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### Star Wars Culture

In 1977, a movie directed by George Lucas was released. This movie was Star Wars. Star Wars was known for many things. Everyone recognizes the names Darth Vader, Luke Skywalker, and Obi-wan Kenobi. These 6 movies have stayed in our society for many years, and will continue to be a major part of society for years to come. Star Wars also possesses the guidelines for a religion; the way of the Jedi can be taken and turned into a legitimate religion. There are people who follow the religion known as Jediism, they follow it as a Christian would follow Christianity, a Jew would follow Judaism, and a Buddhist would follow Buddhism. Without a doubt, Star Wars has changed the filmmaking industry. The technology that was used during the filming of Star Wars: Episode IV was way ahead of its time. Between the way we, the audience, see and hear the movie and the way the movie was filmed, the star wars saga has had a major impact on that. Star Wars has changed American society and culture in many ways.

In 2001, the United Kingdom put Jediism on its census as an official religion. There is major debate over whether or not it is an actual religion. Many religious people don't consider Jediism a legitimate religion, they say it's a joke made by radical fans. Jediism in fact is completely unrelated to Star Wars and George Lucas, the founders of Jediism just

took the general principal of the Jedi from star wars and manifested it into a practical religion. The way of the Jedi is a very Zen-like way of living. One philosophy of the Jedi is not to let emotions take control of your life. The Jedi give up all selfish desires and temptations, just like in Buddhism. According to Michael Hernandez Jediism “believes one all-encompassing driving ‘force’ influences the destiny of the universe.” this is the same basic principal as all other major religions today. Jediism has a hierarchy just as all religions do; it starts with Jedi Apprentice, Jedi Knight, Jedi Knight Officer, Jedi Knight Commander/Jedi Scholar, and Jedi Master/Jedi Priest. Jedi have 3 primary tenants; Focus Knowledge and Wisdom. They use these together to overcome obstacles and to improve the world around them.

Star Wars has stayed with our society for many generations. Most of the time, people will know you’re talking about star wars when you say, “Luke, I am your father.” People are always making Star Wars references. It’s not uncommon to hear someone say, “Use the force!” or “Come to the dark side.” Star Wars had such likeable characters, from Luke, Obi-wan, Han, Chewie, Leia, Lando and both R2D2 and C3P0. They were all memorable and we see them in everyday things. “The Death Star troopers' helmets are vintage World War II German, at least as updated in ‘haute couture’.” (Frank Smoot). Lucas put many historical references into his movies, like the German helmets, the AT-AT as war elephants, light sabers as swords and many others. These historical references make it much easier to remember and relate to what we already know, helping the movies stay in our society for a long time. George Lucas also made the message in the Star Wars movies so direct and clear

that everyone understood them. It was good old-fashioned good versus evil, Jedi versus Sith. If you ask someone to name a movie where the plot was good versus evil, the chances are high that they will mention Star Wars.

Star Wars has changed the filmmaking industry forever. The technology George Lucas used in creating Star Wars was way before its time. George Lucas developed a sound system for all movie theaters to use, so that the movie's sound was the way the filmmaker wanted it to be heard. "Lucas developed the THX Sound System (named after the central character in his first feature, "THX-1138") in 1982 during production of "Return of the Jedi" because he wanted to reproduce sound exactly as it was recorded by the filmmaker". (Robert W. Butler). The THX theaters must have specific levels of background noise and the speakers must be placed in specific places and many other things must meet strict criteria. George Lucas also developed a technology called motion capture. This is when actors wear skin-tight suits lined with sensors that are hooked up to a computer while a camera is recording. The computer then computes the information from both the camera and the sensors to create a 3D image on the computer. This technology was used in later movies like Lord of the Rings, as Golem was created using this method of digital animation. Today, many video games and movies use this method of digital animation because it was developed and perfected by George Lucas. These technologies have brought us to so much more advanced and effective movie making and viewing.

Star Wars has had a massive impact on society. It has created a religion, stayed with society and changed the film making industry. The religion it created has, by many people,

been accepted as a real religion and a real guide on how to live. The movies themselves reverberate throughout society in subtle ways, through people jokingly saying “May the force be with you” and “Join the dark side”. Star Wars has completely changed the filmmaking industry, from the THX audio systems to the advanced CGI techniques it wouldn’t have happened without Star Wars. Star Wars, a simple set of 6 movies, has changed our culture and society in more ways than imaginable.