Foundation – Season One – First Watch (complete)

I actually started watching Foundation back in 2021 or 2022, not sure, but after two episodes or so, I stopped watching it. At that point I could not get into it for some reason but I knew I would pick this up once again in the future. Well it took at least 3 years but in July 30th of this year I started to watch the first season again. I remembered very little of the first two episodes I watched back then, but that is not strange for me, because I am blessed (!) with a lousy memory! But I kept reading positive things about the show, especially with its third season, so I thought, why not start now!

Characters:

First I want to introduce the most important characters who grace our screens in its first season. For this I consulted [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foundation_%28TV_series%29#Main).

Jared Harris is Hariton "Hari" Seldon, a mathematician and developer of psychohistory, an algorithmic science that allows him to predict the future in terms of probabilities. He is the one behind the Foundation.

Lou Llobell is Gaal Dornick, Hari's protégée, a self-taught young woman from Synnax, a planet where the pursuit of knowledge is considered heresy. Teyarnie Galea portrays Gaal as a child. She left everything behind her to become Hari’s protégée, but soon after becoming his protégée, she learns that she and Hari aren’t the most popular characters within the Empire.

Lee Pace as Brother Day (Cleon I, XII, XIII, XVII, XXIV), the middle-aged member of a series of genetic clones of Cleon I, who reigns as Emperor of the 12,000-year-old Galactic Empire. Pace also portrays Cleon I in his prime. Curious is that Brother Day considers Brother Dawn to be his son.

Leah Harvey as Salvor Hardin (seasons 1–2), the Warden of Terminus 35 years after Seldon's trial, hero of the Foundation's first crisis, and later she learns Gaal Dornick is her mother and she also learns that her visions didn’t come from Hari but from her mother.

Laura Birn as Demerzel, the great caretaker to the Emperors and one of the last surviving gynoids from the ancient Robot Wars. She is an android herself who is working for the Emperors for many centuries. Even though she is very loyal to them, it is obvious she does not agree with everything they do, sometimes even loathe it.

Terrence Mann as Brother Dusk (Cleon I, XI, XII, XVI, XXIII), the eldest member of a series of genetic clones of Cleon I who retired from his duties as Emperor. Mann also portrays an elderly Cleon I.

Cassian Bilton as Brother Dawn (Cleon I, XIV, XVIII, XXV), the youngest member of a series of genetic clones of Cleon I and the successor-in-training of Brother Day. He is colorblind but he hides this from Dawn and Day because this is considered imperfection which will kill him.

Daniel MacPherson as Hugo Crast (season 1; guest season 2), an interplanetary trader from Thespis who became Salvor Hardin's lover. In the first season he escaped death on more than one occasion.

Kubbra Sait as Grand Huntress Phara Keaen (season 1), the top military officer of Anacreon who personally leads a raid on Terminus. I was really happy when Salvor put a stop to her, she is so annoying, like her opponents, the viewer also really dislikes her!

Foundation is based on a series of books by Isaac Asimov, created by David S. Goyer and Josh Friedman. Goyer is also known from The Dark Knight, Batman Begins, Dark City,, Flashforward, Man of Steel, [***Threshold***](https://scifitvshows.jouwweb.nl/overview-sci-fi-tv-shows-in-alphabetical-order/my-favorite-sci-fi-shows/threshold) and many, many more. Friedman is known for [***Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles***](https://scifitvshows.jouwweb.nl/overview-sci-fi-tv-shows-in-alphabetical-order/my-favorite-sci-fi-shows/terminator-the-sarah-connor-chronicles), War of the Worlds (Tom Cruise), Snowpiercer (TV Series), Avatar: The Way of Water and many, many more. As you can see, both creators have a lot of genre tv and movie experience.

It is a massive story that spans over multiple planets, different cultures, many centuries. Different storylines intertwine with the large scope in this massive foundation universe. It starts with a great longstanding Empire which is starting collapse. Hari Seldon, a mathematician, has calculated that the Empire, which rules over everyone, will collapse within approximately 500 years. Because he has said this publicly, he gets into a great deal of trouble, as also his adoptive son who is also his assistant Raych (Alfred Enoch), and new prodigy Gaal Dornick (Lou Llobell). After winning a mathematician contest, she leaves her home planet Synnax to study with him. This coincides with the death of millions on the planet Trantor, within the Empire, when the Star Bridge is destroyed by terrorists. Brother Day, partly blames Hari for announcing this public announcement and suspects the peoples of Anacreon and Thespis to be behind the actual terrorist attack. To show force, he orders Anacreon and Thespis to be bombed. Instead of killing Hari, Gaal and Raych, Brother Day decides to exile them to a faraway planet called Terminus to establish their Foundation. The reasoning behind it: If they are right, then the Empire will be able to take credit for assisting the Foundation. if the predictions are wrong, then the Foundation will be forgotten at the edge of the galaxy. It will take the ship 4+ years to arrive at Terminus, which should give them enough time to prepare them for living on this harsh planet.

There is something brooding between Hari and Raych and in the final moments this takes a dramatic turn of events when Gaal walks into Hari’s office when Raych stabs Hari! Raych pulls Gaal away from Hari and shoves her in a lifeboat, with the knife he stabbed Hari with. The Foundation arrives on Terminus and finds a mysterious object. The objects range becomes wider, it could mean the settlement needs to evacuate. There are ships coming to Terminus, which hasn’t happened in 30 years. *Note - We get a bit more insight into the way things work within the leadership of the empire. Demerzel is very important in that process for hundreds of years*.

Salvor manages to incapacitate their leader Phara (from the Anacreons) and captures her. She is not very cooperative. Her army is about to attack the settlement. Day accuses Dusk for the poor handling of the situation when the attack took place when Dusk was Day. Brother Dawn is in love with an ordinary girl, working the gardens of their palace. *Note - In final moments we see Gaal asleep in some sort of pod or something*. In a flashback we see how Gaal comes to the decision to participate at the math contest. We also get to see what happened to her after she was put in an escape pod by Raych after he presumably killed Hari. She arrives on a spaceship 34 years later, it has a course to a planet but she has no authorization to know where to. It seems the knife Raych used, could be a helpful tool, but she doesn’t realize this. On Terminus things are heating up, however, there is a spaceship of the empire arriving but when Perinne doesn’t listen to Salvor, it goes terribly wrong.

Brother Day meets with Zephyr Halima-a would-be leader who opposes the Empire. Brother Dusk grows suspicious of Brother Dawn, because there is something that feels off about him. We learn that Hari asked Raych to stab him through sort of visions from Salvor. Salvor, Hugo and her dad manage to blow up the alien ships after Salvor has escaped with the help of children, but her dad doesn’t survive it. According to Salvor, Phara has found a planet killer which she is willing to use, people from Terminus are ordered to fly Hugo’s ship to find the planet killer. The Anacreons and their hostages board the fabled Invictus warship. Phara wants to destroy the empire with the ship but she needs Salvor to stop keeping it jump automatically, so they can use it. The bond between Brother Dawn and Azura (the girl from the palace garden) intensifies. He tells her he is not perfect but the other two Brothers can never know, because then he will be replaced. Gaal is visited by Hari on the ship 34 yrs into the future, a projection of him at least, he explains to her what has happened, why Raysch killed Hari, he gave the order himself, as a martyr he was able to do more than alive. He didn’t want Raysch and Gaal together, his plan would not work. Brother Day has a worthy adversary with Zephyr Halima.

Brother Day embarks on a journey no other Cleon has ever attempted. He does this to block Zephyr Halima. He lies what he has seen but he wins, he has beaten Zephyr Halima, but still, she has to die by Demerzel’s hands, not his own. Demerzel is really struggling to do it, overwhelmed by emotions! *Note - Fascinating, since she is an android*. Gaal wants to hear the whole story from Hari but he only tells her that planet Helicon is the second part of Foundation, nobody can know, not even Foundation itself. She no longer wants to be used and begs Hari to let her go, which he does. Salvor prepares to make the ultimate sacrifice to return home. She manages to get away from the b#tch (Phara) for a moment, which is just enough to let the ship jump on its own. *Note - Brother Day does show some compassion during the pilgrimage, but shows his true nature by killing Halima. Best moment when Demerzel gets emotional for needing to kill Halima*.

The Invictus appears over Terminus due to the sacrifice of Foundation director Lewis Pirenne, who plugged himself into the ship's systems at the last second. Salvor joyfully reunites with Hugo, then descends to Terminus to deactivate the Vault, which has enveloped all of the planet in its null field. Brother Dawn realizes Brother Dusk knows his secret, he escapes but it all appears a trap, set in motion before he even came to life. He was to be replaced by a replica, an opponent of the Empire. Azura was part of an anti-Empire group that had altered Dawn's DNA, giving him imperfections with the expectation he would one day choose to flee the palace. On Terminus, Salvor solves the puzzle of the Vault, converting it into a portal. Before the gathered Anacreons, Thespins, and Termini, Salvor proposes harnessing the *Invictus* to give all three worlds leverage against the Empire. Phara tries to destroy the Vault, but is shot dead by Salvor. Before further violence can occur, Hari Seldon emerges from the portal. *Note - So glad that b#tch Phara is dead! My god, I was really annoyed by this character*.

Hari, a second digital copy of the original, explains the Vault was his casket all along, which transformed after being jettisoned and reached Terminus before the colonists. He also reveals the Foundation's true purpose was not to safeguard knowledge, but to forge a new civilization assisted by Anacreon and Thespis, and suggests using the Invictus to fake a "megaflare" to make it appear Terminus had been purged of life; this would allow the Outer Reach to develop in secret from the Empire. As Hari returns to the Vault until the next crisis, he tells Salvor that her visions were not sent by him. She deduces it must be from Gaal. Months later, Hugo is captain of the Invictus, and Salvor is running for mayor of Terminus. When Salvor learns she was conceived by Gaal and Raych and her embryo safeguarded on the Deliverance, before being carried to term by her mother Mari, she realizes her visions are her genetic parents' memories and leaves Terminus in search of Gaal. On Trantor, Brother Day tells Azura he has killed all of her relatives and everyone she has ever met, and that she will be shrouded for the rest of her life. Day decides to spare Dawn over Dusk's objections, but Demerzel kills Dawn anyway, affirming that her loyalty to the Cleon dynasty supersedes Day's wishes. Day is later informed that the anti-Empire conspiracy also altered the DNA of Cleon I's body long ago, affecting not only all extant replacement clones, but also Day himself and possibly his predecessors. In 12,240 E.I., Gaal lands on Synnax, and at the ruins of her hometown, she finds another pod underwater and awakens Salvor, who tells her she is Gaal's daughter. Salvor then gives her Hari Seldon's Prime Radiant.

Final Word:

As said, Foundation is a massive show, I don’t think I currently can compare it with any other SCI-FI show. It latterly spans centuries, it jumps from past to present and future, many storylines all connected in someway. Don’t expect an action pact SCI-FI series, it often is slow going, it certainly is not fast paced, only on rare occasions things speed up. It is far more an intellectual piece of television, the CGI is amazing, the production values are over the top, it looks fantastic and yes, the story, although mostly slow-going is engaging. I don’t think it is for everyone, it will not be appreciated by everyone but it is a very interesting and massive saga for the ones who do love it!