

# Re: Phonemes

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-06/msg01442.html>

---

- *From:* "David Wright Sr." <[dwrightsr@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:dwrightsr@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 27 Jun 2005 17:27:36 +0000 (UTC)
- 

I have been going over this thread and I would like to attempt a summary of what has been said so far between myself and Peter T. Daniels, the questions asked and the questions answered/not answered, and my further comments.

Peter T. Daniels: Heinlein is superficial.

David Wright Sr: I didn't originally ask about this one. I would suggest that he read Bill Patterson and Andrew Thornton's, *\_A Martian Named Smith\_*, Nitrosyncretic Press and any of the articles in *The Heinlein Journal* or attend any of the discussion panels on Heinlein at the conventions to see the falsity of this claim. Also, there is something to be said about an author whose works are actively being discussed in a number of venues, 17 years after his death and 66 years after the publication of his first story. Check out [alt.books.isaac.asimov](http://alt.books.isaac.asimov) and compare the number of posts and the number of people posting on it vs. [alt.fan.heinlein](http://alt.fan.heinlein).

-----  
Peter T. Daniels: He expressed his right-wing nutcase-hood in *Starship Troopers* and in "The Roads Must Roll" and the other stories in that collection.

David Wright Sr: The only claim that I am aware of for *\_Starship Troopers\_* being 'fascistic' is that supposedly 'the government was controlled by the military'. I made a sarcastic comment to this and pointed out how it was not true. PTD made no reply to that. (See my comments below on this subject).

-----  
Peter T. Daniels: His utopian futures were clearly fascistic.

David Wright Sr: I asked him to point which stories were about 'utopian futures' and which, if any, were deemed to be 'fascistic' other than in the special case where RAH wrote 'against' such. No response.

-----  
Peter T. Daniels: He discovered sex.

David Wright Sr: I made no comment with respect to this. I have heard this many times and have never received any answer to as to what it even means. PTD could do us all a favor by giving his interpretation.

-----  
Peter T. Daniels: He failed to handle the paradox of the 'letter never

Re: Phonemes

written' in "By His Bootstraps". Asimov would never have made that mistake.

David Wright Sr: I pointed out the fallacy in this, PTD made no further comments on the subject.

-----  
Peter T. Daniels: Doesn't try to talk about the subject, but instead claims that attempts to clarify the subject by quoting Dictionary definitions is the last refuge of the 'argumentless'.

David Wright Sr: I offered common definitions of the term 'fascism' and asked him to show how any of RAH's stories would fit any of those definitions. He didn't respond at all to that and simply said I was 'argumentless' for giving those definitions. I asked him for his definition.

-----  
Peter T. Daniels: He uses the definition of 'fascism' to be "... the total merger of corporate and government interests."

David Wright Sr: Given his definition, I asked him again to name stories which fit that definition. BTW, Anyone who has read Starship Troopers will fail to find any aspect of that book which fits this definition. The sole mention of any corporate interest in the book was Emilio Rico's reference that his company had been asked to bid on military components before the final outbreak of hostilities.

-----  
Peter T. Daniels: He 'knows' about the 'Peace Corp' loophole in Starship Troopers.

David Wright Sr: I asked him to clarify this. No response.

-----  
Peter T. Daniels: He talks about having had the experience of listening to some radio talk show person who liked Heinlein and promoted his ideas. He doesn't like this person because, (apparently in addition to liking Heinlein), he also narrated a motion picture that he, (Daniels), thought was terrible.

David Wright Sr: I asked him what any of this had to do with 'fascism' and Heinlein. No Response.

=====  
Due to PTD's mentioning of "The Roads Must Roll" in connection to his definition. I came up with the following:

---Begin of Quote---

"See?" said Gaines, with more animation in his voice, "See? That is the real purpose of the United States Academy of Transport. That is the reason why the transport engineers are a semi-military profession, with strict discipline. We are the bottle neck, the sine qua non, of all industry, all economic life. Other industries can go on strike, and only create temporary and partial dislocations. Crops can fail here and there and the country takes up the slack. But if the roads stop rolling, everything else must stop; the effect would be the same as a general strike---with this

## Re: Phonemes

important difference: it takes a majority of the population, fired by a real feeling of grievance to create a general strike; but the men that run the roads, few as they are, can create the same complete paralysis.

We had just one strike on the roads, back in 'sixty-six'. It was justified, I think, and it corrected a lot of real abuses—but it mustn't happen again."

"But what is to prevent it happening again, Mr. Gaines."

"Morale—esprit de corps. The technicians in the road service are indoctrinated constantly with the idea that their job is a sacred trust. Besides which we do everything we can to build up their social position. But even more important is the Academy. We try to turn out graduates engineers imbued with the the same loyalty, the same iron self-discipline, and determination to perform their duty to the community at any cost, that Annapolis, West Point and Goddard are so successful in inculcating in their graduates."

---End of Quote---

Accepting only for the sake of discussion, that the United States Academy of Transport is, in fact, the same kind of government institution that Annapolis, West Point and the fictional Goddard are, there is absolutely no indication that such a relationship exists between \*any other\* form of industry and the government. It exists here only because of the extreme importance of the industry. Actually, there is no strict evidence either for or against the notion that the USAT is a government institution. The only textual evidence that we have is that it is run along the same lines as the government academies and tries to achieve the same type of results.

Nowhere in this quoted text nor in the rest of the story is there any indication of "the total merger of corporate and government interests".

"The Roads Must Roll" is stereotypical of the Heinlein 'What If..' story based on the technique of taking some change(s) in technology or society and extrapolating what the consequences might be. Here he postulates a method of getting around a severe limitation on the oil supply to the point that only the military would have access to it for defense purposes, the invention of the sun-power screen and the moving beltway and tries to suggest some results of that 'what if' situation.

BTW, it is interesting to note that Lazarus Long in *\_Methusaleh's Children\_*, speaks disgustedly about the 'worst dinosaurs that the human race had saddled it self with', the 'moving roadways'.

Oh yes, one other thing. This story proves that Heinlein was anti-union since he brought 'military' force to quell the 'strikers'. It is clear that RAH did no such thing. The bulk of the union was represented by Harvey, a founder and well-respected member of the transport worker's union and who was killed by the 'strikers'. It was also made clear that this was a very small group of dissidents who had been collected together in one place to get

## Re: Phonemes

sufficient strength to carry out their threat. There was no general strike nor sympathy with any of the unions with this action.

None of the other stories in the first volume of "The Future History", The Man Who Sold The Moon, has any reference to either the dictionary definitions that I quoted, which PTD disdained, nor to that given by him.

There is also no hint in the entire "Future History" stories that any of the future societies are 'utopian'. All of them had normal warts just like present day ones.

One might claim that Heinlein is anti-authoritarian. In fact, I have heard that. Look at the number of works which deal with 'rebelling against authority'. The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress, Between Planets, Red Planet, "Logic of Empire", "The Long Watch", "If This Goes On...", MacKinnon in "Coventry", even Sam and Max in Starman Jones, and others. However, it must be conceded that most of these 'authorities' \*needed\* to be rebelled against and that the rebels were 'the good guys'.

I have also heard the claim that he is authoritarian, Note: "lifeboat rules" in The Number Of The Beast, and Farnham's Freehold where absolute obedience to authority was required.

He is said to be 'militaristic'. Note: Starship Troopers.

He is said to be 'anti-militaristic'. Note: Space Cadet where it is quoted that the purpose of the Space Patrol is to keep WMD out of the hands of the military. BTW, the graduates of the Space Patrol Academy were indoctrinated with the same kind of importance to duty as that of the 'road' workers and engineers.

He is said to be 'socialistic'. Note: Beyond This Horizon and For Us, The Living, where money is created based on productivity and doled out among the population.

He is said to be 'capitalistic'. Note: Time Enough For Love and the LL's control of the money supply on New Beginnings.

He is said to be jingoistic. Note: The justification for expanding through the universe in Starship Troopers.

He is said to be non-jingoistic. Note: The speech of Bonforte's in Double Star where he speaks of dealing honestly and non-belligerently with non-humans.

He is said to be anti-feminist. Note: His 'women' are all 'beautiful' and serve only as 'sex objects', unless they are among the large number of old, fat, complaining biddies. His so-called 'competent' women are 'unbelievable'. (This of course ignores the fact that his wife Ginny served as the model for his 'unbelievable' women and could actually do many of the things that his fictional 'competent' women did.)

## Re: Phonemes

He is said to be feminist: He has women characters who are all smart, and competent, except for a lot of old, fat, complaining biddies.

And so on and so on, ad nauseam.

I would be interested in seeing if Mr. Daniels can provide textual proof for any of his claims.

I have no objection to someone who doesn't like Heinlein. There are a lot of authors whom I don't like. What I do object to is making up or repeating in public false claims as the basis for that dislike.

David Wright Sr.

---

- *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ *Re: Phonemes*
  - ◇ *From:* Peter T. Daniels
- ◆ *Re: Phonemes*
  - ◇ *From:* mithomps
- ◆ *Re: Phonemes*
  - ◇ *From:* António Marques

- *References:*

- ◆ *Phonemes*
  - ◇ *From:* David Wright Sr.
- ◆ *Re: Phonemes*
  - ◇ *From:* Peter T. Daniels

- Prev by Date: *Re: Arabic phrase*
- Next by Date: *Re: Albanian seems odd*
- Previous by thread: *Re: Phonemes*
- Next by thread: *Re: Phonemes*
- Index(es):
  - ◆ *Date*
  - ◆ *Thread*