straight as a story about those characters in that universe.

Redshirts is somet... [See More](#)

38 mins



Jon P Ogden You said nothing that couldn't be said of other fanfics. The fact that in the last draft he changed the names is a legal, not artistic matter.

26 mins



Ray Spitz With a little help from Sad Puppies, maybe "Hugo Award Winner" will mean "darn fine story" instead of "pretentious crap to avoid."

17 mins



Ed Dravecky Isn't judging books (and other fiction) you haven't read a main complaint about folks slamming this year's Hugo ballot before they've read the nominated works?

12 mins



Ray Spitz How big of a sample do you need before you are justified in avoiding Hugo Award Winners?

11 mins