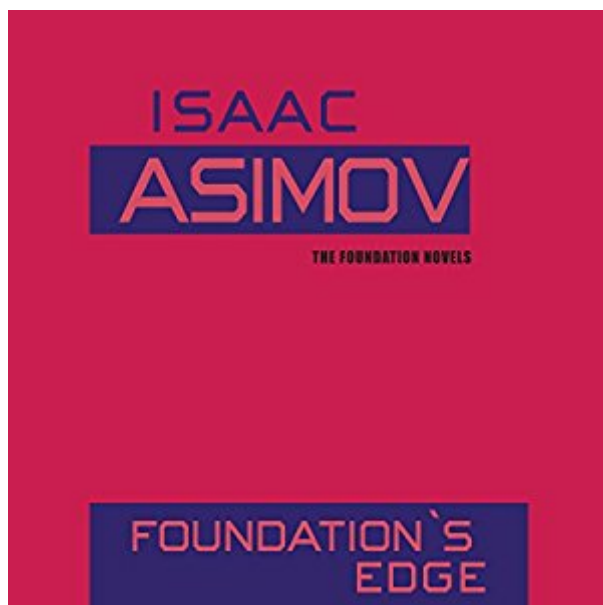


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Foundation's Edge



Synopsis

At last, the costly and bitter war between the two Foundations had come to an end. The scientists of the First Foundation had proved victorious; and now they return to Hari Seldon's long-established plan to build a new Empire that the Second Foundation is not destroyed after all - and that its still-defiant survivors are preparing their revenge. Now the two exiled citizens of the Foundation - a renegade Councilman and the doddering historian-set out in search of the mythical planet Earth... and proof that the Second Foundation still exists. Meanwhile, someone - or something - outside of both Foundations seems to be orchestrating events to suit its own ominous purpose. Soon representatives of both the First and Second Foundations will find themselves racing toward a mysterious world called Gaia and a final shocking destiny at the very end of the universe!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Foundation's Edge (Foundation Novels) is the immediate sequel to the Foundation Trilogy, written some 30 years after the original series. The first two thirds of the story renews the jealous pursuit of the Second Foundation by the First. Woven in nice counterpoint, the Second Foundation finds itself in a crisis. These two threads are pursued with considerable momentum in a madcap three way chase in which the three main characters strive to discover Earth, the Second Foundation, and a mysterious third power in the Galaxy, simultaneously! Alas, when the mysterious third power, Gaia, is found, things go rapidly downhill. At this point, the plot devolves into an extensive description of a planet that has become a single conscious entity, with every person and object joined via telepathy.

To provide some relief from this endless discussion, one 23-year-old, organically human, female portion of Gaia, named Bliss, becomes romantically, sexually, and unbelievably involved with Pelorat, a well-aged, naive Earth-lore scholar. Neither of these developments sustains the drama and excitement of the first part of the book, and the explorations of the psychological and philosophical aspects of Gaia seem interminable. I consider this book marginally successful as an extension of the original trilogy. Overall, it's a moderately good SciFi read. However, from my own perspective, I would limit the Foundation Series to the two prequels (Â Prelude to Foundation (Foundation, Book 1)Â andÂ Forward the FoundationÂ) plus the original trilogy (Â The Foundation TrilogyÂ). If forced to choose only three books, I'd stick with the original trilogy, which rank among the very best science fiction novels.*** SPOILER WARNING ***The least appealing feature of "Foundation's Edge" is the character of I/we/Gaia itself. Gaia is a very strange mix of power/helplessness and competence/incompetence that results from an extension of the Laws of Robotics and robots' telepathic abilities into the realm of "human" life. The resulting entity can use mental power to manipulate the physical universe, but at the same time is unable to decide whether it is the proper future for all of humanity. In this connection, the mighty Gaia relies on a single human being, Golan Trevize, who (supposedly) has the uncanny ability to make right decisions on the basis of inadequate information. Until the time setting of this book, Gaia has secretly reinforced the Seldon Plan, making the plan proceed more smoothly than could be expected. From the time of this story into the future, the Seldon Plan becomes a meaningless shell. The First Foundation and the Second Foundation are deluded into thinking that each is exclusively guiding humanity, while in the background, Gaia (with occasional help from Trevize) will be building the true future.

Seriously, how is anyone supposed to write a review on a master like Asimov. It is just the best of the originals..I am always amazed how items written about as science fiction decades ago have come true and others that may yet be possible. I first started reading Asimov in 6th grade mid 1980s, I have re-read his works again and again. Each time new things are now possible that he wrote about, that were not before. Also an involving story that makes you wonder, question and think.

If you haven't read the Foundation books - lucky you, you get to read them! However, I recommend reading them in the order of the chronology of the story itself - which is not the same order in which the books were written. I had heard of the Foundation Trilogy, so that's what I read first. Oh, but there are also 2 prequel books to the Trilogy, and 2 sequel books as well. That said, the writing is

quite good in character and plot development, as well as exploring issues around the nature of human beings, human and machine intelligence, and a BIG PICTURE!

Of all the science fiction stories that Asimov wrote, this and *Robots of Dawn* are the two best. Of course all of Asimov's science fiction novels are stellar but in a stellar constellation these two are outstanding. The level of creativity here is marvelous. The *Foundation Trilogy* was great and I have read all three many times and enjoyed each on the fifteenth reading as much as on the first. Asimov is not a grand master for nothing. But *Foundation's Edge* is so far above the first three on every level: especially characterization and plot development not to mention the fabulous ending. After *Foundation's Edge* and *Robots of Dawn* Asimov went on to write another Robot novel and three more *Foundation* novels but they were rather disappointing. They were formulaic. I suppose every author that writes a series uses a formula but it doesn't do to let the bones of the formula show through. In the fourth Robot novel and the three final *Foundation* novels the protagonist(s) travel to this place then that place then another place then a final place and the endings (except for *Robots and Empire*) don't justify the time we've spent traveling from place to place. The creativity is gone. Which makes *Foundation's Edge* all the more glorious. I can't recommend this book highly enough.

I enjoyed this enough to read again one day and so gave it the rating I did. It was hard to imagine Asimov pulling together this storyline after the last book but he did so with aplomb and without a *deus ex machina*. This book has convinced me to explore the robot series and other works. If you enjoyed the original *Foundation Trilogy* I recommend taking this one for a spin.

this is the third or fourth book I have read, from the *foundation* series. I have read them one right after the other. Of the first three, this one I have liked the most. Although the central theme is always the foundation, in each of the previous novels Asimov covered various generations of characters, situations and locations. This Novel deals with only one generation of characters, and one mayor conflict. Various characters are involved and developed with much detail and depth. Isaac's novels are more than 90% dialogue between the characters. Minimal to none landscape or battle description. He explains the development of technologies or philosophies but mostly through his characters. What I love most about this and the other novels, is how he brings you into a colloquy, or everyday discussion of current events (of the characters) as if we are already living in a world of intergalactic travel. The novel, feels more like accounts of events which will happen in a very distant future.

It's been about 30 years since I last read this book. I am currently rereading the entire Foundation series and I have to say I think this is the best so far. I cannot tell you why, but that's my story and I'm sticking to it. It's just an intuition like that of Councilman Trevize.

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