

# SALEM PRESS

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## **Salem Press Announces *Critical Insights:* *Robert A. Heinlein***

*Critical Insights: Robert A. Heinlein*, edited by Rafeeq O. McGiveron, teacher of literature and composition at *Lansing Community College*, explores the work of perhaps the most famous and influential name in modern science fiction. Heinlein is best known for the evolution of science fiction from the mid-twentieth century onward. He may not have been the first to envision, say, the generation starship, the closed time-loop, or the powered military exoskeleton, but his early treatments have become the classic standards. In addition, his fiction explores not only “hard” science but also, at times, magic, spirituality, sociological systems, and methods of government.

This title is divided into four main sections, starting with **Career, Life, and Influence**. This section discusses Heinlein’s career and certain themes of his writings in fairly broad terms, along with a biography about the man behind the literature. The rest of the text examines the writings of Robert A. Heinlein and their growing legacy.

**Critical Contexts** begins with Zahra Jannessari Ladani discussing cultural and historical milieu into which Heinlein was born and in which the writer developed. Donald M. Hassler follows by helping the reader understand the various ways critics throughout the decades have treated the writings of Heinlein. Next, Robin Anne Reid explores Heinlein’s famous *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress* (1966) with an “intersectional” perspective, looking at the intersections of nationality and gender, plus race and gender. Editor, Rafeeq O. McGiveron concludes the critical contexts section by examining two works from near the endpoints of Heinlein’s career: “Magic, Inc.” (1940) and *Job: A Comedy of Justice* (1984).

Starting the section of **Critical Readings**, Garyn G. Roberts begins with a useful discussion of the first ten years of Heinlein’s writing, 1939 to 1949. After explaining the nature and trends of pulp magazines of the era, this chapter discusses a number of Heinlein’s important science fiction and fantasy pieces, then concludes with a detailed list of his short fiction through 1949. John J. Pierce follows up with an entertaining and enlightening look through the so-called “juvenile” novels published with Scribner’s between 1947 and 1958, which are anything but *juvenile*. Gary Westfahl examines public writings on writing, along with his personal letters as well, to help us understand the attitudes of a writer who eventually needed to work only a few months a year to support himself. Next, Anna R. McHugh discusses proliferation of spacetimes in Heinlein’s early short fiction: “Elsewhen” (1941), “They” (1941), and “The Unpleasant Profession of Jonathan Hoag” (1942). “By His Bootstraps” (1941), praised by editor John W.

Campbell, Jr., as a novel and important treatment of time travel, is the focus of Kristine Larsen's chapter. Other essays include:

- "What *Podkayne of Mars* Says about Humans of Earth, Or, Stranger in a Strange Reading Practice Land" by Marleen S. Barr
- "Locked in Somewhere Safe": Robert A. Heinlein and the Bomb Shelter" by Rafeeq O. McGiveron
- "There Ain't No Such Thing as a Free Lunch": Supply-Side Economics in *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*" by Wolf Forrest
- "Robert A. Heinlein: Building and Defending the Empire" by C.W. Sullivan III
- "Finding Answers in *Stranger in a Strange Land*" by Ira Halpern

Each essay in *Critical Insights: Robert A. Heinlein* is 2,500 to 5,000 words in length, and all essays conclude with a list of Works Cited and detailed endnotes. Also included in this volume are **Appendixes** to provide readers with additional information and opportunities for further research, including a **Chronology of Robert A. Heinlein's Life**, a list of **Works by Robert A. Heinlein**, an annotated **Bibliography**, biographies of the **Editors** and **Contributors**, and an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world's most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia's most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Robert A. Heinlein* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

#### **Free Online with Print Purchase**

In addition, *Critical Insights: Robert A. Heinlein* comes with complimentary online access via <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

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