



The Ecolitan Operation

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Major Jimjoy Earle Wright, secret agent of the Empire, is intelligent and highly trained. But he succeeds all too well in overthrowing a military dictatorship--and the result is a new government inimical to the Empire and disgrace for Jimjoy. After surviving two assassination attempts, Jimjoy realizes that it's his own imperial superiors who want him dead; that, in fact, his worst enemies could become his best friends. He fights his way to safety on the planet Accord, where the Ecolitan Institute wins his loyalty and changes his identity. Now he is James Joyson Whaler, Ecolitan, in the middle of a war of independence against the inconceivably superior forces of the Empire.

The Ecolitan Operation Details

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From Reader Review The Ecolitan Operation for online ebook

NebulousGloom (FK) says

An enjoyable if somewhat shallow read. The story is good but the setting lacks depth (you get the impression that the author probably has an idea of it, but the reader doesn't get much information). Certainly worth reading.

Kevin says

Reading Modesitt's early work is interesting. He remains consistent thematically, considering ethics and power as they relate to society. This book falls somewhat short, though, of his latter works. It has an abruptness that distracts from and confuses the plot. Only through knowledge of where he tends to go, and the messages that he tends to consider, made it easy for me to follow the motivations of the characters. I was impressed, though, with the character of Wright. He is quite interesting, and his theory of action has some appeal, though most would make different judgments on value.

Recommended provisionally; if you want to get into Modesitt's works, start elsewhere. For those who have enjoyed his work in the past, it's an interesting look at his earlier takes on his preferred themes.

Lisa says

I enjoyed this book far more than expected. A portion is very predictable to this author but enough was different that I found it kinda refreshing. I flew through it in a couple hours and am looking forward to reading the whole series.

Taylor says

Found it difficult to get into the story, everything about the book seemed very shallow and vague. You don't really know what's going on, and the characters don't show any real depth. Not enough actual story happens; mostly we're following Jimjoy as he tries to not be killed. I'm vaguely interested in what happens next, but not enough to continue reading. Will probably end up forgetting I ever read this, because the book was mostly forgettable.

Jim says

Jimjoy is a trained operative & they gave him clear-cut instructions to immobilize a planetary military system. They told him it was important & didn't tell him there were limits. Just get the job done, but he's a borderline sociopath. That's what they thought they wanted & needed in a special operative. They didn't

realize just what they'd turned loose on the galaxy, though.

In his own words, ... *"If you don't decide how to balance the ends and means before you start, you don't have a prayer, not in anything important. You decide your ultimate goal first. Then you adopt a strategy that goes with your principles. Then you plan tactics. If it won't work, you either abandon the goal or decide that it's more important than one of the principles getting in the way...."*

Jimjoy has a very logical & ruthless way of balancing the scales which allows Modesitt to balance power & ethics even in this early book, a typical theme.

He's chary of filling in gaps & thinks the reader should do so. Generally, that's a trait I admire, but I had some trouble at places in this book. There were a few times I had to reread & in at least one situation, I still couldn't wring any sense out of the end of a conversation. Still, it was fast paced & exciting the whole way through. A lot of fun.

Just FYI, but this is the second book published in the series, but does come first chronologically. Definitely read it before The Ecologic Secession. The first book published is The Ecologic Envoy, but it comes third & The Ecolitan Enigma is last. The first 2 books don't share characters with the last 2 & they're separated by quite a bit of time, IIRC. Been a while since I last read them.

Curt Raymond says

One of those novels where I had to work extra hard to suspend disbelief, there are some leaps that are pretty hard to swallow but if you can ignore those this is a pretty good read.

Jamie Barrows says

Enjoyable, though a little more disjointed than most of Modesitt's stuff. I think that might be because the book is one of his earlier books.
It's a nice scifi spy thriller.

Pickyreader says

Fun and exciting. Love the inner dialogue of the Jimjoy. Will certainly read the next.

Chip Hunter says

After reading the entirety of Modesitt's Saga of Recluce, I thought I would check out some of his science fiction. The Ecolitan Matter series had received good marks, so I picked up the first of the series, THE ECOLITAN OPERATION (published 1989). The story follows Major Jimjoy Wright, a brilliant and ruthless Imperial special operative, through a series of worldview-changing events, where his victory-at-any-cost methods get him on the wrong side of his own government. Unfortunately for the government, they choose

