

Twitter Thread by Pulp Librarian



Pulp Librarian

@PulpLibrarian



Pierre Boulle was born today in 1912, so what better time to look back at his sociological science-fiction classic that paved the way for Star Wars and the MCU.

This is the story of Planet Of The Apes!

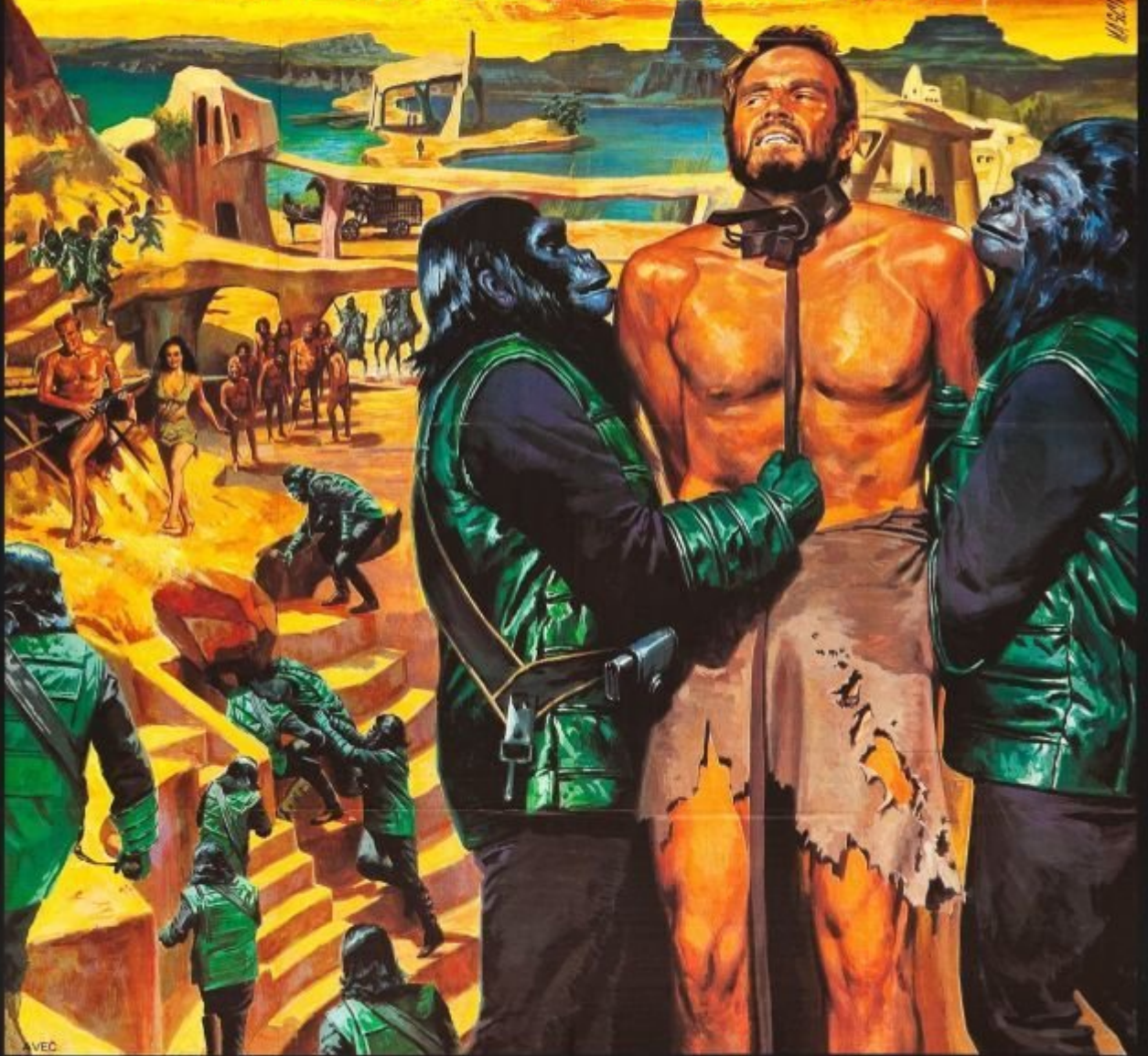
l'homme traqué, mis en cage par les singes civilisés !

20th Century Fox
présente

CHARLTON HESTON

DANS
UNE PRODUCTION
ARTHUR P. JACOBS

LA PLANETE DES SINGES



AVEC
RODDY Mc DOWALL · MAURICE EVANS · KIM HUNTER · JAMES WHITMORE · JAMES DALY ET LINDA HARRISON DANS LE RÔLE DE "NOVA" · PRODUIT PAR APJAC PRODUCTIONS
RÉALISÉ PAR FRANKLIN J. SCHAFFNER · SCÉNARIO DE MICHAEL WILSON ET ROD SERLING · MUSIQUE DE JERRY GOLDSMITH · TIRÉ D'UN ROMAN DE PIERRE BOULLE · Panavision® Couleurs par DeLuxe
INTERDIT AUX MOINS DE 13 ANS

Pierre Boulle is probably best known for his 1952 novel *Bridge On The River Kwai*, based on his wartime experiences in Indochina. So it was possibly a surprise when 11 years later he authored a science fiction novel.

SPANS A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT!

HORIZON PRODUCTIONS (GB) present

**WILLIAM HOLDEN
JACK HAWKINS
ALEC GUINNESS**

the Bridge on the River Kwai

with **SESSUE HAYAKAWA · JAMES DONALD**

Andre Morell · Peter Williams · John Baker · Percy Herbert · Harold Goodwin · Ann Sears

and introducing **GEOFFREY HORNE**

CINEMASCOPE

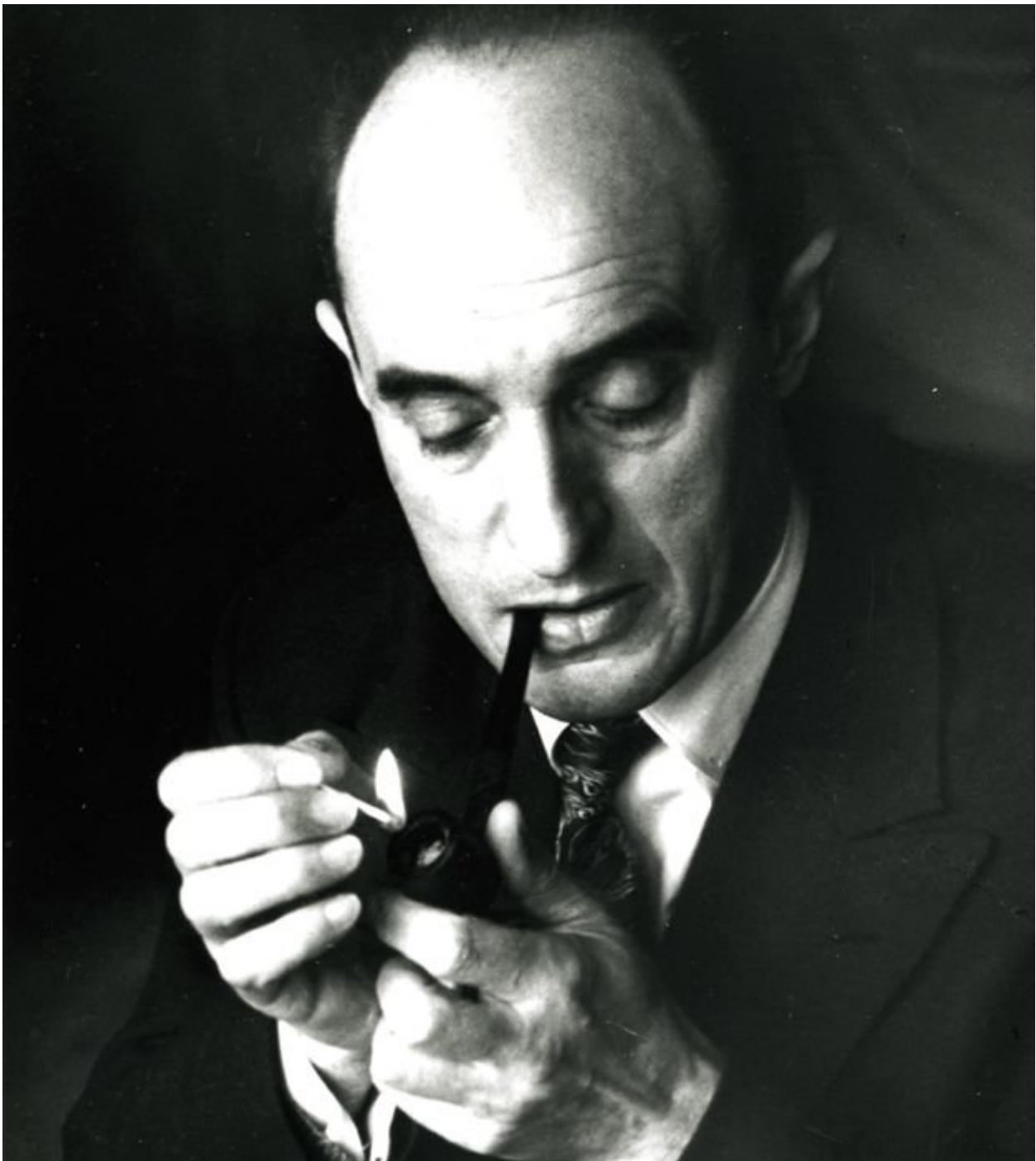
Technicolor®

Written by Pierre Boulle, based on his novel

Produced by **SAM SPIEGEL** · Directed by **DAVID LEAN**

A COLUMBIA RELEASE

However Boulle had been a Free French secret agent during the war. He was captured in 1943 by Vichy forces in Vietnam and sentenced to hard labour. This experience of capture would shape his novel *La Planète Des Singes*.



Published in 1963 *La Planète Des Singes* recieved good reviews. An English translation - entitled *Monkey Planet* - was issued the following year. It was a story that seemed to strike a chord with readers.

Pierre Boulle

La planète des singes

roman

JULLIARD

38^e mille

In the novel two rich travellers find a manuscript written by journalist Ulysse Mérou. It tells a fantastical tale: how he travelled with two wealthy explorers to Betelgeuse. They land on the planet Soror, a world of primitive humans ruled by advanced

civilised apes.



Zira, a chimpanzee scientist, discovers Mérou can speak; he is given his freedom and eventually has a child with Nova, another captured human. Zira's partner Cornelius also learns how humans once used tame apes as servants, before they overthrew their lazy masters.



Mérou and his family eventually escape back to Earth in a rocket ship, but time-dilation means several centuries have passed there, and now the Earth too is ruled by apes.

The travellers chuckle at this tale: as civilised chimps they know no brute human could become so advanced.

パナビジョン
デラックスカラー

猿の惑星

PLANET
OF THE APES

20
CENTURY-FOX

Arthur Jacobs optioned the movie rights and got 20th Century Fox to stump up the cash. Twilight Zone creator Rod Serling wrote the initial movie script, though it was deemed too costly to produce. Blake Edwards came up with the famous ending, though in the end he didn't direct.

Fact and Science Fiction

AMAZING

stories

FEBRUARY

50¢



BESIDE THE GOLDEN DOOR, by Henry Slesar

BRIDGE
TO
AZRAEL

Novel by
John Brunner



ALEX
SCHOMBURG

Test screenings were needed to convince Fox to make the film. Charlton Heston appeared as Thomas (later renamed Taylor) and Edward G Robinson as Dr Zaius. Due to the long sessions needed in make-up Robinson eventually declined his role and Maurice Evans took his place.



Kim Hunter and Roddy McDowall were cast as scientific chimps Zira and Cornelius, with Linda Harrison taking the role of Nova after Raquel Welch and Ursula Andress declined it. Shooting began in May 1967 and location work was done in the canyons of the Colorado river.



John Chambers did the Oscar-winning prosthetics for Planet Of The Apes, aided by almost 100 make-up artists. Chambers also made Mr Spock's ears and later fronted up the 'Argo' production company involved in the 1980 Tehran rescue operation.



Amazingly at lunch breaks the Planet Of The Apes actors segregated themselves by 'species' - humans, chimps, orangutans and gorillas - and sat only with their own group. It was an unintentional thing, but a strong signal that the movie

was touching on some very important themes.



Jerry Goldsmith's score for Planet Of The Apes was ground-breaking, mixing a traditional orchestra with an electric harp and clarinet, Tibetan horn, conch shell and stainless steel mixing bowls. It made the movie sound - as well as look - like nothing audiences had seen before.

PR5023SD

ORIGINAL SOUND TRACK

MUSIC CONDUCTED AND COMPOSED BY
JERRY GOLDSMITH

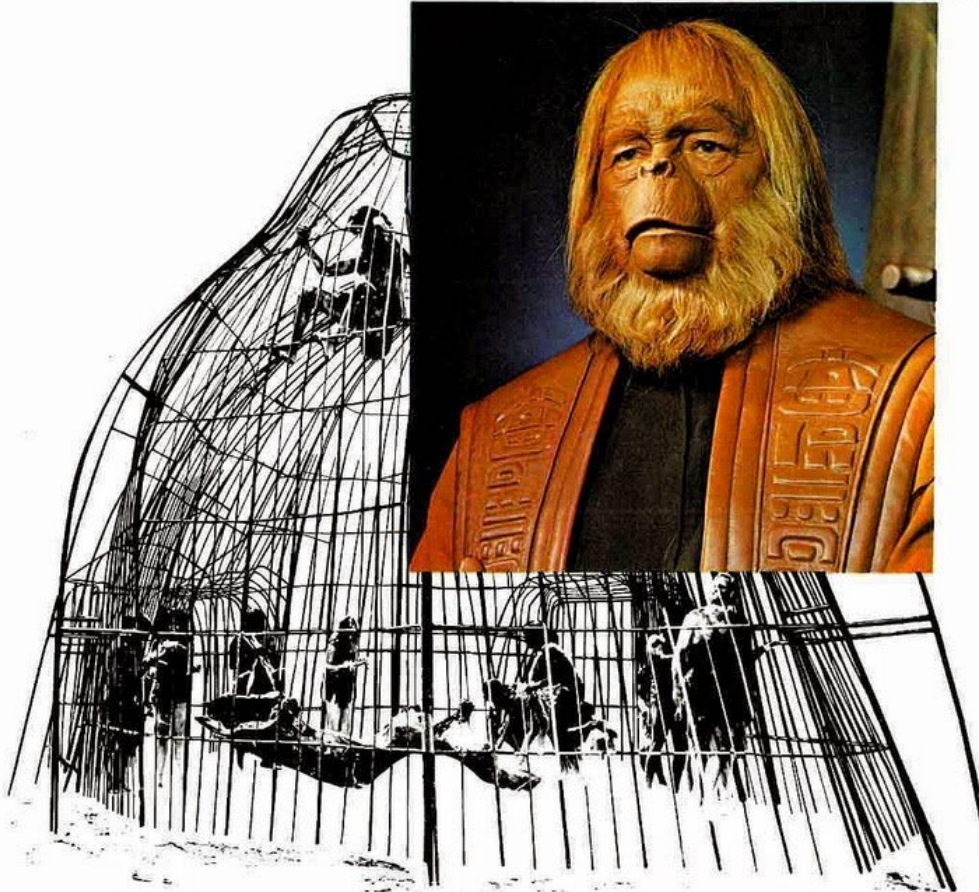
CHARLTON HESTON

in an ARTHUR P. JACOBS production

PLANET OF THE APES

20TH CENTURY-FOX
PRESENTS
AN UNUSUAL
AND IMPORTANT
MOTION PICTURE
FROM THE PEN
OF PIERRE BOULLE,
AUTHOR OF
"THE BRIDGE
ON THE
RIVER KWAI"

Project ³
TOTAL
SOUND
STEREO



CO-STARRING **RODDY McDOWALL · MAURICE EVANS · KIM HUNTER · JAMES WHITMORE · JAMES DALY · LINDA HARRISON** AS NOVA
PRODUCED BY APJAC PRODUCTIONS · ASSOCIATE PRODUCER MORT ABRAHAMS · DIRECTED BY FRANKLIN J. SCHAFFNER · SCREENPLAY BY MICHAEL WILSON · AND ROD SERLING · MUSIC BY JERRY GOLDSMITH · BASED ON A NOVEL BY PIERRE BOULLE · PANAVISION · COLOR BY DELUXE

Planet Of The Apes was released on 8 February 1968 and 20th Century Fox used various PR tricks to promote it, including a spoof newspaper. Critical reaction was hugely positive. For a dystopian film it caught the mood of 1968: Vietnam, the Cold War and the counterculture.

GO APE!



PLANET OF THE APES

ON CBS-TV • FRIDAYS



The success of Planet Of The Apes opened the door for more challenging and gritty science fiction movies: the Omega Man and Soylent Green wouldn't have been made without its success.



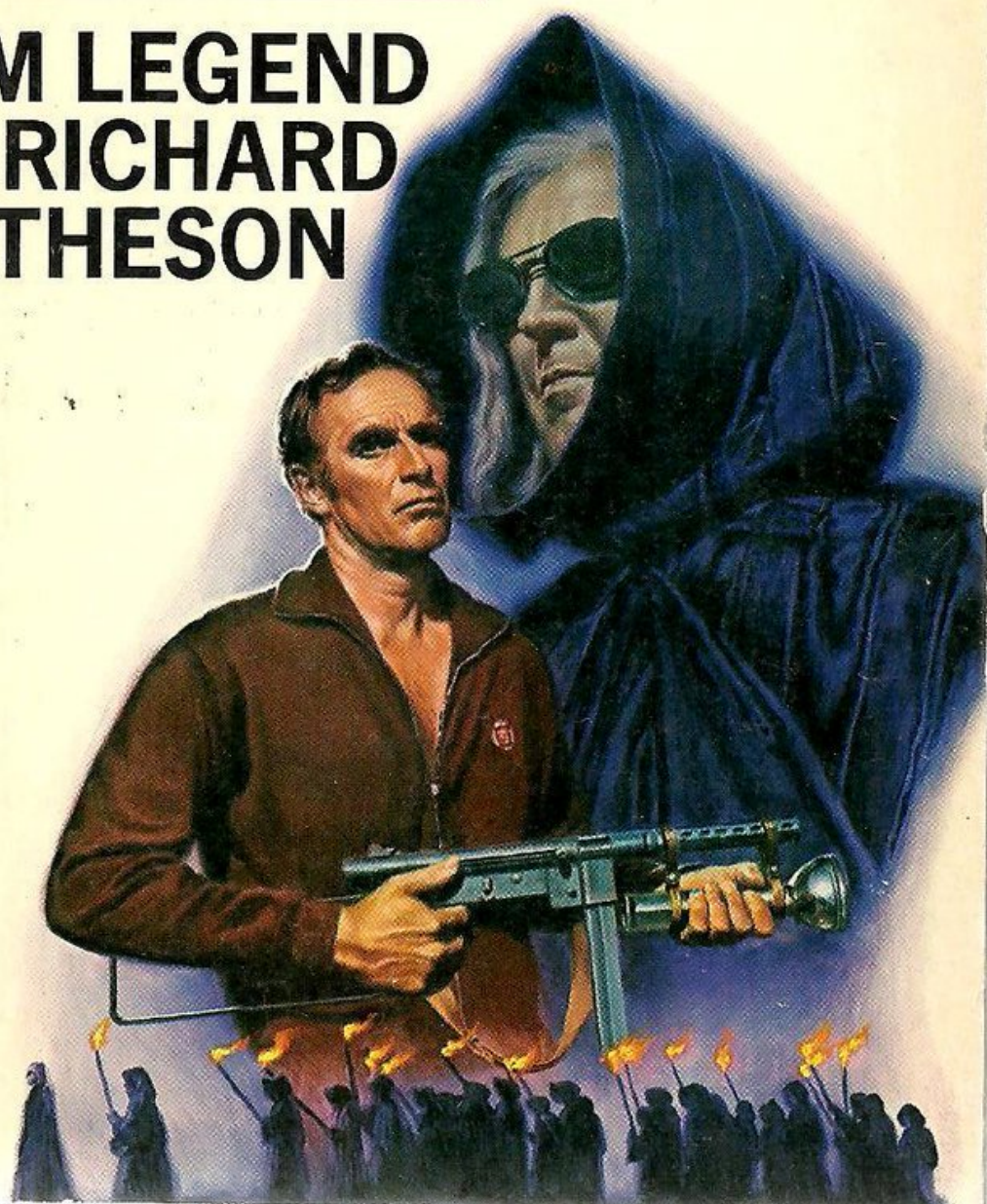
A BERKLEY MEDALLION BOOK

A WARNER BROS. PRODUCTION
CHARLTON HESTON in

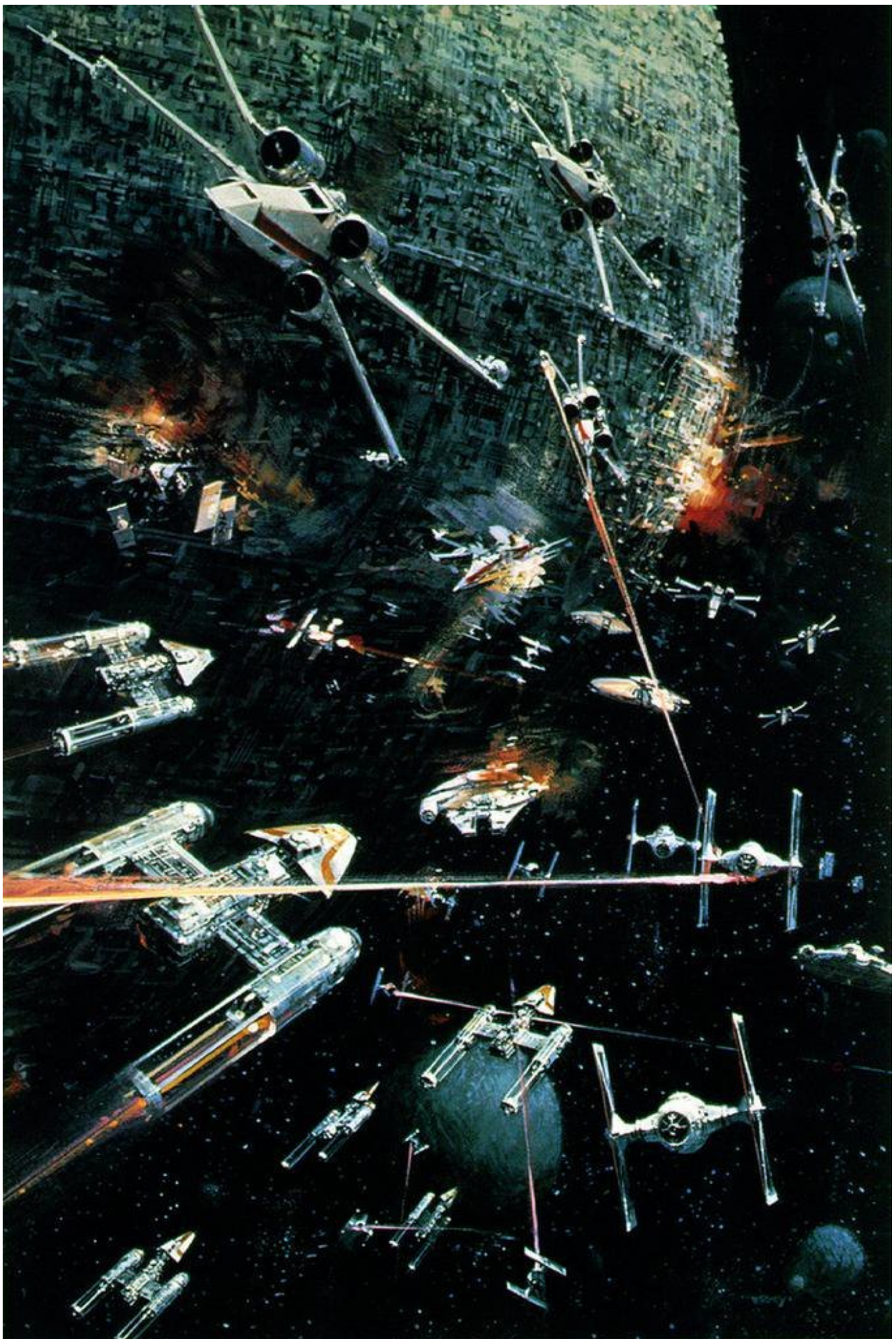
S2041 * 75¢

THE OMEGA MAN

I AM LEGEND
BY RICHARD
MATHESON



It also wrote the rule book of the modern movie franchise: a catchy idea, a cinematic universe and a range of toys. Star Wars would capitalise on all of this in 1977.



In the end the star of the film is the idea: what is 'civilization' and why must it involve slavery and suffering for others? Pierre Boulle experienced both during his life, which is perhaps why his novel stands the test of time so well.

More stories another day...

