

The Council (Darkness)

World of Darkness

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World of Darkness is a series of tabletop role-playing games, originally created by Mark Rein-Hagen for White Wolf Publishing. It began as an annual line of five games in 1991–1995, with *Vampire: The Masquerade*, *Werewolf: The Apocalypse*, *Mage: The Ascension*, *Wraith: The Oblivion*, and *Changeling: The Dreaming*, along with off-shoots based on these. The series ended in 2004, and the reboot *Chronicles of Darkness* was launched the same year with a new line of games. In 2011, the original series was brought back, and the two have since been published concurrently.

The games in the series have a shared setting, also named the World of Darkness, which is a dark, gothic-punk interpretation of the real world, where supernatural beings such as vampires and werewolves exist in secrecy. The original series' setting has a large focus on lore and overarching narrative. In contrast, *Chronicles of Darkness's* setting has no such narrative and presents the details of its setting as optional.

The series has been well received critically for its setting, writing, and art direction, and has won or been nominated for awards including the Origins Award. It has also been commercially successful, with millions of game books sold; by 2001, *Vampire: The Masquerade* was the second highest selling tabletop role-playing game after TSR, Inc.'s *Dungeons & Dragons*. The series has been adapted into other media, including the television series *Kindred: The Embraced*, actual play web series, novels and anthologies, comic books, card games, and a line of video games.

Three Days of Darkness

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In Roman Catholicism, the Three Days of Darkness is an eschatological concept believed by some Catholics to be a true prophecy of future events. The prophecy foretells three days and nights of "an intense darkness" over the whole earth, against which the only light will come from blessed beeswax candles, and during which "all the enemies of the Church ... will perish."

The prophecy parallels one of the Ten Plagues against Egypt in the Book of Exodus (Ex. 10:21–29). The Apocalypse of John also mentions a plague of unnatural darkness as an effect of the fifth vial (Revelation 16:10: "And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness"). Unnatural darkness is also associated with the sixth seal of Revelation (Revelation 6:12: "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood").

However, the specifics of the "Three Days of Darkness" prophecy, such as the miraculous beeswax candles, are derived from private revelation.

The Left Hand of Darkness

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The Left Hand of Darkness is a science fiction novel by the American writer Ursula K. Le Guin. Published in 1969, it became immensely popular and established Le Guin's status as a major author of science fiction. The novel is set in the fictional universe of the Hainish Cycle, a series of novels and short stories by Le Guin, which she introduced in the 1964 short story "The Dowry of Angyar". It was fourth in writing sequence among the Hainish novels, preceded by City of Illusions and followed by The Word for World Is Forest.

The novel follows the story of Genly Ai, a human native of Terra, who is sent to the planet of Gethen as an envoy of the Ekumen, a loose confederation of planets. Ai's mission is to persuade the nations of Gethen to join the Ekumen, but he is stymied by a limited understanding of their culture. Individuals on Gethen are ambisexual, with no fixed sex; this situation has a strong influence on the planet's culture, and it creates a barrier of understanding for Ai.

The Left Hand of Darkness was among the first books in the genre now known as feminist science fiction, and it is described as the most famous examination of androgyny in science fiction. A major theme of the novel is the effect of sex and gender on culture and society, explored particularly through the relationship between Ai and Estraven, a Gethenian politician who trusts and helps Ai. When the book was first published, the gender theme touched off a feminist debate over the depiction of the ambisexual Gethenians. The novel also explores the interaction between the unfolding loyalties of its two main characters; the loneliness and rootlessness of Ai; and the contrast between the religions of Gethen's two major nations.

The Left Hand of Darkness has been reprinted more than 30 times, and it has received high praise from reviewers. In 1970, it was awarded the Hugo and Nebula Awards for Best Novel by fans and writers, respectively. Of the novel's impact, the literary critic Harold Bloom wrote, "Le Guin, more than Tolkien, has raised fantasy into high literature, for our time". The scholar Donna White wrote that the book was a seminal work of science fiction, comparing it to Mary Shelley's novel Frankenstein.

The Dark Knight Rises

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The Dark Knight Rises is a 2012 superhero film directed by Christopher Nolan, who co-wrote the screenplay with his brother Jonathan Nolan, and the story with David S. Goyer. Based on the DC Comics character Batman, it is the final installment in Nolan's The Dark Knight trilogy, and the sequel to The Dark Knight (2008). The film stars Christian Bale as Bruce Wayne / Batman, alongside Anne Hathaway, Gary Oldman, Tom Hardy, Morgan Freeman, Marion Cotillard, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, and Michael Caine. Set eight years after the events of The Dark Knight, it follows a retired Wayne being forced to resume his role as Batman to save Gotham City from nuclear destruction at the hands of the terrorist Bane (Hardy).

Christopher Nolan was hesitant about returning to the series for a third film, but agreed after developing a story with his brother and Goyer that he felt would conclude the series on a satisfactory note. Nolan drew inspiration from Bane's comic book debut in the 1993 "Knightfall" storyline, the 1986 series The Dark Knight Returns, and the 1999 storyline "No Man's Land". Filming took place from May to November 2011 in locations including Jodhpur, London, Nottingham, Glasgow, Los Angeles, New York City, Newark, and Pittsburgh. Nolan used IMAX 70 mm film cameras for much of the filming, including the first six minutes of the film, to optimize the quality of the picture. A vehicle variation of the Batplane and Batcopter termed the "Bat", an underground prison set, and a new Batcave set were created specially for the film. As with The Dark Knight, viral marketing campaigns began early during production. When filming concluded, Warner Bros. refocused its campaign, developing promotional websites, releasing the first six minutes of the film, screening theatrical trailers, and sending out information regarding the film's plot.

The Dark Knight Rises premiered in New York City on July 16, 2012, and was released in the United States and the United Kingdom on July 20. The film received positive reviews from critics, who deemed it a

satisfying conclusion to the trilogy. It received a nomination for Special Visual Effects at the 66th British Academy Film Awards, and numerous other accolades, in addition to being named one of the top-ten films of 2012 by the American Film Institute. It also grossed \$1.114 billion worldwide, making it the second film in the Batman film series to earn \$1 billion, and the highest-grossing Batman film to date. In addition to being Nolan's highest-grossing film, it became the seventh-highest-grossing film of all time at the time of its release, as well as the third-highest-grossing film of 2012.

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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"Democracy Dies in Darkness" is the official slogan of the American newspaper The Washington Post, adopted in 2017. The slogan was introduced on the newspaper's website on February 22, 2017, and was added to print copies a week later. Upon its announcement, the slogan generated significant reaction – both positive and negative – from other news organizations and various media figures.

Dark pattern

"Consensus on the Data Act at the Council". Dark patterns, neuromarketing. Retrieved 10 January 2024. Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament

A dark pattern (also known as a "deceptive design pattern") is a user interface that has been carefully crafted to trick users into doing things, such as buying overpriced insurance with their purchase or signing up for recurring bills. User experience designer Harry Brignull coined the neologism on 28 July 2010 with the registration of darkpatterns.org, a "pattern library with the specific goal of naming and shaming deceptive user interfaces". In 2023, he released the book Deceptive Patterns.

In 2021, the Electronic Frontier Foundation and Consumer Reports created a tip line to collect information about dark patterns from the public.

2024 Council of the District of Columbia election

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People's Redemption Council

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The People's Redemption Council (PRC) was a military junta that ruled Liberia from 1980 to 1984. It was established after the 1980 Liberian coup d'état wherein Samuel Doe seized power on 12 April 1980. The Council, with Doe as its chairman, promised a complete overhaul of Liberia's society, economy, and political system and the replacement of the corruption of previous regimes with respect for the rights of the Liberian people. The PRC had 17 founding members and was later expanded to 28. The PRC initially functioned as the executive and legislative body in Doe's government. However, over time Doe consolidated power as a central executive. In 1984, the PRC was dissolved and replaced by the Interim National Assembly.

Israel Defense Forces ranks

Blue: Class Instructor Red/White: head of the Cadet's council Dark Green/Black: Chief of security
When the IDF was created in 1948, there were 7 enlisted

The ranks in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) reflect an individual's level in the military.

IDF ranks are divided into three groups: enlisted ranks, from Private to First Sergeant; non-commissioned officer (NCO) ranks, from staff sergeant to chief warrant officer; and officer ranks, from second lieutenant to lieutenant general. The rank insignia for enlisted personnel are worn on the arm, between the elbow and the shoulder, while the ranks of NCOs and officers are worn on the shoulder epaulettes of the shirt.

Because the IDF is an integrated force, ranks are the same in all of its component branches (there is no differentiation between army, navy, air force, etc.). The ranks are derived from those in the paramilitary Haganah, which operated during the Mandate period in order to protect the Yishuv.

The Darkness Beckons

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