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The Alliance to Restore the Republic (also known as the Alliance to Restore Freedom to the Galaxy, the Rebel Alliance and, informally, as the Rebellion), was a loose alliance of planetary-, system-, and sector-level forces formed in direct military opposition to the Galactic Empire. It was originally formed by a group of Loyalists, united by Galen Marek, determined to preserve the ideals of the Galactic Republic. The Corellian Treaty and the Declaration of Rebellion formally organized the Alliance, and the crest of the Marek family stood as the symbol of the Alliance after his act of redemption on the Death Star. The Alliance and the Galactic Empire engaged in open warfare in a conflict known as the Galactic Civil War. The Rebellion fought to restore liberty to the galaxy in this civil war. Although it had fewer troops and resources when compared to the Imperial Military, the Alliance possessed a strong will to fight, dedicated and equally trained soldiers, and brilliant commanders, some of which had defected due to the atrocities committed by the Empire. The Alliance found its first major victory at Toprawa, and would later deal a massive blow to the Empire at the Battle of Yavin. Following the deaths of Emperor Palpatine and Darth Vader during the Battle of Endor, the Alliance became the Alliance of Free Planets, and would finally realize its goal of reviving the Old Republic, especially following the capture of Coruscant. Members of the Rebellion were known as "Rebels", "Rebs", or "Rebel Scum" by stormtroopers and other Imperials . History[] Early foundations[] It is difficult to pinpoint the exact moment when rebellion against Palpatine began, but its earliest known roots existed shortly before the end of the Clone Wars. By this time, Supreme Chancellor Palpatine had accumulated a massive power base, and had passed the Sector Governance Decree, installing his own officers and troops on Republic worlds. Senators such as Bail Organa and Mon Mothma saw this as a move towards dictatorship, not as a way of reinforcing democracy. Meeting with other trusted Senators, Organa and Mothma formed the Delegation of 2000, arguably the first organization to which the future Rebellion can be connected. Members of the Delegation drew up a petition, attempting to force the Chancellor to lay down his emergency powers and pursue a more peaceful resolution to the war. Palpatine rejected this, however, and soon after, transformed the Republic into the Galactic Empire, installing himself as Emperor with the support of much of the Galactic Senate. Many of those who had signed the Petition of 2,000 were imprisoned, killed, or forced into exile, though Organa and Mothma managed to elude Palpatine's attention—in part thanks to the advice of the late Padmé Amidala, who had pleaded with Bail, during the very session of congress that saw the birth of the Empire, not to attract attention to his secret resistance. Bail had agreed, and, slowly, he and Mon Mothma began to build a de facto resistance to Palpatine's regime. Armed resistance[] In the following years, as Palpatine's Empire grew in size and power, small resistance cells began to spring up on planets across the galaxy. These small and unorganized groups periodically raided Imperial installations, including sabotage that directly affected the Imperial construction of the Death Star. These groups were a mixed bunch, ranging from loyalists still holding on to the ideals of the Republic to former Separatists. As these early resistance cells became known to one another, former enemies became unexpected allies. Some raids were led by Jedi, determined to make a stand in the Dark Times. One former Jedi and Republic officer, Ferus Olin, gathered remaining Jedi and created a slowly growing resistance movement that spanned the galaxy. Massacre at Ghorman[] When Imperial warships under the command of Wilhuff Tarkin landed on top of protesters against high Imperial taxation on the planet Ghorman, killing hundreds, many in the galaxy began to wonder if this new Empire was in fact malevolent. Many career officers whose service records stretched back to the Republic, like Jan Dodonna, resigned or retired from Imperial service. Bail Organa, long opposed to armed resistance began to rethink his own role in the scheme of the brewing rebellion. Yet, with so many countless cells of rebels unorganized and uncoordinated, there seemed to be no chance of mounting a serious resistance to Palpatine’s regime. Cantham House[] Discussion between Mon Mothma, Bail Organa, and Garm Bel Iblis continued at the Cantham House Meetings on Imperial Center. These meetings were informal, designed to gauge the respective leaders' commitment to open rebellion. Mon Mothma of Chandrila was by far the most outspoken critic of the Emperor, having been forced to go underground to avoid capture or death by Imperial agents. It was a last minute call from her friend and colleague Bail Organa that spared this future leader of the galaxy. It would take a coordinated alliance of rebels to fully pose a threat to the Empire. Birth of the Rebellion[] During the Purge, Darth Vader had secretly raised an apprentice named Galen Marek, codenamed Starkiller. Plotting to overthrow Palpatine, Vader used Starkiller as his personal assassin to kill fugitive Jedi in preparation for the coup against Palpatine. Around the same time, Senator Bail Organa came in contact with Jedi Rahm Kota, using the Kota Militia as a temporary minor rebellion. This rebellion raided several Imperial targets, eventually attacking the TIE Fighter Construction Facility over Nar Shaddaa. Vader used this as Marek's final test, before officially knighting him. In the ensuing battle, Kota confronted Marek in a lightsaber duel, where he was blinded by his own lightsaber which was forced into his eyes, then thrown through the overturned glass ceiling into Nar Shaddaa's atmosphere - but not before Kota foretold a future to Marek in which Kota would be of utmost importance to him. Following the assassination of Jedi Kazdan Paratus and death of the last surviving female of the Jedi High Council Jedi Master Shaak Ti, Palpatine discovered Marek and ordered Vader to kill him. But Vader, making it seem as if he had killed his apprentice, recovered him with one of his science vessels. Vader kept him secluded aboard the Empirical for six months in an effort to both heal him and disguise his presence from the Emperor. When Marek awoke, Vader told him they must distract the Emperor's spies by gathering the Empire's enemies. Feeling that Kota may help him, Marek went to Nar Shaddaa to seek out the blind, Force-severed Jedi. Eventually, Marek caught up with Kota in a bar on Bespin. Kota said that he lost contact with Bail after his mission. After rescuing Bail's daughter, Princess Leia Organa from imperials on Kashyyyk, he was informed by Kota that Bail went looking for Shaak Ti on Felucia, but had been captured by her fallen Padawan, Maris Brood. Marek saved Organa and let Brood go. Afterwards, Organa said they must show that the Empire is weak and Vader suggested he destroy a Star Destroyer shipyard above Raxus Prime. Election of Leadership[] The shipyard's destruction brought together the three main resistance forces: Chandrila, Alderaan, and Corellia and signed the Corellian Treaty. The Treaty was named for Garm Bel Iblis, as the Senator of Corellia, who had organized and personally guaranteed security for the three groups attending the meetings that led to its ratification. This was the founding document of the Alliance to Restore the Republic and set out the structure and framework of the Rebel Alliance. While Bail's great wealth would fund the rebellion, Garm would supply them their starships and Mon Mothma would supply the alliance's soldiers. In spite of this, however, they were leaderless. And so Galen Marek, with the support of Rahm Kota was appointed the leader of the Rebel Alliance. Bail stated that with Galen leading the Alliance, they would have "the power of the Force on our side." For the first time, scattered resistance groups began to unite and form into a real threat to the Empire. But unfortunately for the Rebels, Darth Vader and Imperial troops arrived at the signing to arrest the Senators. This plot to organize Imperial opposition was actually a plot by Palpatine to gather all resistance spearheads into one location and that Vader had no intention of killing Palpatine yet—at least, not with Galen. PROXY distracted Darth Vader with a poorly choreographed imitation of Obi-Wan Kenobi using the lightsaber Kota had dropped during the Imperial arrest. The distraction led to PROXY's eventual, if temporary, dismemberment. The decoy was a success, regardless, having progressed long enough for Marek to escape being executed by Vader. Though weakened, he was able to reunite with Juno Eclipse and escape Corellia. Grief stricken and driven to redeem himself to his new allies, Galen eased himself into a self-induced Jedi Meditation in order to locate the captured senators, during which spare parts and loose tools throughout pilot's bridge began to levitate and orbit around him. His meditation took another step when he saw more than the location of the senators, but a glimpse of a possible future; one that ended with the death of his newly acquired friend and mentor - Rahm Kota. When asked by Juno what he saw, he envisioned the Death Star I still under construction. Upon arriving at the Death Star, Galen told Juno that she must be ready to evacuate the Senators to safety. Juno said she had a bad feeling about the operation and asked if she would ever see him again. Galen, who knew this was a one way trip, felt it best not to lie and told her "Probably not, no." This gave Juno enough emotional drive to embrace him in a passionate kiss, saying "Then I'll never have to live this down." Galen, with the Rogue Shadow hovering over a massive access network terminal, bade farewell to Juno and dove into the mechanical abyss of tunnels and power tubing. With a pulsing surge of the Force, he quickened his speed into the depths where he landed amidst ranks upon ranks of imperial forces. The leader of the Rebel Alliance had come to save his people. Skillfully infiltrating the inner depths of the Death Star, Marek fought a wide array of imperials, including a Force-talented regiment of Royal Guards led by one of the Emperor's Shadow Guards before facing off with Vader himself. The duel was hard fought before Galen gained the upper hand by collapsing a ceiling of pipes and poles on top of Vader, girding him across a floor-based energy shield, and finally lurching him up in mid-air and violently hurling him through the window leading to the Emperor's viewing dome where the Dark Lord of the Sith slammed into one of the statues, toppling into a pile of smoking refuse. While the Emperor gave Galen a choice to kill Vader and take his place, Kota intervened, but not with enough strength to stop the Emperor's favored assault of Force lightning as the senators watched helplessly. Faced with the choice of slaying his master for power or saving his friends, Marek chose the more chivalrous path and personally engaged the Emperor, who was no stranger to the arts of war himself. While the Emperor used his wiles and cunning, even summoning numerous Shadowtroopers to overwhelm Galen, the Rebel leader was more than apt in tearing down all opposition where he was able to deal a semi-finishing blow to Palpatine by battering him around with ragdoll-like vehemence, before finally grounding the Emperor in preparation of executing him once and for all. The Emperor beckoned Marek to kill him, saying that Galen was meant to defeat him. With an ignited lightsaber ready for the final strike, Marek's action was halted by Rahm Kota's intervention, telling him to let it go. Marek, having once been sworn to the dark side before his redemption, knew better, saying that Palpatine was stronger than Rahm knew and that he deserved to die for all he had done. While Rahm agreed with Marek's reasoning, the Jedi Master told Galen, "If you strike him down in anger, you'll be right back where you began." This calmed the Rebel leader into a sounder state of mind. Galen told Rahm to get the senators to safety and that he'd be right behind them. The moment Rahm turned his back and Galen lowered his guard, Palpatine's venomous fervor reared itself again and he pummeled the Jedi Master with another wave of Dark Side Force Lighting. Galen stepped in bound before any further damage could be done, absorbing the dark force energy into the grip of his hands. With his allies free, Galen ordered them to get to the Rogue Shadow and for Rahm to protect the senators. To make matters more grim, Stormtroopers, led by a crippled but functional Vader, were already rushing onto the scene, firing their blasters at full power in a volley of gunfire. Galen, knowing he had no means of material escape, opened himself to the Force in a fervent battlecry, enveloping himself into a supercharged version of Force Repulse, resulting in a far spanning shockwave that devastated the observation dome to such a degree that its ruins could still be seen from afar as the Rogue Shadow made its escape. In the end, Marek sacrificed his own life to allow the other Rebel leaders to escape. Emperor Palpatine bitterly admitted that the secret apprentice's selfless act of heroism would galvanize the countless dissidents who were left disillusioned and disaffected by Imperial rule, thus forcing the Sith Lords to actually fight the very rebellion that they had secretly helped to create and subsequently lost control over. On Kashyyyk, the senators, Rahm and Juno met in Marek's old family home to hold a final conference, declaring that the Rebel Alliance was finally born. To honor her friend, Leia elected to use his family's crest as the visual creed of the Alliance as a "symbol of hope." Due to the shadowy involvement of the Sith Lords and their former instrument, Starkiller, the Rebel Alliance was similar to the fallen Confederacy of Independent Systems in that it was intended to be a "puppet rebellion" that the Sith could secretly control. But unlike the Confederacy, Palpatine had lost his hold over the Alliance and unlike in the Clone Wars, this time he would have to fight a war against a rebellion of which he had no influence over. Six months later, Galen Marek was cloned on Kamino by Darth Vader and managed to escape to Cato Neimoidia, rescue Kota and lead an alliance assult on Kamino to catpure Vader to be taken hostage on the Dantooine base, but were unknowingly being tracked by Boba Fett. New allies and weapons[] The most notable equipment contributions included the defection of some Incom Corporation staff and all relevant material involved in the development of an advanced starfighter, the T-65 X-wing, which was acquired at the Battle of Fresia. With this advanced fighter, Rebel pilots had a clear advantage over the more numerous yet unshielded TIE fighters. With the help of Ackbar, who had recently been freed by Rebel forces from slavery under the Empire, Mon Mothma then secured an alliance with the Mon Calamari, who openly joined the Rebel Alliance and used their renowned skill in ship construction to supply badly needed capital ships that could take on the Imperial Navy. Their considerable fleet of Mon Calamari Star Cruisers gave the newly formed Alliance substantial firepower. Part of the Alliance's strategy was the doctrine of space denial. That is, the Alliance would attack Imperial shipping in hit and run raids; both to disrupt Imperial supplies and operations, and to confiscate desperately needed materials. In these situations, their fighters had hyperdrive capability along prearranged routes which would allow this kind of harassment and escape before the Empire could react. Destruction of Alderaan[] Because several key Alliance figures were held prisoner on it after the signing of the Corellian Treaty, the Alliance learned of the construction of the Death Star, an enormous terror weapon capable of destroying an entire planet, intended to secure the Empire's power. An operation headed by Princess Leia was successful in retrieving the schematics of the station, but Darth Vader discovered the act and captured Leia. In an effort to get the young princess to divulge the location of the secret Rebel base, Grand Moff Tarkin threatened to destroy her home planet of Alderaan. Yet, even after Leia gave him the location of an abandoned Rebel base, Tarkin ordered the Death Star to fire its primary weapon—a planet-destroying superlaser. Leia watched as billions of her fellow Alderaanians were murdered by the vicious superweapon, including Bail Organa. The Alliance would use this act as a propaganda tool to recruit more people into its ranks. A New Hope[] The Force was with the Alliance. Luke Skywalker, a young man from Tatooine, came under the tutelage of Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi, after stormtroopers destroyed his farm and killed his uncle and aunt. The aged Jedi had been watching Luke for a long time. Knowing his family history and importance to defeating the Emperor, Obi-Wan began training the boy as a Jedi. The duo, along with the droids C-3PO and R2-D2, secured passage on a freighter, Millennium Falcon. With the help of smuggler Han Solo and his Wookiee co-pilot Chewbacca, the group managed to free the Princess and deliver the plans to the Alliance. As a result, the Alliance succeeded in attacking and destroying the battle station, and also, in Luke, they gained their only loyal member with training in the use of the Force and the skills of the practically purged Jedi Knights. Galactic Civil War[] As a result of the Battle of Yavin, the Rebel Alliance gained credibility as a legitimate military opponent to the Empire. Between the effects of the battle and the dissolution of the Imperial Senate, thousands of star systems openly joined the Alliance in the months following the Death Star's destruction. As a result, the Empire began occupying worlds it had allowed to remain untouched earlier, both actions resulting in an escalation of the war. The Alliance could afford to waste no time following its major victory at Yavin. Following numerous raids on their Yavin 4 base, the Alliance relocated temporarily to a base on Thila while setting up a more permanent establishment on the ice planet Hoth. There were some setbacks, namely Garm Bel Iblis leaving the Alliance following a major disagreement with Mon Mothma to create his own rebellion. This was a blow to the Alliance, though it was offset by the joining of Borsk Fey'lya and his sizable faction of Bothans. Mon Mothma took steps to create a true navy for the Alliance, raising the Mon Calamari Ackbar to the rank of Admiral and appointing him to be Supreme Commander of the Rebel Fleet. Under Ackbar's leadership the fleet grew in size and ability. Along with the headquarters of the Rebel Alliance, Ackbar's fleet was the most important asset of the Rebellion. During this time Luke, Han, Leia, and their companions proved to be the most valuable Alliance members, performing countless crucial missions. The ensuing battles around the galaxy were a number of engagements between either side. Many were Rebel soldiers fighting to sabotage Imperial weapons or destroy Imperial facilities. A large number of people were inspired by the defeats of the Empire to join the Rebellion. However the might and oppressive nature of the Empire inspired others to join the Imperial Military. Loss of Hoth[] The Alliance suffered a setback when Echo Base, Alliance High Command's main base of operations on the planet Hoth, was discovered by an Imperial Probe droid and overrun by Darth Vader's forces. In the ensuing battle to escape, the Rebels used their large ground-based Ion Cannon weapon to disable several of the Star Destroyers in orbit, effectively punching temporary holes in the Imperial blockade long enough for Rebel Gallofree transports and other craft to escape the planet. The Alliance was forced to scatter, and remain mobile until the end of the war for fear of losing another main base. Therefore the High Command was transferred to the Rebel Fleet, using Ackbar's flagship Home One as their mobile base of operations. This was a dark time for the Alliance with the loss of men and equipment on Hoth as well as being forced into hiding from the Empire. Also Rebel hero Han Solo was captured while in Lando Calrissian's hospitality on Cloud City, subsequently frozen in carbonite, and sent to Jabba the Hutt on Tatooine by the bounty hunter Boba Fett. Furthermore, the secret shipyards in the Vergesso Asteroids were destroyed by Darth Vader's fleet. Crucial Victory at Endor[] News that a new and more powerful Imperial space station, Death Star II, was nearing completion, forced the Alliance to take its greatest risk. The entire Rebel Fleet was amassed near Sullust, in order to launch an attack on the installation before it could become operational. Most important to the decision to initiate this attack was the knowledge that the Emperor himself was overseeing the final stages of construction on board the Death Star. However, in secret, the Empire had organized it's forces there so that when the Rebel fleet was lured in, it would be destroyed. The plan backfired, and the subsequent Battle of Endor was a massive victory for the Alliance. Palpatine was dead; his Death Star destroyed, along with many Imperial warships. Darth Vader, who was redeemed by Luke Skywalker, his son, became Anakin Skywalker once again and sacrificed himself to kill Palpatine, saving Luke in the process. Reorganization into New Republic[] About one week after the death of the Emperor at Endor, Mon Mothma declared the Rebellion (which became the Alliance of Free Planets) to be at an end, one month after that, she declared the New Republic to be established as the successor state. The Alliance to Restore the Republic had succeeded—a new Republic was to be born, though in many people's eyes the movement only gained real legitimacy with the capture of Coruscant twice by Rogue Squadron and New Republic forces in 6.5 ABY. Command hierarchy and administration[] There were two main organizations that composed the main structure of the Alliance. These were the civil government and the military. Civil government[] The Alliance civil government was responsible for handling the numerous jobs of any planetary civil government—including protecting the Alliance peoples, revenue gathering, maintenance of vital services, foreign relations and defense. Many of these functions were left to each member world or government of the Alliance, such as Mon Calamari or the Atrivis sector. The civil government of the Alliance was broken down as follows: The Chief of State[] The Chief of State was the head of the Alliance. Essentially an elected dictatorship, the Chief of State had virtually unlimited power over the Alliance. Elections were held every two years, though in practice this was only a formality as Mon Mothma had unanimous support amongst the Alliance members. According to the Corellian Treaty, the position of Chief of State "will be abolished when the Emperor is deposed, killed, or resigns his position of power." When this happened, it was the duty of the Advisory Council to assume executive control of the Alliance and convene a Constitutional Convention to form a new Galactic Republic. The Advisory Council[] The Advisory Council was composed of representatives of seven Alliance governments who had given the most lives in battle to defeating the Empire. This council was the primary advisory body to the Chief of State, responsible for approving or disapproving the proposals of the Chief of State. Furthermore, the Advisory Council had the right to dismiss a Chief of State with a two-thirds majority vote, providing a check to the powers of the Chief. During most of the history of the Alliance, worlds like Alderaan, Dac, and Sullust were members of the Advisory Council, due to their extreme devotion and high losses of life suffered in Alliance service. The Alliance Cabinet[] The Rebel Alliance Cabinet was the device from which the Chief of State could maintain and run the Alliance. Each member was selected by Mon Mothma for their devotion, intelligence, and ability to get things done. The Cabinet was composed of the following ministries: Minister of Finance—responsible for overseeing Alliance funds. Minister of Education—maintained Alliance Intelligence and oversees propaganda. Minister of State—handled relations with other non-member governments. Minister of Industry—controlled all Alliance factories and production. Minister of Supply—maintained supply chain for Alliance military forces. Minister of War—advised Chief of State on directing Alliance military forces. The Allied Commands[] The Alliance Allied Commands were the individual governments of worlds, organizations, and groups that were members of the Alliance. Each Allied Command varied slightly depending on how each member world was organized, though in practice Allied Commands mimicked the structure of the Alliance government. Allied Commands ranged from member worlds like Mon Calamari or Alderaan to whole sectors like Atrivis or Churnis. Alliance military[] The Alliance military was charged with defeating the forces of the Galactic Empire and bringing down the Emperor’s reign of terror, a task to which all Rebel military personnel pledged themselves. Some were defectors from the Empire. Known bases[] Polis Massa Base Briggia Base Rudrig Rion Orion IV Delta Base on New Kisge Dantooine base on Dantooine Great Temple on Yavin 4 Tak Base on Talay Ring Base Thila Command on Thila Boz Pity Echo Base on Hoth Golrath Station on Golrath Haven Base on Arbra Endor Base Anchorhead Base on Tatooine Tierfon Rebel Base Zephyr Base on Rori Abrihom supply station platform Alliance worlds[] Though the Rebels lacked the resources of the Empire, they did control planets. Abridon Alderaan Alzoc III Averam Chandrila Dac Dantooine Delaya Gerrard V Hoth Ilum Kashyyyk Kalaan Kriselist Laakteen Depot Mygeeto Nentan New Plympto Ossus Polus Ralltiir Shola Sullust Taloraan Taris Telos IV Thyferra Togoria Utapau Virgillia 7 Major Members[] Ackbar—Admiral, Supreme Commander of the Alliance Fleet Wedge Antilles—Second in command/Commander of Rogue Squadron following Luke Skywalker's departure Walex Blissex—General and key engineer Baron Administrator of Cloud City Lando Calrissian—General, Commander of starfighter forces during Battle of Endor Airen Cracken—General, Supreme Commander of Intelligence Jan Dodonna—General, Commander of Massassi Station on Yavin 4 Borsk Fey'lya—Political Advisor; a leader of the Bothan Spynet Bob Hudsol—General, Commander of resistance forces in Bothan Space Senator Garm Bel Iblis—Senior General, Co-founder Crix Madine—General, Supreme Commander of Special Forces Galen Marek—Founder, Leader (Deceased - Sacrificed himself to save the other leaders aboard the Death Star I) Ferus Olin —Jedi Knight and Early Founder Pharl McQuarrie—General, Advisor to resistance forces on Ralltiir Senator Mon Mothma—Chief of State and Commander-in-Chief, Co-founder Ral'Rai Muvunc—Minister of Supply and Supreme Commander of Ordnance and Supply Senator Bail Organa—Co-founder (Deceased - Killed in the destruction of the planet Alderaan) Carlist Rieekan—General, Commander of Echo Base on Hoth Ristt—General, Commander of Ring Base Col Serra—Commander of Renegade Squadron Luke Skywalker—Commander of Rogue Squadron and Jedi Knight Leia Organa—Minister of State, Senior Diplomat, GeneralTemplate:Fact Han Solo—General, Commander of special forces team sent to Endor Chewbacca— Han Solo's first mate and key member of his rescue from Jabba's Palace Tardi—Minister of Finance Roons Sewell—General, Commander of Massassi Station on Yavin 4 Vanden Willard—General, Commander of Delta Base on New Kisge Vernan—General, Supreme Commander of Intelligence X2—Commander of Grey Squadron and Jedi Knight Rahm Kota—Commander of his own Militia that helped form the Rebellion, General and Jedi Master Command Structures[] Supreme Allied Commands Fleet Command Ordnance and Supply Command Starfighter Command Support Services Intelligence SpecForces Command Sector Command(s) Fictional military alliance in Star Wars This article has multiple issues. Please help improve it or discuss these issues on the talk page. (Learn how and when to remove these messages) This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources: "Rebel Alliance" – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (November 2022) (Learn how and when to remove this message) This article describes a work or element of fiction in a primarily in-universe style. Please help rewrite it to explain the fiction more clearly and provide non-fictional perspective. (November 2022) (Learn how and when to remove this message) (Learn how and when to remove this message) Alliance to Restore the RepublicRebel AllianceEmblem and Flag of the Rebel AllianceUniverseStar WarsFirst appearanceStar Wars (1977)Most recent appearanceAndor (2025)In-universe informationType Stateless resistance movement Pro-democratic republic coalition Anti-imperialist movement Self-determination movement Doctrine of asymmetric warfare Founded2 BBY, officially formed after Declaration of Rebellion is broadcast galaxy-wideDefunct5 ABY, dissolved after the Battle of Jakku and reorganised into the New RepublicLocationAlderaan, Atollon, Dantooine, Yavin, Hoth, Tureen VII, various other hidden basesLeader Senator/Chancellor Mon Mothma Senator Bail Organa Alliance High Command Key people Queen Breha Organa (until 0 BBY) Princess Leia Organa Fleet Admiral Gial Ackbar Admiral Raddus General Hera Syndulla General Jan Dodonna General Crix Madine Spymaster Ahsoka Tano Luthen Rael Alliance Cabinet TechnologiesPressurized rooms, medical droidsAffiliationsGalactic Republic, Alliance Army, Alliance Navy, Alliance Starfighter Corps, Jedi Order, Clandestine cell systemsEnemiesGalactic EmpireCurrencyGalactic Standard Credit (Imperial Dataries)Founding documentDeclaration of RebellionOfficial languageBasic The Rebel Alliance (known formally in-universe as the Alliance to Restore the Republic) is an organization that features in the fictional world of the Star Wars franchise. The Alliance is portrayed as a stateless coalition of rebel dissidents and defectors who oppose the Galactic Empire and its authoritarian rule. Its stated goal is to restore the governance of the previous Galactic Republic, which had been dissolved after its leader Palpatine seized absolute power and declared himself emperor. It is the main protagonistic faction of the original Star Wars trilogy. In the Star Wars universe, the rebel insurgency conducts covert operations on Imperial garrison worlds, utilizing a stateless strategy in conjunction with wolfpack-guerrilla warfare against the Imperial fleet throughout the galaxy. Capital ships are portrayed as having no place in the Rebellion, as they are described as expensive to build, maintain, and to keep fully crewed. The Rebellion is portrayed as far too limited in both manpower and resources to justify putting so much of both into a giant target. The Galactic Empire, on the other hand, is portrayed as capable of always fielding greater numbers and greater firepower. Being able to hit high-valued targets and get out is therefore depicted as being much more important to the Empire. While the Empire labels all dissenters and rebels as extremists and terrorists in Imperial propaganda, the Alliance is depicted and portrayed in various Star Wars media as a group of resilient freedom fighters, based on tolerance, self-empowerment, and hope for a better future using insurgency weapons and tactics. The Rebel Alliance was first featured as the main protagonistic faction in the films A New Hope (1977), The Empire Strikes Back (1980) and Return of the Jedi (1983). The faction's origins were alluded to in Revenge of the Sith (2005), and their early activities are featured in the Disney XD television series Rebels, the anthology film Rogue One (2016), and the Disney+ series Andor. Note: All dates in this article are in the BBY/ABY format. This is a fictional in-universe dating system centred on the Battle of Yavin in Episode IV: A New Hope in which the first Death Star is destroyed. BBY is Before the Battle of Yavin; ABY is After the Battle of Yavin.[1] Senator Mon Mothma – Co-founder; current commander-in-chief Senator Bail Organa – Co-founder; early constituting member and head of the Alliance Council Died during Episode IV: A New Hope, when the Death Star destroys Alderaan[2] Senator Padmé Amidala – Co-founder; early constituting member. She died a few days after founding the Alliance. (While the scene from Revenge of the Sith was deleted from the film, the information was affirmed by other official sources. Scene still present on Disney+)[3] Died during Episode III: Revenge of the Sith while giving birth to twins Luke and Leia; the latter was adopted by Organa. Luthen Rael - Co-founder, spymaster and co-ordinator of the Aldhani heist.[4] Significant dates in the uprising are: 19 BBY with the Delegation of 2000 Senators which demanded Chancellor Palpatine to lay down his emergency powers;[5] 5 BBY - the heist of the Imperial payroll vault on Aldhani. Proto-rebels including Cassian Andor steal 80 million credits to fund further anti-Imperial actions.[6] 2 BBY with Mon Mothma's formal Declaration of Rebellion.[5] The earliest possible origins of the Alliance to Restore the Republic are told during the events of Revenge of the Sith. In deleted scene 2 called "A Stirring in the Senate", a group of six Senators including Padmé Amidala, Mon Mothma and Bail Organa meet in the latter's office to discuss ways to counter the already unjustified extraordinary powers of Supreme Chancellor Palpatine "subverting the Constitution" as the Clone Wars were waning, with Mothma stating their goal was "preserving democracy within the Republic". Amidala was initially skeptical of Palpatine's evil intentions because he had supported her during the Trade Federation's occupation of Naboo (The Phantom Menace, 32 BBY), but Organa and Mon Mothma announced the formation of an anti-Palpatine 'organization'; the six Senators agreed to a pact of silence. In deleted scene 3 titled "Seeds of Rebellion" (in Amidala's apartment with two new Senators joining the group), it is explained that the Delegation of 2000 disgruntled Senators will present a petition to the Chancellor. Amidala was more willing to oppose Palpatine now, but wanted to involve the Jedi, at least Anakin Skywalker. However, aside from one Senator agreeing, the others doubted whether the Jedi Council would be loyal to the Republic or the Chancellor, and opted to wait.[note 1][8] Amidala died in premature childbirth not long after her last-ditch attempt to prevent Anakin's fall. In The Imperial Handbook, Grand Moff Tarkin related that most members of the Delegation of 2000 were arrested; Mothma and Organa retained their Senatorship by remaining outwardly obedient to Palpatine, while secretly leading the unification of disparate bands of insurgents into what they termed the Rebel Alliance.[5] The Disney series Rebels depicts the development of the rebellion against the Galactic Empire beginning five years before A New Hope (5 BBY) and fourteen years after the fall of the Galactic Republic and the Jedi Order in Revenge of the Sith (19 BBY).[9] The show focuses on a motley group of rebels (all of whom have been affected by the Empire in one form or another) that banded together aboard a freighter starship called Ghost.[9] They called themselves the Spectres and were led by Hera Syndulla.[10] By the end of the first season, it is revealed that there were various clandestine cell systems that were resisting the Empire, such as Jun Sato's Phoenix Squadron.[10] Senator Bail Organa (along with his wife, queen Breha Organa) of Alderaan and former Jedi Ahsoka Tano both play a pivotal role in coordinating these splinter cells into a legitimate threat capable of challenging Imperial rule.[10] Funded primarily by the Royal House of Alderaan, the alliance began to allocate resources towards a united front against Imperial rule.[10] The Spectres and Phoenix Squadron were later integrated into the Massassi Group based on Yavin 4, which by Rogue One (1 BBY) and A New Hope (0 BBY) was commanded by General Jan Dodonna.[10] One last important rebel cell that later became part of the Rebel Alliance was the Mon Calamari Exodus Fleet, commanded by Admiral Raddus and Admiral Ackbar, formed out of civilian spacecraft during the Imperial occupation of Mon Cala in 18 BBY (1 year into the Empire, 18 years prior to the Battle of Yavin).[10][11] Near the end of the third season of Rebels, in "Secret Cargo", Alliance co-founder Senator Mon Mothma, escaped assassination for condemning the Ghorman Massacre and speaking out against the Emperor (2 BBY).[5] She called out to the various rebel cells and insurgency factions to unite into a unified coalition: We, the beings of the Rebel Alliance, do this day send forth this Declaration to His Majesty, the Emperor, and to all sentient beings in the Galaxy, to make clear to all the Purposes and Goals of this Rebellion. We believe that the Galactic Empire has willfully and malignantly usurped the rights of the free beings of the Galaxy and therefore, it is our unalienable right to abolish it from the Galaxy. We, the Rebel Alliance, do therefore in the name—and by the authority—of the free beings of the Galaxy, solemnly publish and declare our intentions: To fight and oppose you and your forces, by any and all means at our disposal; To refuse any Imperial law contrary to the rights of free beings; To bring about your destruction and the destruction of the Galactic Empire; To make forever free all beings in the galaxy. To these ends, we pledge our property, our honor, and our lives.[12][13] Many rebel ships arrive at a rendezvous point above Dantooine to unite and form the "Alliance to Restore the Republic".[5] Further information: List of Star Wars Rebels characters Gial Ackbar – Admiral and Commander of the Alliance fleet at the Battle of Endor. Cassian Andor – Pilot and Intelligence Officer. Killed in action during Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, in the Battle of Scarif. Crix Madine – General of the Alliance Special Forces. Ahsoka Tano – Former Jedi Padawan; covert operations spymaster and first 'Fulcrum' agent. Breha Organa – Adoptive mother of Leia Organa; ruling monarch of Alderaan; manager of the Rebel Alliance's funds, as revealed in the 2017 novel, Leia: Princess of Alderaan. Played a pivotal role in securing Alderaan's support for the Rebel Alliance as its primary galactic advocate. Killed during Episode IV: A New Hope, when the Death Star destroys Alderaan. Wedge Antilles – Commander of Rogue Squadron; Marshal of the Alliance Starfighter Corps; the only combatant to have survived two separate attack runs on the Death Stars. Raymus Antilles – Captain of the famous Alderaanian cruiser Tantive IV. Escort to members of the Royal House of Alderaan. Killed in action during Episode IV: A New Hope by Darth Vader. Lando Calrissian – General and former Cloud City administrator. Carlist Rieekan – General and Commander of the Alliance's Echo Base on Hoth. Jan Dodonna – General and Commander of the Alliance's Base One on Yavin 4. Hera Syndulla – General and pilot of the Ghost. Luke Skywalker – Commander and Jedi Knight; former Commander of Rogue Squadron and former Grand Master of the New Jedi Order. Leia Organa – Representative of the planet Alderaan in the Imperial Senate and Senior diplomat of the Alliance; General of the Resistance. Han Solo – General and former smuggler pilot of the Millennium Falcon. The Alliance Military and its activities were overseen by Alliance High Command, who managed the logistical and strategic matters of the Rebellion's efforts against the dominant Galactic Empire. Alliance Intelligence was headed by Spymaster Bail Organa and Spymaster Ahsoka Tano, which proved essential for maintaining communications, finding missions for the various Alliance Cells, and coordinating the Alliance's highly decentralized structure. At the time of the Battle of Endor, its chief commanders were: Gial Ackbar serving as Admiral of the Alliance Starfleet; Jan Dodonna serving as General of the Alliance Grand Army; Crix Madine serving as General of Alliance Pathfinders. The Alliance military could never decisively win a "land war" with the Empire. Generally speaking, the quality of Alliance infantry varied greatly by unit. Due to the highly decentralized structure of the Alliance, these units often operated independently with little oversight, and were frequently lacking in discipline, equipment, intelligence and combat skills. They often consisted of convicts, street thugs, pirates, outlaws, and anyone whose profession placed them at odds with the Empire. These infantry were tolerated by Alliance Command, both for their willingness to mount an insurgency against the Empire, and for them being expendable. Mission critical operations were carried out by few standardized special forces units, dubbed "pathfinders", who had previous military training for infiltration, were experienced in asymmetrical warfare, and were capable of operating indefinitely without resupply. Pathfinders volunteered in the Battle of Scarif under Cassian Andor, and spearheaded the ground assault during the Battle of Endor. The Alliance military largely consisted of mothballed, improvised, repurposed, or stolen civilian ships from dozens of manufacturers; they lacked the means, resources or shipyards to build, maintain and crew thousands of military-grade capital ships. The Alliance constantly had to change bases and their carrier ships routinely had to escape into hyperspace before recovering their fighter complement. The biggest and most powerful warship they had available were several MC80 star cruisers supplied to the Alliance by Mon Calamari, but the Alliance Fleet kept these in reserve and never risked deploying them, even when strategically critical bases in Atollon, Yavin, and Hoth came under siege. The Alliance fleet is geared towards fabian strategy, space superiority, wolfpack operations, hit-and-run tactics, secret missions, subterfuge, and general elements of a stateless military grand strategy. They used gunships and corvettes to screen Imperial starfighters. Their warships carried a complement of expensive starfighters equipped with FTL hyperdrives and deflector shields that traveled alongside the fleet. This was in contrast to Imperial naval doctrine, whose TIE-series starfighters were lightly armored and lacked hyperdrives to lower unit cost and discourage pilot defection. The Alliance's focus on small light combat ships and on starfighters allowed them to effectively fight the Galactic Empire's well-funded and well-armed military. The Alliance Starfleet almost never become decisively engaged or placed their ships at risk; they avoided pitched battles, frontal assaults, wars of attrition and conventional, symmetric engagements with the Imperials at all costs. Instead of engaging the Imperials in open firefights, the Rebel Alliance largely embraced flexible non-committal attack tactics utilizing mainly fast attack CR90 corvettes supplied to the Alliance by Alderaan. The Imperial leadership considered collateral damage as "acceptable margins" in rooting out insurgents; this contrasted against the Alliance's surgical precision to avoid civilian casualties. To minimize losses, the Alliance military leadership heavily favored carrier battle groups supporting starfighter strike crafts for fast-attack style of warfare, thereby leveraging a decisive advantage over the Galactic Empire's "big powerful ships" doctrine. Anti-Imperial operations emphasized depredation and delayed actions, covertly relocating compromised bases to another secured system, interdiction in slowing down the Imperials' momentum, and inflicting maximum damage on the enemy without, in principle, becoming decisively engaged. The Alliance finds its strength almost entirely in the starfighter arena, offering some of the most effective and versatile small strike craft within Star Wars canon. The Alliance was plagued by lack of resources: it was low on fighters, manpower, real estate. Jan Dodonna believed unsupported hyperspace-capable starfighters could undermine the Empire's control of space and demonstrated this to the galaxy by winning high-profile victories: Star Destroyers, shipyards, local fleets and the Death Star.[14] Despite the Corps' high-maintenance costs and being chronically understaffed, with starfighter logistics, aerospace engineers and veteran pilots being limited in numbers, the Alliance doctrine—raiding targets before they could mount a defense, then leaving—proved flawless in singling out vulnerable targets and attacking only when they had strength, and only when the results were spectacular. Seventy percent of sorties were reconnaissance missions: finding targets for starfighter raids became the top priority of Alliance intelligence. The introduction of the A-wing, B-wing and X-wing, along with the former Imperial officers who piloted them, only improved upon that advantage. Gold Squadron, commanded by Jon Vander, was an BTL-A4 Y-wing light bomber squadron that served as part of the Rebel Alliance's elite starfighter corps during the Galactic Civil War. This unit was instrumental in escorting Senator Mon Mothma safely to Dantooine, participated in the Battle of Scarif, and was nearly wiped out by Darth Vader in the Battle of Yavin. Under the command of Lando Calrissian, it succeeded in destroying the second Death Star's reactor during the Battle of Endor. Green Squadron, commanded by Arvel Crynyd, was a RZ-1 A-wing interceptor squadron that served as part of the Rebel Alliance's starfighter corps during the Galactic Civil War. The squadron most notably participated in the Alliance's most decisive campaigns, including: the Battle of Atollon; the Battle of Scarif; and the Battle of Endor. It was Arvel Cyrnyd who crashed his A-wing into the bridge of the Executor, thereby disabling the ship. Red Squadron, commanded by Garven Dreis, was a T-65B X-wing starfighter squadron that served as part of the Rebel Alliance's starfighter corps during the Galactic Civil War. The squadron most notably participated in the Alliance's most decisive campaigns, including: the Battle of Scarif; the Battle of Vrogas Vas; the Battle of Hoth; and the Battle of Endor. Blue Squadron, commanded by Antoc Merrick, was an airspeeder and starfighter squadron that served as part of the Rebel Alliance's elite starfighter corps during the Galactic Civil War. The squadron most notably participated in the Alliance's most decisive campaigns, including: the Battle of Scarif; the Siege on Tureen VII; the Battle of Hoth; and the Battle of Endor. Rogue Squadron, commanded by Wedge Antilles, was a starfighter squadron in the Star Wars franchise. The squadron appears in The Empire Strikes Back (1980) as "Rogue Group". In the 2016 film Rogue One, rebel fighters on a suicide mission to steal the plans for the Death Star (which causes the Battle of Scarif) self-identify as "Rogue One", a possible precursor to Rogue Squadron.[15] Main article: Galactic Civil War The fall of the Old Republic and the birth of the Empire, as depicted in Revenge of the Sith, marked the beginning of the bloody Galactic Civil War. Galactic Empire See also: Galactic Empire (Star Wars) Alliance to Restore the Republic Despite the great deal of ideological compromise and strong inspirational leadership, the Alliance was a political faction coalition that was never a single cohesive unit during its entire existence. Mon Mothma, despite being commander in chief, actually had no real power to command all of the various factions that supported her cause. As depicted in Rogue One, every faction voted on major military and political decisions, but had maximum autonomy, with their own independent chain of commands, and were otherwise free to conduct their own anti-Imperial operations as they deem fit. Leaders of these individual factions would choose what missions they wanted to participate and refused those when they believed was detrimental to their unit. The goal was to stay alive and not get destroyed by the Empire. Bail Organa's Resistance - Born out of the Delegation of 2000, Bail Organa used his Senate diplomatic privileges, his own household guard in the Alderaanian Diplomatic Corps, and refugee aid programs to cover for a complex operation that were foundational of a wider rebel movement. Bail Organa established a network of informants, with spymasters known as "Fulcrum", who played key role in informing the Rebellion of the Empire's actions and goals. Bail Organa clandestinely deposited bunkers, ships, weapons, and resource caches on various "rebel safe worlds" all across the galaxy; many of these assets were later repurposed by General Leia Organa's Resistance. Massassi group - Essentially the Rebellion's first regular battle-hardened professional soldiers, Massassi are the largest, most disciplined, best trained and well-armed rebel faction; smaller than a Fleet, but large enough to carry out tactical operations against the empire. An ad hoc headquarters, Massassi operations focused on protecting Rebellion VIPs; General Jan Dodonna formed the core leadership of this group. A Clone Wars veteran Republic officer, Jan Dodonna was amongst the first captains commissioned a newly designed Imperial-class Star Destroyer ship of the line; right before he defected to the Rebellion. An individual with intimate doctrinal knowledge of the Imperial fleets down to the schematics of their individual ships, how they operate and all of their weaknesses. Jan Dodonna developed tactical doctrines, the mix of starfighters, corvettes, and blockade runners that formed the core of their fleet, and a military fighting force that perfectly countered the Imperial Navy's slower and heavily armed feet. After engaging the Battles of Scarif and Yavin 4, the Massassi group was disbanded to avoid capture by Darth Vader's ruthlessly efficient anti-rebel purging operations. Phoenix Fleet - The Rebellion had clandestine cell systems spread all across the galaxy, each assigned to a specific sector, tasked with harassing Imperial supply lines and raiding Imperial outposts. As depicted in Star Wars Rebels, Phoenix cell were amongst the most effective rebel cells; it was active as early as 4 BBY; assigned to the strategically important Lothal system. Lothal was home to many essential minerals and natural resource extraction sites necessary for the Imperial military industrial complex, and hosted Senar Fleet Systems' experimental "TIE Defender" operation. Phoenix Cell tied up a disproportionate amount of Imperial resources on Lothal and proved so disruptive for the local Garrison, the Empire sent their top leaders in a desperate attempt to quash Phoenix cell: Grand Moff Tarkin, Colonel Wulff Yularen, Grand Admiral Thrawn and Darth Vader. They were involved in the Battle of Atollon and the Escape of Mon Mothma. In 1 BBY, Phoenix Cell successfully dismantled TIE Defender mass production, liberated Lothal from Imperial control and banished Thrawn's Fleet, along with the chiss himself to another galaxy; making it amongst the first decisive victories for the Rebellion at the sector level. Mon Cala Planetary Defense Force (PDF) - Following the Galactic Empire's occupation of Mon Calamari in 18 BBY, under the command of Admiral Raddus, the PDF fought in a successful underwater campaign and converted many of the large underwater cities' civic buildings into warships. A large number of Mon Calamari escaped, forming the "Mon Calamari Exodus Fleet". These "buildings", the MC75 Star Cruisers were the largest ship of the line the alliance had access to. The Mon Calamari people had a historic reputation as shipbuilders, sailors, and navigators. Admiral Raddus would perish at the Battle of Scarif when his ship was boarded by Darth Vader. Post-Battle of Yavin the Mon Calamari Mercantile Fleet, commanded by Captain Ackbar, defected to the Rebellion, bringing several MC80 Cruisers which would form the backbone of the Rebel Navy. Axis Network - An intelligence unit led by Luthen Rael. As depicted in Star Wars Andor, its main purpose was two-fold: to unite all rebellious factions into an Alliance capable of resistance, and provoking the Empire into a brutal crack-down on the civilian populace to further fuel dissidence. The Axis Network knew that unless all factions cooperated, none will ever achieved anything more than small tactical victories. Partisans - An terrorist extremists group led by Saw Gerrera. Partisans launch more successful raids than any other faction against Imperial facilities; ruthless in their execution, obsessed with inflicting maximum damage against the Empire, with zero reservations to civilian mass casualties. The Partisans are Clone Wars veterans, who for twenty years, had been engaged against the Empire since day one of the Republic's collapse. Partisans are masters in asymmetrical warfare, being trained by the Republic Special Forces on Saw's home world of Onderon to resist the Separatists occupation of his planet. The Partisans never formally joined the Alliance; the cynical Saw Gerrera hated Mon Mothma's idealism and considered all other factions as traitors for working with former enemies and cowards unwilling to fight dirty. In response, the Alliance distanced themselves from the politically damaging Partisans, and ordered for Saw Gerrera to be assassinated for his war crimes. Partisans would die on Jedha after briefly liberating the planet, when the Empire tested its Death Star superweapon. Neo Separatists - Remnants of the Confederacy of Independent Systems, Neo Separatists are surviving hold outs who in their minds, are still fighting the Clone Wars; the Republic now calls itself the Empire, but its still the same enemy. They remain mobile and strike at the Empire in any way possible. Unlike the larger rebel movement, the Neo Separatists are eager to end this war and free their home worlds from Imperial Occupation, and so are quite ruthless and impulsive in their actions. Free Ryloth - The people of Ryloth suffered greatly during the Clone Wars, when separatist forces occupied and pillaged the planet for resources. The resistance leader Cham Syndulla, with the help of Republic Clone forces, beat back the Confederacy; however, in the post-war period, it became very obvious that the newly formed Empire were not liberators, but occupiers with no intention to leave. Cham Syndulla lead a new insurgency, the Free Ryloth movement, which focused defensive tactics and on domestic issues. His daughter, Hera Syndulla, would leave to join Phoenix Fleet, knowing that cooperation was the best way to free her home world. Cloud Riders - Pirates and marauders that would raid settlements, harass Imperial logistical networks and other soft Targets in the Imperial military; their goal was to ultimately raise funds so that they could fight the Empire. This organization was started because the individuals making up this organization were all fleeing oppression from the Empire and the many criminal syndicates that supported the Empire. Crimson Dawn - As depicted in Solo: A Star Wars Story, Qira the new leader of the Crimson Dawn; she had an ambitious plan to use the criminal underworld to create chaos in the Empire; her immediate goals are aligned with the Alliance. As portrayed in the live-action series Andor, one single moment in Galactic history completely changed the Empire's policy towards its citizens and therefore changed its relationship with its citizens. In 5 BBY, on the relatively unremarkable planet of Aldhani, a small rebel team managed to infiltrate the local Imperial depository, stealing a decent portion of the sector payroll. This created a massive Imperial overreaction, increasing their security spending and draconian law enforcement policies, making all future rebellious activity even more costly and difficult, which is exactly what the mastermind of this heist Luthen Rael wanted. Luthen Rael's objective is uniting dozens of different insurgent and rebel factions who are all individually fighting the Empire; he believes provoking the Empire's brutality will force these factions into a Coalition and turn them into a real fighting force. As the Empire tightened their grip, more star systems slipped from their grasps.[16] During the funeral procession in Daughter of Ferrix, a holographic message Maarva Andor had pre-recorded inspired the people of Ferrix to rise up against the Empire and form a resistance movement. A planet-wide riot spontaneously erupted as residents charged the Imperial checkpoints and garrisons; this riot became a massacre as Imperials troops were ordered to fire indiscriminately into the crowd. The Rebels episode, "Zero Hour", demonstrates the Imperials' absolute naval supremacy when they successfully entrapped the "Phoenix Fleet" during the Battle of Atollon, and forced them in engaging on equal footing; resulting a decisive victory for the Imperials and the total decimation of the rebel

fleet. Phoenix Cell would successfully liberated Lothal from Imperial control in 1 BBY and banished Thrawn's Fleet to another galaxy; making it amongst the first decisive victories for the Rebellion at the sector level. During the events of Rogue One and A New Hope, the Alliance learns of the construction of the 'Death Star', an enormous superweapon capable of obliterating entire planets, intended to cement the Empire's rule of terror. Intelligence gathered reveals that a Death Star engineer antipathetic to the causes of the Empire had intentionally included a design flaw that, if exploited, could bring down the entire station. With the help of the Rogue One squad led by Jyn Erso and Cassian Andor, a rebel assault on an Imperial facility on the heavily defended planet Scarif successfully manages to capture schematics of the Death Star. The Battle of Scarif was the first major conventional engagement against the Empire, and ended in a pyrrhic victory; all members of Rogue One are killed in action, and the rebel fleet was decimated. After successfully capturing the Death Star plans, Alderaanian soldiers aboard a Mon Calamari flagship barely manage to escape the 501st Legion and Death Squadron with the stolen data plans. Immediately following the Battle of Scarif, the Tantive IV, an Alderaanian corvette carrying Princess Leia Organa is captured by Vader's flagship, Imperial I-class Star Destroyer Devastator, while attempting to deliver the plans to Bail Organa on Alderaan. All members of the Alderaanian Consular Security onboard are either killed or taken prisoner and Princess Leia Organa is held hostage for a time by Darth Vader. In order to punish both her and her home planet's central involvement in the Rebel Alliance, Leia is forced to witness Alderaan's destruction by the Death Star. The Princess is subsequently rescued by Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Chewbacca, and Obi-Wan Kenobi, who then deliver the station schematics to the Alliance. Subsequent analysis of the schematics reveals the critical vulnerability to be an exhaust port leading directly to the station's reactor core. The Empire discovers the location of the primary Alliance headquarters on a moon of the planet Yavin through a tracking device covertly planted on Han Solo's vessel, and deploys the Death Star to destroy the base and crush the insurgency once and for all. During the ensuing battle of Yavin, rebel starfighter squadrons lead an assault on the Death Star in a last-ditch attempt to exploit the vulnerability before it could fire upon the rebel base. Despite fighters sustaining heavy losses, one pilot—the Force-sensitive Luke Skywalker—successfully guides torpedoes down the exhaust port. The Death Star is obliterated in a catastrophic explosion, and the battle ends in a decisive rebel victory. In the Star Wars comics, the Rebellion wins numerous victories against the Empire after the destruction of the Death Star, destroying its major weapons factory on Cymoon 1, breaking an Imperial blockade around the rebel world of Tureen VII by stealing the Imperial I-class Star Destroyer Harbinger and recruiting the Mon Calamari trading fleet to be refitted as an assault fleet. Such firepower would finally allow the Alliance to attack the Empire on a larger scale. However, one of the Rebellion's allies, Queen Trios of Shu-Torun (whose world's technology had been fitted into the ships of the new rebel fleet), revealed herself as an undercover Imperial agent sent by Darth Vader to sabotage their efforts. With their ships unexpectedly paralyzed by the Shu-Torun technology, the gathered rebel fleet could do little as they were targeted for destruction by Vader's Imperial fleet. Half the rebel ships were destroyed in the battle before Leia found a way around the sabotage and allowed the remaining ships to escape. However, Generals Jan Dodonna and Davits Draven, as well as several other high-ranking rebel officers, were killed during the battle and the remaining rebel ships were separated in their flight. Mon Mothma instructed all rebel cells to regroup in time while striking out at the Empire when and how they could. Not until the Battle of Endor would the whole force of the Rebellion be once again united in a single place. In The Empire Strikes Back, the Alliance suffers a crushing defeat on Hoth when one of their main command centers, Echo Base, is overrun by the Darth Vader's elite personal Imperial armed forces, the Death Squadron and the 501st Legion. The remaining forces of the Rebellion are forced to stay mobile, using Admiral Ackbar's flagship, Home One, as their headquarters. By Return of the Jedi, the Alliance has regrouped and learned that a second, more powerful Death Star is being constructed, and will be completed under Emperor Palpatine's personal supervision. Mon Mothma has Admiral Ackbar and Lando Calrissian command the Alliance fleet and dispatches Han Solo and Princess Leia in leading Alliance's elite special forces to disable the station's defenses while Luke distracts Darth Vader. The Alliance subsequently wins the Battle of Endor, in which Emperor Palpatine, Darth Vader, the Death Squadron-Imperial armada, and much of the Imperial hierarchy are killed in action. The loss of the second Death Star and other invaluable Imperial naval assets, along with the deaths of Imperial leaders aboard, marked the beginning of the end of Imperial rule over the galaxy. Main article: Resistance (Star Wars) See also: New Republic (Star Wars) Following their victory at the Battle of Endor, a provisional New Republic was officially formed by Alliance members. This political momentum, combined with the Imperial power vacuum, political infighting, and Operation Cinder—Palpatine's post-mortem scorched earth contingency plan—encouraged thousands of inhabited planets to either declare independence from the collapsing Empire or defect to the Alliance. The New Republic found itself with no shortage of recruits and resources: the declining popularity of the Empire pushed many long time Imperial loyalists to the rebel cause, including those of Inferno Squadron, who after Operation Cinder, which saw the destruction of countless Imperial worlds, opened the eyes of many to the atrocities of the Empire. Even the most dedicated Imperials such as Inferno Squadron commander Iden Versio were moved to defect after the witnessing the destruction of her homeworld Vardos. Finally realizing the Empire's propaganda had deceived them, many Imperials began to feel shame over their actions, in particular over the destruction of Alderaan. Despite fact that the New Republic was now winning the war, had a lot more resources than before—and a lot more recruits—the New Republic was suffering from logistic nightmares. The decentralized structure that served them well became a liability; described as "a ragtag force strategically ill-fed and cobbled together of incompatible ships and squadrons".[17] The Alliance fleet shifted military doctrine; the guerrilla warfare aspect of the grand strategy was de-emphasized, and conventional forces took over the primary prosecution of the war. Once the New Republic became powerful enough, the Alliance fleet was reorganized into the New Republic Military, charged with the defense of the New Republic. About a year after the Battle of Endor, the Rebellion defeated Imperial forces during the Battle of Jakku, formally established the New Republic government, and suspends offensive operations.[18] Thus, the Galactic Civil War came to a close. Three decades later, by the time of The Force Awakens, the New Republic backed the Resistance army, a successor of the Alliance, to stand against the First Order, a new military power formed by hardline remnants from the Empire.[19] Further information: Star Wars expanded to other media After Disney's acquisition of the franchise, Lucasfilm announced in 2014 that previous works outside the theatrical films and The Clone Wars would no longer be considered canon, but began to be republished under the Legends banner.[20] According to Star Wars: The Roleplaying Game, the Cantham House Meetings of Coruscant, including the participation of Senators Mon Mothma and Bail Organa, take place with the purpose of discussing the formation of a Galactic Alliance in opposition to Palpatine's Galactic Empire. In addition, the RPG tells that although throughout the galaxy many sectors are already fighting against Imperial interests, resistance is relatively quiet until the incident on the planet Ghorman, which takes place 18 years before the Battle of Yavin. The incident begins when an Imperial military cruiser commanded by Captain Wilhuff Tarkin is blocked by peaceful anti-Empire protesters who refuse to move off the ship's landing pad. With implied permission from the Emperor, Tarkin lands the ship anyway, injuring and killing many, an incident that history would record as the Ghorman Massacre.[21] The myriad of civilizations which are fighting the Empire continue to grow in number and progressively coalesce into a ragtag organization known as the Resistance. They intend upon removing the evil Emperor, but the growing ruthlessness of the Imperial state forces them into secrecy, as they are initially unable to undermine the Empire's regime. The RPG tells that part of the strategy of the Rebel Alliance is the Doctrine of Space Denial, wherein the Rebellion would attack Imperial shipping frigates in hit and run raids, both to disrupt Imperial supplies and operations, and also to loot desperately needed materials. These rebel starfighters were equipped with hyperdrive capability along prearranged routes which would allow this kind of harassment and escape before the Empire may react.[21] The video game The Force Unleashed presents a differing view of the Alliance's beginnings, hinting that the Emperor actually secretly pushed for its formation. Palpatine clandestinely bids for the creation of another opposing force, intent on starting yet another war in order to consolidate his power with the fledgling Empire, just as he had done earlier with the Confederacy of Independent Systems. The Emperor orders his apprentice Darth Vader to use his own secret apprentice, Galen Marek (called "Starkiller"), as a pawn to gather together the Empire's enemies, manipulating him into believing that the intention is to start a rebellion. Vader quickly realizes that this is obviously a ploy by Palpatine in order to lure any significant rebels into a trap; however, it is unclear whether Vader (or the Emperor) had intended for the Rebellion to survive. At the supposedly secret meeting known as the Corellian Treaty, Mon Mothma, Bail Organa, Garm Bel Iblis, Jedi-General Rahm Kota, and others meet to formally create the Rebellion against the Empire. However, the proceedings are ambushed by Vader under orders from the Emperor, whom had actually secretly orchestrated the Treaty himself in order to gather all the rebel leaders together and eliminate them. Starkiller, now aligned with the Rebellion after two betrayals by his former master, manages to save the principal founders from the Empire, though at the cost of his own life. Regrouping on Kashyyyk, the Senators formally proclaim an open Declaration of Rebellion, which states the grievances of the Empire against the Alliance to Restore the Republic and concludes with an open threat to depose the Emperor. This marks the formal "founding" of the Rebel Alliance, and Galen Marek's family crest is chosen by Leia as its official symbol.[22] Thus, the Rebel Alliance is effectively founded by Darth Vader himself, and, by extension, Emperor Palpatine, though it is clear neither had imagined that the Alliance would actually ever become a serious threat. The Galactic Civil War consequently ensues, during which the Rebellion confronts the Empire many times throughout the galaxy. Empire at War depicts various allies contributing secretly to the Alliance, slowly making the united Rebel Force more powerful. The most notable equipment contributions include the defection of the Incom Corporation staff and all relevant material involved in the development of an advanced spacefighter, the X-wing.[23] A "Declaration of Rebellion" was depicted in the 1990 book The Star Wars Rebel Alliance Sourcebook. After its victory on Endor, the Rebellion was temporarily stationed there and renamed the "Alliance of Free Planets".[24] Canon members: General Leia Organa Senator Bail Organa Admiral Raddus – Captain of the Profundity Nien Nunb – Rebel Engineer and pilot Han Solo – Captain of the Millennium Falcon Hera Syndulla – Pilot, leader of the Phoenix Squadron Commander Sato Jyn Erso – Member of the Rogue One group Senator Bana Breemu – Co-founder; early constituting member (deceased) Senator Garm Bel Iblis – Co-founder; financed private army to fight against the Empire; rejoined Alliance during the Thrawn campaign. Senator Bail Organa of the Imperial Senate (deceased) Senator Mon Mothma of the Imperial Senate Col Serra – Commander of Renegade Squadron Ylenic It'kla – Commander and Jedi Knight who escaped Order 66, serving as a personal aide to Bail Organa on Alderaan. Works with Alderaanian authorities to coordinate rebel activity. Qu Rahn – General and Jedi Master who survived Order 66, mostly due to his connection and training with Yoda. Rahm Kota – General and former Jedi Master who survived Order 66, thanks to the aid of his own private militia. Echuu Shen-Jon – General and Jedi Master who survived Order 66, thanks to his exile on Krant. Talon Karrde – General and former smuggler who aided the New Republic during the Thrawn campaign. Galactic Republic Galactic Empire New Republic Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith (2005; founded in a deleted scene) Star Wars: The Bad Batch (2021–2024) (Mentioned only) Solo: A Star Wars Story (2018) Andor (2022−2025) Star Wars Rebels (2014–2018) Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (2016) Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope (1977) (First appearance) Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980) Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi (1983) Star Wars Battlefront (2015) Star Wars Battlefront II (2017) The Mandalorian (2019–2023) (Mentioned only) Ahsoka (2023−present) (Mentioned only) Star Wars Resistance (2018−2020) (Mentioned only) Star Wars: The Force Awakens (2015) (Mentioned only) Star Wars: The Last Jedi (2017) (Mentioned only) ^ These deleted scenes were included in the 2005 DVD home edition, with director George Lucas stating: 'There is an entire sub-plot with Padmé joining the Rebel Alliance with Mon Mothma and Bail Organa. This was really her story that was going along at the same time that Anakin was being seduced by Palpatine in the beginning before he turns. And ultimately, we decided that it was very important that we focus on Anakin's story. So it was with deep regrets that I had to—to let that whole sub-plot go.'[7] ^ "26 years ago, Star Wars fans invented their own calendar system — 'Andor' finally makes it canon". Inverse. 21 September 2022. Retrieved 2023-03-28. ^ "Databank: Bail Organa". StarWars.com. Archived from the original on July 6, 2017. Retrieved November 30, 2018. ^ "Databank: Rebel Alliance". StarWars.com. Archived from the original on 2017-09-02. Retrieved November 30, 2018. ^ "Databank:Luthen Rael". StarWars.com. Retrieved May 4, 2025. ^ a b c d e Frankel, Valerie Estelle (2018). Star Wars Meets the Eras of Feminism: Weighing All the Galaxy's Women Great and Small. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield. p. 38. ISBN 9781498583879. Retrieved 10 April 2021. ^ "The Eye Episode Guide". 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