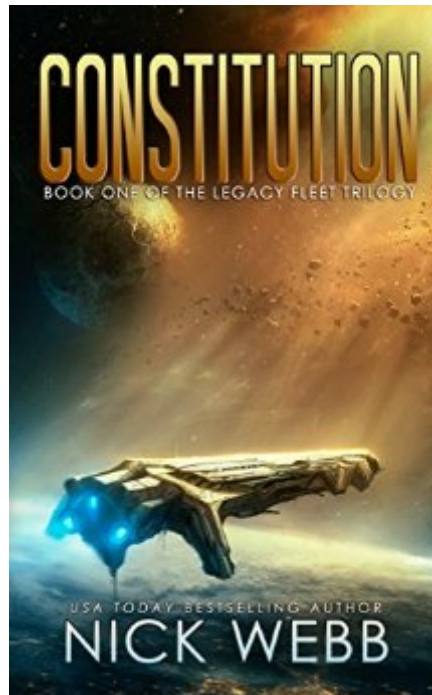


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Constitution: Book 1 Of The Legacy Fleet Trilogy



Synopsis

The year is 265075 years ago, an alien fleet attacked Earth. Without warning. Without mercy. We were not prepared. Hundreds of millions perished. Dozens of cities burned. We nearly lost everything. Then, the aliens abruptly left. We rebuilt. We armed ourselves. We swore: never again. But the aliens never came back. Until now. With overwhelming force the aliens have returned, striking deep into our territory, sending Earth into a panic. Our new technology is useless. Our new ships burn like straw. All our careful preparations are wasted. Now, only one man, one crew, and the oldest starship in the fleet stand between the Earth and certain destruction: ISS CONSTITUTION

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Customer Reviews

I began reading this in anticipation of disappointment and that's what I initially got. Frankly, the first few background chapters were so bad that I put the book aside for another SF action novel followed by a history of post-Columbus intercontinental biological cross-fertilization. Nevertheless, since I am somewhat both a miser and a masochist, I picked it up again, and as I struggled on eventually found the tale to be pretty good space opera in the Doc. Smith tradition. The crew members of Constitution and their interactions are very much unoriginal original Star Trek. (We even have a

chief engineer called Scotty. though female.) Still the battle scenes are exciting with lots of human sacrifice and the science behind the weapons isn't too bad although we all should know that given current physics and materials science spaceship armor is not likely to be very effective against near lightspeed projectiles or antimatter particle weapons no matter how thick or of what composition, etc. Melodrama, of which space opera is one variety, always rescues the protagonists from certain death and condemns minor characters to the cruelty of unjust fate. (For my generation whether in pulp or on the silver screen such tales were called cliff-hangers, or for you younger folk think Indiana Jones.) That's the case here and the mystery as with the "Cliff Hangers" of the 1930's and 1940's leaves us panting with anticipation for the next installment in the series. which it seems the author has in works. Okay, that's fine with me I enjoyed this one after we got past the clumsy background setting and in spite of the not so subtle bashing of apparently "President-for-life" Putin and resurrected Russian Imperialism and slaps at "not-so-much-in-the shadows" VP Joe.

The Constitution is an old Legacy class ship, which has been called in to be turned into a Museum, much to the crew's utter disgust. It is the last of the ships that defeated an enemy of aliens a long time ago in a war that nearly wiped out all of Earth and its fleet and all of the Earth's colonies as well. But now the alien threat is gone, there are new ships with new "Smart Armour", not the old style armour of the Constitution, which has 10metre thick armour all over her hull. Can anyone see where this is going? The story does have the standard protagonists, the disgruntled, but Stoic Captain, the annoying but soon to be likeable Female Officer, who in this case is there to decommission the ship, and turn it into the museum, but ends up being the second in command alongside the already existing second in command, a gruff but trustworthy old friend who is loyal only to the Captain, and surprisingly doesn't like the Female Officer. There is of course a brilliant Engineer and several other instrumental crew (command and otherwise) that make up a brilliant character list. And of course there is the dreaded Alien enemy, "The Swarm" as they are known. They have previously been to Earth as mentioned, 75yrs before, and after a massive war, just left, but now they are back and it's not really a surprise!! (I think you are reading the wrong book if it was?), but then again, if they didn't come back, it would be a kind of pointless story "I mean where would the gripping space battles be!! Yes we have all seen this story before, but it's what the Author does with it that counts. And Nick Webb, as always, does an exceptional job. This is a tremendous story with astounding characters, and a clever and well written version of this genre. I really loved it.

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