

*the alternate history*



**refiguring historical time**

**karen hellekson**

# The Alternate History Refiguring Historical Time

**N Colangelo**



## **The Alternate History Refiguring Historical Time:**

The Alternate History Karen Hellekson, 2001 What would the world be like if history had taken a different course Science fiction literature has long contemplated this question and this text analyzes alternate history science fiction through a variety of historical models It raises questions of narrative writers temporality and time *Refiguring Historical Time* Karen Hellekson, 1998

**The Ancient World in Alternative History and Counterfactual Fictions** Alberto J. Quiroga Puertas, Leire Olabarria, 2024-08-22 Focusing in turn on history powerful individuals underrepresented voices and the arts the essays in this collection cover a wide variety of modern and contemporary narrative fiction from Jo Walton and L Sprague De Camp to T S Chaudhry and Catherynne M Valente Chapters look into the question of chance versus determinism in the unfolding of historical events the role individuals play in shaping a society or occasion and the way art and literature symbolise important messages in counterfactual histories They also show how uchronic narratives can take advantage of modern literary techniques to reveal new and relevant aspects of the past giving voices to marginalised minorities and suppressed individuals of the ancient world Counterfactual fiction and uchronic narratives have been largely up until now the domain of literary critics However these modes of literature are here analysed by scholars of Ancient History Egyptology and Classics shedding important new light on how cultures of the ancient world have been and still are perceived and to what extent our conceptions of the past are used to explore alternate presents and futures Alternate history entices the imagination of the public by suggesting hypothetical scenarios that never occurred underlining a latent tension between reality and imagination and between determinism and contingency This interest has resulted in a growing number of publications that gauge the impact of what if narratives and this one is the first to give scholars of the ancient world centre stage

**Alternate History** Kathleen Singles, 2013-10-14 While strictly speaking Alternate Histories are not Future Narratives their analysis can shed a clear light on why Future Narratives are so different from past narratives Trying to have it both ways most Alternate Histories subscribe to a conflicting set of beliefs concerning determinism and freedom of choice contingency and necessity For the very first time Alternate Histories are here discussed against the backdrop of their Other Future Narratives The volume contains in depth analyses of the classics of the genre such as Philip K Dick's *The Man in the High Castle* and Philip Roth's *The Plot Against America* as well as less widely discussed manifestations of the genre such as Dieter Kuhn's *N* Christian Kracht's *Ich werde hier sein im Sonnenschein und im Schatten* and Quentin Tarantino's film *Inglourious Basterds*

**The Fiction Writer's Guide to Alternate History** Jack Dann, 2023-07-13 A comprehensive guide to the speculative sub genre of alternate history fiction this book maps the unique terrain of this vibrant mode of storytelling and then explains how to write it First giving a concise conceptual overview and the critical tools to differentiate the different forms of counterfactual fiction Jack Dann lays out the tricks of the trade such as Heinleinizing how to create recognizable divergent points and how to employ paratextual elements and layering to overcome readers unfamiliarity with invented

counterfactual events and cultures Alongside this Dann takes you step by step through a complete short story to demonstrate line by line how alternative history fiction works As well as Dann s exacting methodology for writing professional quality alternate history stories this book also features a live on the page Q A with some of the most esteemed alternate history writers working today including Kim Stanley Robinson John Birmingham and Lisa Goldstein among many others who will detail their own particular hacks theories processes methods and strategies Combining extensive and deep knowledge of the field with accessible writing advice this is the ultimate guidebook to the broad and complex sub genre of counterfactual and alterative history fiction

**Relativism, Alternate History, and the Forgetful Reader** Derek Thiess,2014-11-25 The writer of alternate history asks what if What if one historical event were different what would the world look like today In a similar way the postmodern philosopher of history suggests that history is literature or that if we read certain historical details differently we would get a distinctly different interpretation of past events While the science fiction alternate history means to illuminate the past to increase our understanding of past events however the postmodern approach to history typically suggests that such understanding is impossible To the postmodern philosopher history is like literature in that it does not offer the reader access to the past but only an interesting story Building on criticism that suggests personal psychological reasons for this obscuring the past and using a literary theory of readership this book challenges the postmodern approach to history It channels the speculative power of science fiction to read the works of postmodern philosophy of history as alternate histories themselves and to map the limits and pathology of their forgetful reading of the past

**Cryptohistories** Alicja Bemben,Rafał Boryśławski,2015-02-27 Cryptohistories is a collection of essays which provides a meeting ground for historians and cultural scholars analysing discussions of cryptic discourses in history and in historical narratives with roots in the mysterious The focus here is on history as a subjective narrative as a conscious construct and as manipulation Equally important for all the contributors brought together in this book is the mechanics of the rise popularity and apparent necessity of such narrative strategies The essays address a variety of issues revolving around the study of cryptic aspects of discourses ranging from theoretical approaches to secretive narratives of history cultural encoding and decoding of cryptohistories microhistories focusing on historical mysteries and mythicised pasts and processes of mythicization of the past as well as histories and theories of chance and manipulation Among its specific subjects Cryptohistories features discussions on the reasons why certain quasi historical narratives do not reach the status of history on conspiracy theories analysed from the perspective of contemporary video games on the paradoxes of truth and falsehood in history on parasitology as a cryptohistorical discourse on the codes of Victorian floriography on cases of cross dressing and sartorial camouflage on the Vietnam War MIAs on manipulations lying at the core of contemporary Bulgarian identity on the search for a racial utopia in the American South and on the fiction of Beryl Bainbridge as a form of cryptohistorical literature

*Post-9/11 Historical Fiction and Alternate History Fiction* Pei-chen Liao,2020-09-19 Drawing on theories of historiography

memory and diaspora as well as from existing genre studies this book explores why contemporary writers are so fascinated with history Pei chen Liao considers how fiction contributes to the making and remaking of the transnational history of the U S by thinking beyond and before 9 11 investigating how the dynamics of memory as well as the emergent present influences readers reception of historical fiction and alternate history fiction and their interpretation of the past Set against the historical backdrop of WWII the Vietnam War and the War on Terror the novels under discussion tell Jewish Japanese white American African Muslim and Native Americans stories of trauma and survival As a means to transmit memories of past events these novels demonstrate how multidirectional memory can be not only collective but connective as exemplified by the echoes that post 9 11 readers hear between different histories of violence that the novels chronicle as well as between the past and the present

Locating Heisei in Japanese Fiction and Film Marc Yamada, 2019-10-29 This book provides the first interdisciplinary examination of the popular fiction and film of the lost decades of Japan s Heisei period 1989 2019 Presenting original analysis of major Heisei writers filmmakers and manga artists the chapters examine the work of Urasawa Naoki Kurosawa Kiyoshi Murakami Haruki and Shinkai Makoto among others Through the work of these cultural figures the book also explores the struggle to define the history of Heisei three decades of economic stagnation social malaise and natural disaster In particular it explores the dissonance between the dominant history of Japan s recent past and the representation of this past in the popular imagination of the period In so doing this book argues that traumatic events from the years leading up to Heisei complicate the narration of a cohesive sense of history for the period requiring works of fiction and film to explore new connections to the past Incorporating literary and film theory to assess the works of culture Locating Heisei in Japanese Fiction and Film will be useful to students and scholars of Japanese culture society and history

**Understanding Contemporary American Science Fiction** Darren Harris-Fain, 2005 Understanding Contemporary American Science Fiction The Age of Maturity 1970 2000 explores the major trends and developments during three decades that witnessed science fiction s most dramatic progression from subliterate escapist entertainment to a more sophisticated literature of ideas Darren Harris Fain suggests that to understand American science fiction fully it is essential to realize that the current field with all its variety results from the proceeding decades of writings In addition he contends that although much science fiction of merit was written in America prior to 1970 the latter decades of the twentieth century witnessed a dramatic improvement in quality even as the field fragmented into a variety of subgenres and as writers sought to transcend earlier critical dismissals Harris Fain discusses significant and representative works most of which mainstream literary scholars and critics ignore as he charts the historical and literary development of contemporary American science fiction the internal divisions along both literary and political lines experienced during the Vietnam era the influence of the feminist movement and other contemporary concerns the increasing contributions of female African American and gay and lesbian writers and the emergence of such significant trends as hard science fiction cyberpunk alternate history and shared world

stories Harris Fain also considers literary science fiction's relationship to the mass media the effects the popularity of fantasy has on the field and academia's continued misprizing of the genre

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