

# Changes to the Story Settings of the Gundam Series

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**Abstract:** This paper studies the evolution process of the story settings of the Gundam series, and discusses the story setting of the initial Gundam series and its changes with the subsequent works. Firstly, the thesis gives a brief introduction to the Gundam series, including a historical overview and representative works. Then it analyzes the story setting and main theme of the initial Gundam animation, and discusses the change and development of the story settings in the subsequent works. This paper further discusses the effect of the Gundam series on character creation. Finally, the thesis looks into the future trend of the story settings of the Gundam series.

**Keywords:** The Gundam series; Story settings; Evolution

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## 1. Introduction

The Gundam series has experienced decades of development since the debut of the first Mobile Suit Gundam in 1979. During this time, Gundam Animation has had a wide international influence. With the evolution of The Times, the story settings of Gundam animation have also undergone many adjustments and changes, from the story setting of cosmic conflict in the early era, and gradually expanded to more complex and diverse social issues and technological settings. Therefore, it is of great academic value and practical significance to understand the changes in the story settings of the Gundam series for a deeper understanding of the animation and its impact on culture, society and industry.

## 2. Introduction to the Gundam Series

### 2.1 History Overview of the Gundam series

The history of the Gundam series can be traced back to the late 1970s, when the animation company, Sunrise, decided to create a new robot animation. In 1979, Mobile Suit Gundam was released, which became the beginning of the Gundam series. Following its success, Sunrise went on to release several Gundam Series Works, including Mobile Suit Gundam 0080: War in the Pocket and Mobile Suit Gundam 0083 Stardust Memory. These works loved by the audience show the story of robot fighting in different time backgrounds and war environments.

### 2.2 Introduction to the classification and representative works of Gundam animations

Different timelines and Universe Views are presented in the Gundam series. Among them, the Universal Century is the most representative timeline, containing many classic works. Mobile Suit Gundam is the first entry in this timeline, and is known for its war setting and human nature exploration. Mobile Suit Gundam W, on the other hand, is set in an alternate timeline, After Colony, closer to the technological and political changes of the future. The Gundam series also covers other unique timelines such as Cosmic Era and Anno Domini. Each timeline appeals to a different audience with its unique setting and storyline.

## 3. The story setting of the initial Gundam animation

### 3.1 The story setting analysis of the original story of Mobile Suit Gundam

Mobile Suit Gundam, the first film in the Gundam series, premiered in 1979 and is set in the Universal Century. In this fictional

future world, a series of wars break out between Earth and the colonies, mainly due to the scarcity of resources and conflicting political interests. The conflict between the Earth Federation Government and the Titans, a coalition of colonial residents, is intensifying. The two sides engaged in a brutal war over scarce energy and power. The main setting of the story is the war between the space colony "Zeon" and Earth. The colony of "Zeon" declared its independence, formed the independent Duchy of "Zeon", and launched a series of attacks against the Earth Federation government. In response to Zeon's challenge, the Earth Federation government developed a new type of mobile warrior "Gundam" as a counterattack.

### **3.2 The main themes and audience positioning of the initial Gundam animation**

One of the main themes of the early Gundam animation was war and peace. The war environment of the story setting provides a stage for animation to express the nature and consequences of war. The Gundam series never shy away from the cruelty and destruction of war and present the human tragedy in the real world. At the same time, Gundam animation also explores the preciousness of peace and the hidden interests behind war to guide the audience to ponder the dialectical relationship between the preciousness of peace and the necessity of war. Another important theme is the relationship between robots and humans. In Gundam animation, robot warriors become the main weapons of war, and these robots are often driven by young boys and girls. This combination of robots and humans makes the animation present a unique discussion of human nature in the war theme. The characters find their worth in the robot warriors, embodying human courage, tenacity and determination.

## **4. The changes and development of the story settings of Gundam animation**

### **4.1 New time backgrounds and Universe Views**

With the development of the Gundam series, new time backgrounds and Universe Views continue to emerge, bringing more diverse story experiences to the audience. In addition to the Universal Century timeline, Gundam Animation has created several unique timelines, such as After Colony and Cosmic Era, etc. Each timeline has its own story world and historical setting, forming its own universe view. In the After Colony timeline, the Gundam animation, represented by Mobile Suit Gundam W, is set in a future war between Earth and a cosmic colony. In this timeline, the story is set closer to future technological and political developments, shows more advanced mechanical Settings and technological applications and explores issues of humanity and society in depth at the same time.

### **4.2 Changes in the political and social context**

In the story settings of Gundam Animations, the changes of political and social background are also the factors that cannot be ignored. In different timelines, the setting of political system and social structure has its own characteristics, presenting a rich variety of social scenarios. In the original Mobile Suit Gundam, the war between the Earth Federation government and the Duchy of "Zeon" reflects the conflict of political and economic interests, revealing the complexity of the struggle for power. In the subsequent works, the political issues involved in Gundam animation are increasing, covering the struggles and machinations between different political forces such as the Ruling class, revolutionaries, liberals, etc. Gundam animations also explore social issues, the impact of war on ordinary people, the relationship between robots and humans, the pursuit of power and freedom. Gundam animation delves into the complexity of human nature and the diversity of social issues through complex story settings.

## **5. The relationship between character creation and story setting**

### **5.1 The development of the main characters in different contexts**

The main characters in the Gundam series have experienced rich and varied growth under different story settings, and Phoenix and other characters are also shaped by the time backgrounds. The main characters in the Gundam series have experienced rich and varied growth under different story settings, and Phoenix and other characters are also shaped by the time backgrounds. Heero Yuy grew up in the midst of brutal combat and struggled with his identity and values, evolving from a ruthless killer to a man of responsibility and compassion. The main characters in the Gundam series have experienced rich and varied growth under different story settings, and Phoenix and other characters are also shaped by the time backgrounds. Heero Yuy grew up in the midst of brutal combat and struggled with his identity and values, evolving from a ruthless killer to a man of responsibility and compassion. Duo Maxwell a civilian in a space colony who had experienced social injustice and family tragedy, hated the Earth Federation government and became the leader of the resistance.

### **5.2 The influence of the story setting on the character's behavior and mentality**

The setting of the story has a profound effect on the behavior and mentality of the characters in the Gundam series. In the context of war, the main characters are often forced to confront extreme existential challenges and moral choices. The battles and conflicts

in the story settings shape the courage, determination and spirit of sacrifice of the characters. At the same time, the pain and loss experienced by the characters in the war also make them show their fragile and contradictory. The story setting plays an important role in the character's beliefs and code of conduct. In the context of war, the characters are often forced to choose between good and evil. Some characters stick to their convictions and fight for freedom and peace, while others abandon them for self-interest and power. These complex psychological conflicts and behavioral choices add a lot of color to the Gundam animation, making the characters become three-dimensional and full images.

## **6. Future Outlook: Trends in the story settings of the Gundam series**

With the development of the times and changes in audience demand, the story settings of the Gundam series may develop towards a more diverse and avant-garde direction. Firstly, new timelines and cosmologies will continue to emerge, bringing new elements and subject matter to the story's setting. The advancement of science and technology will also provide more possibilities for the evolution of machinery to show a more advanced and complex robot warrior image. Gundam Animation is expected to continue to explore social issues in depth and expand to a broader scope. The story settings may involve more issues of the future society, such as science and technology ethics, environmental protection and social justice, etc. This deeply socially critical perspective will continue to give viewers thought and inspiration. Character development in Gundam animation may also move in a more three-dimensional and complex direction. The psychological description and growth process of the main characters will be more detailed to show a more realistic and touching storyline. At the same time, the image of the villain may also be more diverse to show a deeper inner world.

## **7. Conclusion**

Gundam series, as one of the representatives of robot combat animations, have a wide range of influence around the world. Through the discussion of the story settings and development of the Gundam series, we can see that under different timelines and Universe Views, it constantly presents a rich and diverse story lines and profound social critical perspectives. Gundam animation shows the cruelty of war and the complexity of human nature in different story settings. From the Universal Century timeline to other timelines such as After Colony and Cosmic Era, Gundam animation explores important issues such as war and peace, robots and humans, politics and society through different time backgrounds. These profound themes make Gundam animation not only entertaining, but also thought-provoking.

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