**“The destruction of the Empire was positive for the galaxy as a whole”**

**A refutation by A.J. Mimosa-Inahj, Supreme Commander, Archanis**

Although I will undoubtedly be considered biased due to my history of Imperial service, I strongly disagree with the above statement.

Let us first consider the birth of the Empire. The galaxy was in a state of war, with thousands of star systems having broken away from the Galactic Republic. The Republic’s opponents in this war, now known as the ‘Clone Wars’, were led by the former Jedi, Count Dooku.

There were many reasons for the Clone Wars, but I shall not discuss them here for the sake of brevity. In short, many people had had enough of the Republic’s corrupt political system. It is my firm belief that Dooku was responsible for fanning the flames of discontent into a full blown conflict.

The Clone Wars were, by all accounts, devastating across the entire galaxy. Even Coruscant, the Republic’s capital, came under attack as the Confederacy desperately tried to push their agenda.

Towards the end of the Clone Wars, the Jedi, once sworn protectors of the Republic, attempted to seize control. Four Jedi Masters , led by Mace Windu, made at attempt on Chancellor Palpatine’s life. The size of the plot against the Chancellor, and by extension, the Republic itself, was never truly discovered, but the majority of the Jedi Order were likely involved.

In response to the Clone Wars and the fall of the Jedi, Palpatine declared that the Republic was to be reformed into a Galactic Empire, with himself on the throne. This allowed him to formalise his authority over the senate.

With the Separatists defeated, and the senate now under the control of Palpatine, order started to spread throughout the galaxy. The new Imperial military started to grow rapidly, allowing the Empire to properly enforce the peace throughout the galaxy. For the first time in decades, the people of the galaxy were troubled neither by a corrupt senate, nor a war.

However, a group of senators, dissatisfied at the loss of their own power, started to build a movement against the Empire. They twisted the facts wherever they could, turning even simple acts of law enforcement into ‘atrocities’. The gullibility of many people across the galaxy allowed the lies of these senators to spread, and soon a new terrorist group, the Alliance to Restore the Republic, was created.

At first the Rebels were too small to cause a major problem, but, as with the Republic before it, the Empire had to change to deal with the insurgency. Resources that had previously been acquired for other, more benevolent projects were acquired to fund an even larger Imperial Navy, leading to more fuel for the Rebels propaganda machine.

By the 19th year of the Empire, the DS-1 Orbital Battle Station was completed. This terrible, planet destroying weapon was never designed to actually be used, but the Rebels, their leaders still determined to return to the corrupt Republic that had been abolished, showed how little they cared about the ordinary people of the galaxy. They were going to fight until the Empire was no more, regardless of how many innocents would be hurt.

In the end, the ‘Death Star’ was fired several times, most notably to destroy Alderaan. This attack was supposed to stop the Rebels dead, but instead they pressed on and found a key weakness in the station’s design just moments before their main base was destroyed.

The aftermath of the Battle of Yavin allowed the Rebels to gain ground as they spread the tragedy of Alderaan far and wide. Things became even tougher for the Empire, and unsurprisingly, the resulting clamp down caused even more support for the Rebellion. Even after losing their main base on Hoth, things didn’t get better.

4 years after Yavin, the Empire were building a second, larger Death Star. This time, the entire Rebel fleet attacked the construction site over Endor. The battle was a disaster. With the help of the would-be Jedi Luke Skywalker, the Rebels successfully destroyed the half built station, killing the Emperor, Darth Vader, and a large majority of the top echelons of the Empire in the process.

Once again, I will not go into depth, but the next few years were chaos as the Empire fell apart. In the end, the terrorists, now calling themselves the ‘New Republic’, forced an illegal treaty onto parts of the Empire, but many Imperial ships chose to reject the new government and fled into the Unknown Regions, emerging three decades later as the First Order, a far more brutal and less civilised society than the Empire.

Meanwhile, the ‘New Republic’ brought back most of the worst aspects of the previous Republic, whilst persecuting any Imperials unfortunate enough to be captured. Once the ‘threat’ was clearly dealt with, the senate even de-militarised the Republic, leaving the galaxy dangerously under protected.

It is mostly the restoration of the Republic and its failed, corrupt senate, and the eventual de-militarisation that allowed the First Order to take control of vast swathes of the galaxy. As the First Order is neither as benevolent as the Empire was at its peak, nor as effective, it is in a way far worse than even the Republic.

As the Republic was re-born as a direct result of its defeat of the Empire, I feel that it is wholly responsible for the ongoing conflict. It was also directly responsible for what is now known as the Galactic Civil War. Two entirely avoidable conflicts that have killed billions.

And it is for that reason that the fall of the Empire was most certainly NOT positive for the galaxy as a whole.

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