

Abstract

Alien invasion is a recurrent theme in science fiction novels in which extra-terrestrials invade the Earth either to exterminate and supplant human life, or to enslave it and harvest people's food, steal the planet's resources, or destroy it altogether. This dissertation investigates alien invasion as presented in the works of H. G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds* (1898), Arthur C. Clarke's *The Childhood's End* (1953) and Jeff VanderMeer's *Area X: The Southern Reach Trilogy* (2014). This dissertation aims to explore the fear of human beings of a future, unknown danger that may threaten our universe. In these novels, H. G. Wells, Arthur C. Clarke, and Jeff VanderMeer predict the size of such an invasion and try to warn people of the Earth to find a solution to this danger if it comes true. They seek to motivate and encourage people to struggle against such aliens in case they come to invade our planet. These works are representative samples of many science fiction works which have dealt with this subject and described the extra-terrestrial creatures through different centuries: the nineteenth century; the twentieth century; and the twenty first century; and show how every writer depicts these aliens differently. The analysis and comparisons among these works show a common background which is the unity of the theme despite the difference in time. The three novels are completely based on the romantic theory. In Wells' novel, *The War of the Worlds*, the invaders are described as huge giants who own lethal weapons that have been used against the people of the Earth. In Clarke's novel, *The Childhood's End*, the narrator imagines the aliens as huge giants that look like fearful animals. In VanderMeer's novel, *Area X*, the aliens are portrayed in a wide variety of different shapes of humans and animals which dominate the human beings and annihilate them. This study also investigates the human responses that supersede borders, ideologies, race, or creed; and show how we should overcome our differences and act as one as we fight for our survival.