

**Abstract**

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**The Politics of The Expanse:  
Neverending Great Game**

In the Netflix TV series *The Expanse*, new political formations in a future of humanity that sees the Earth united under a single government, and challenges emerging from Mars colony and humans populating the 'belt' dominate the narrative thread(s) of the first 2 seasons.

In many ways the series demonstrates an extension of current problems and conflicts in political terms in our contemporary world and various groups of humans vying for power, seeking political advantage, and creating political empires while competing for scarce resources.

The interesting part for me as a political scientist and international relations scholar is the idea that there is not the binary of utopia or dystopia but rather a more complex concept of these sorts of extensions of problems that are enduring. Much like the reboot series of *Battlestar Galactica (BSG2)*, *The Expanse* places humanity in this 'ring cycle' (there is an obvious reference to Wagner in *BSG2* but not so much in *The Expanse*... yet...) of political conflict, possible cooperation, and ongoing politics in the sense of an 'eternal return' of History.

This is different from the young adult fiction genre of dystopias like the *Divergent* series or *The Maze Runner* and others. In this kind of fiction it is usually the young adults who band together in cooperative terms to defeat the evil adults who created the dystopia in the first place. By doing so, the young adults are able to look forward with hope to a new future and a concrete way out of the dystopia.