

The War of the Worlds: Resilience and Fragility in the Face of Alien Invasion

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Abstract: This study examines *The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells, positioning this foundational science fiction novel as a profound inquiry into the mechanics of human resilience, survival instincts, and psychological endurance under the pressure of a cataclysmic Martian invasion. Analysis of the extraterrestrial threat shifts the focus from total social disintegration to the unexpected adaptive strength demonstrated by humanity during existential crises. It critiques human vulnerability while simultaneously highlighting how individuals and fractured communities transition from absolute despair to active, resourceful resistance against an overwhelming force. The paper presents the narrative arc of the protagonist not merely as a witness to chaos, but as a primary symbol of the biological and mental fortitude required to withstand the collapse of civilization. Moreover, the story illustrates that while artificial human structures and technologies are fragile, the foundational human spirit possesses an innate flexibility that allows it to endure. Wells forces the reader to look past the immediate terror of the invasion to appreciate the persistent capacity of humankind to adapt, recover, and recalibrate in a fundamentally unstable universe. Ultimately, the novel serves as an enduring exploration of evolutionary resilience, offering crucial insights into how humanity confronts, survives, and ultimately outlasts forces beyond its immediate control.

Keywords: colonialism, hubris, invasion, resilience, survival

1. Introduction

The War of the Worlds (1898) by H. G. Wells is widely regarded as a revolutionary work in science fiction, mainly because of its unsettling depiction of an alien invasion and its exploration of human vulnerability in the face of the unknown. Set in late nineteenth-century England, the novel tells the story of an unexpected and ruthless encounter between humans and invaders, a technologically advanced extraterrestrial race (Alberro 2022). These unfamiliar attackers carry with them an arsenal of deadly technology, including powerful heat-rays and toxic black smoke that far surpass human capabilities. Thus far, beyond the ferocity and devastation they cause, the invaders signify a strength beyond human understanding and control. The author uses this encounter to critically examine existential themes, reminding readers of the limits of human knowledge and the fragility of human progress. The invaders serve as a symbol of the "other," an incomprehensible and overwhelming force that stirs up primal anxiety within people. They are not represented as mere brutes but rather as a species with its own inspirations and survival essentials that force readers to confront troubling questions about humankind's place in the world (Dobraszczyk 2022). The novel shows that human

civilization is fragile as the Martians systematically dismantle human civilization and this cannot develop and be as complex as it could be. This human vulnerability reverberates throughout the narrator's experience as he witnesses the destruction of metropolises, the inability to arrange a fight in advance and the collapse of the previously solid structures.

The features of the social failure depicted by Wells are excellent, and it is useful as an analysis of human satisfaction and boldness. The facade of human civilization melted quickly as the Martians proceeded, taking a human being down to the most fundamental desires, struggling to survive without considering social standards (Calloway 2021). The character notes how fear and panic spread rapidly, undermining communication, government, and social organizations. This disorder stresses the warning by Wells: Although human progress may be strong in its outward design, it remains exposed to the force of outside powers beyond its control. The Martian invasion is a scientific miracle as a representative of transforming the matter that humanity is made of so rapidly. The theme of social failure and the exposure of the social contracts is also discussed in this theme. The rub of existential pressures on the contracts that hold societies together is to have the latter become fine sand, which can be easily broken when there is a threat of survival.

Wells also explores human strength in the face of chaos. The research presents the human capacity to transform a passive spectator into an active participant in the struggle for survival (Campos 2024). He has hope and is able to withstand everything as odds are stacked against him and everything he knew fails. Although the novel presents in a very graphic way in which the human civilization can be weak when it is threatened by external forces, it also focuses on the hardness of people as they can survive and adjust to any kind of threat, regardless. Such contrast between vulnerability and strength makes the warning narrative of Wells that more heartfelt as it shows the thin boundaries of evolution and the ability of humanity to seek new ground. *The War of the Worlds* is not just a work of the speculative fiction, but a deeper look into human nature and flexibility. Investigating the horror of Martian invasion, Wells makes the readers answer the eternal questions pertaining to the role of humanity in a hectic universe. His book lasts long since it skillfully combines the motifs of vulnerability and strength, while asking whether civilization is truly prepared to withstand the unknown (Otjen 2020).

Furthermore, the anxiety of encountering a technologically superior, emotionally detached intelligence heavily resonates with the modern escalation of unsupervised artificial intelligence and automated systems. The modern fear is no longer directed toward interplanetary conquerors, but toward autonomous algorithms and computational entities that operate outside traditional human ethics, threatening to displace human agency and destabilize socioeconomic stability. Just as the historic text exposes the hubris of a civilization convinced of its permanent supremacy, current global upheavals force modern readers to abandon industrial arrogance and confront the transience of human design. Ultimately, this connection underscores that contemporary survival remains fundamentally unchanged; our

global resilience relies not on the rigid permanence of digital or physical infrastructure, but on humanity's decentralised biological plasticity, collective humility, and proactive capacity to psychologically recalibrate within a volatile and unpredictable ecosystem.

1.1 Background and context

The War of the Worlds (1898) by H.G. Wells is an all-time literary masterpiece that explores human fragility when faced with unidentified and in most cases violent forces that are above his control (Thompson 2022). In addition, *The War of the Worlds* can be considered an innovative project in the genre of invasion fiction, carrying the concerns of the late 19th-century British society. This technologically accelerating history and the danger of expansionism became a creation that was increasingly aware of its impulsiveness. The portrait of the world as an invaded planet by superior Martian conquerors by Wells questions the superiority of the human race and reveals the precariousness of human achievements (Hill 2022). The novel offers a sustained exploration of the issues of anxiety, social disintegration, and the power of the human soul (Ong 2019). The novel is firmly entrenched in late nineteenth-century British society when there was a coexistence of the many rapid technological changes and imperialistic ambitions with fears of what they would bring. The description of the Martians as technologically advanced invaders is reminiscent of British colonialism in which the empire tended to view itself as an overpowering force over less technologically developed societies. When reversing the story in this case, Wells reverses the roles, whereby humanity is the one that is colonized; powerless to resist the overwhelming external power. This view is also a critique of imperial hubris as to whether the accomplishments of humanity as an indication of its superiority, or its hypothetical temporary safety.

In addition, the novel weaves in the themes of environmental degradation and societal collapse, mirroring our worries about our precarious place in the world and with the world itself. For instance, through the Martian invasion, we can find a metaphor for the destructive results of using natural resources in an unsustainable way. Hill (2022) stresses the instability of human development at the hands of external threats. However, Ong (2019) posits that psychological stress is a product of crises, which break societal norms under pressure. These perspectives reflect their separate ways of understanding Wells' narrative, but when taken together as a group, they illuminate his story. Wells weaves ecological themes in an alien invasion story that anticipates many contemporary thoughts about the Anthropocene when fabricated environmental change occurs. Wells' "*The War of the Worlds*" was the foundation for exploring humanity's vulnerabilities, and VanderMeer's *Area X* modern work builds on this but change the tone. The narratives resonate as cautionary tales about limits to human knowledge and what happens to someone who recklessly confronts the incomprehensible. Yet, these works are still helpful today, revealing what technology leads to and what colonial legacies and environmental crises look like (Ferris 2019). They encourage readers to think about the price of unchecked progress and the lasting impact of human decision-making.

2. Literature review

2.1 Alien invasion as a reflection of human fears and colonial critique

Alien invasion literature frequently reflects humanity's anxieties about settlement, technological inferiority, and existential vulnerability. Academics recognize H.G. Wells as a foundational figure in this genre, combining exciting narrative with social analysis. In *The War of the Worlds*, Wells uses the frightening presence of the Martians to expose humanity's vulnerability to forces beyond its control. The Martians signify "a progressive technical species," often seen as representing fears of the unknown and the superior, which positions people as vulnerable and subject to attack. This dynamic reflects the wider purpose of unfamiliar invasion stories, as these frequently challenge readers to confront their fear of the unidentified, drawing on people's historical anxieties about colonization and the limits of technical prowess (Ratuva 2021). The Martians' advanced technology in *The War of the Worlds* mirrors the imperialist tactics of European powers during the 19th century. Their superior weaponry and advanced infrastructure reflect the technological dominance that colonial powers used to subjugate and control less developed nations. Just as the imperialists exploited technological advancements to assert dominance, the Martians' invasion exposes humanity's vulnerability to external forces, analyzing the arrogance of imperialism and the fragility of perceived superiority.

An important dimension of *The War of the Worlds* is its analysis of colonialism. Academics claim that Wells constructs the Martians as an aggressive power, reflecting the practices of imperialist European states at the period. The Martians treat humans as mere specimens, "scrutinizing humanity as a scientist might examine creatures in a drop of water." This metaphor underscores the dehumanizing attitudes of imperialist powers, who often viewed colonized peoples as subjects to be studied, controlled, or exploited rather than as equals. By portraying the Martians as detached and indifferent observers, Wells critiques the imperialist mindset, revealing its capacity to strip humanity of dignity and agency. The Martians' separate and scientific comment matches colonial attitudes, where indigenous peoples were often dehumanized or regarded with a comparable lack of understanding. In reversing colonial writing, Wells places humans in the position of the colonized, thereby interrogating expectations of advantage and encouraging readers to reflect on the fragility of their supposed supremacy (Cole 2019). Wells' representation of the Martians also invites ethical questions concerning the nature of control and supremacy. The Martians embody the moral problem of unrestrained imperialistic performances with progressive technology that people cannot secure, which is important. Scholars highlight that this representation reflects the critical significance of immense power without responsibility. Alien invasion narratives reflect human fears and colonial critique by portraying the "Other" as a threat, mirroring the power dynamics of imperialism. Ratuva et al. (2019) highlights the erasure of identity. Slowik adds depth by examining the ethical concerns of imperial power, showing how alien invaders symbolize the moral implications of domination and cultural imposition, and critiquing the legacy of colonialism. Wells' problem of colonial undercurrents allows readers to know the trauma of attack from

the viewpoint of the attacked, encouraging empathy and moral reflection on the effects of expansionism (Slowik 2023). This critique extends beyond military subjugation into the realm of ecological imperialism. The Martians do not merely conquer; they attempt to terraform the Earth by introducing the invasive "Red Weed," symbolizing the environmental erasure that historically accompanied colonial expansions. Scholars such as Slowik (2023) emphasize that alien invasion narratives capture the multi-layered trauma of colonization, which encompasses cultural erasure, identity displacement, and ecological destruction. Ultimately, by subverting the traditional colonial gaze, Wells constructs a cautionary tale that demands empathy for the oppressed, transforming a tale of outer-space terror into a timeless ethical critique of human arrogance and the violent legacies of empire.

2.2 Historical context and modern resonance of human vulnerability

The impact of the Martians in planet Earth in *The War of the Worlds* is an indication of contemporary issues of the relationship between man and the environment. As an illustration, the invasion of the Martians that destroys the ecosystems of the planet can be interpreted as a symbol of the destruction of the environment through industrialization and human carelessness. The fact that the Martians access heat rays and biological weaponry reflects the fear of the irreversible consequences of technological progress on the natural habitats, reflecting the fears of climate change and ecological breakdown. During the novel's magazine period, British society was worried about foreign pressures and unstable power dynamics. However, a major global power, the British Empire was progressively conscious of the susceptibility characteristic in its vast network of colonies and the potential for other powers to rise against it (Krome 2024). Academics claim that *The War of the Worlds* captures these worries by portraying a progressive alien development that easily brings Britain to its knees. The Martians' invasion damaged British society and the confidence of a country that had grown up familiar with a situation of influence. This subversion imitates contemporary worries over latent foreign attacks and wider fears about the failure of the British Empire's impact.

Wells's Martians symbolize a sense of impending doom, a symbol of Britain's fragile sense of security. This context improves the thematic relevance of the novel, joining alien attacks with real geopolitical worries. The story thus serves as a vehicle for discovering societal worries and inspires readers to reflect on the imaginable consequences of unrestrained grand determination, and the fragility of national safety. In addition, the motifs of *The War of the Worlds* are much wider than its historical moment, and they echo with the modern audience that is concerned with the issues linked with the scientific and environmental catastrophes. Other scholars such as Howard Phillips have examined the works of Wells as a major account of limitations and dangers of knowledge. In the novel, Martians have advanced weapons and skills far much above human proportions, where heat waves and black smoke kill. These technologies expose the boundaries of the human revolution when faced with services that are not governed by the human moral or moral restrictions. The fact that Wells as a weapon and a source of power depict Martian knowledge shows that humanity remains concerned with the impact of technical development on civilization and atmosphere. *The War of the Worlds* lives

on with echoes of a warning tale with modern day problems such as climatic change, (AI) artificial intelligence, and atomic power (Calloway 2021). The fact that the story revolves around environmental degradation, which involves the effects of the Martians on the planet, is representative of the contemporary issues surrounding the relationship of human beings with ecological balance and is acting as a warning of the potential results of not remembering the environment in its ecological state.

At the core of the novel, *The War of the Worlds* is a narrative of human vulnerability, which depicts humanity as fragile and ultimately powerless in the face of something bigger. This is a theme echoing throughout the novel emphasizing the idea that human development all its technical advancement and complex social formations is exceptionally fragile to the breakdown.

Researchers note that Wells uses the Martian attack as a device to analyze human hubris, revealing the ease with which civilization can be dismantled when unprotected from experiential pressures (Ormrod 2023). By showcasing the failure of social command and the ancestry into disorder, Wells highlights the brittleness of human concepts and the boundaries of planned civilization when faced with extraordinary disaster. This theme remains relevant to modern debates around flexibility, readiness, and the toughness of human civilizations in confronting crises, whether scientific, conservational, or sociopolitical in landscape (Browne 2023).

2.3 Ecological warnings and enduring legacy of *The War of the Worlds*

A fascinating feature of *The War of the Worlds* is its examination of genetic resilience and environmental stability. The Martians finally yielded to Earth's microbes for their technical advantage, a feature they neither had expected nor were ready for. This result addresses the significance of environmental interconnection and the randomness of biotic strength (De Marino 2021). Researchers propose that Wells' choice to have Earth's microorganisms bring about the Martians' downfall, is a subtle reminder of nature's control and humanity's dependence on its expected atmosphere.

The given theme is very close to the current ecological concerns because it evaluates the fine stability in systems. The novel serves as a warning that the human dominance, just like the ones of the Martians, was not unquestionable and might ultimately rely on aspects, which are outside the human control. In addition, the symbolism of the power of nature that can proclaim itself in relation to technological advancement by Wells illustrates respect for ecological systems, and an element of a contemporary environmental critique. Likewise, *The War of the Worlds* has been a lasting influence on science fiction, as well as the modern ethos, and its ethical theme continues to provoke variations, images, and even dissertations. The novel, as a widely acclaimed example in the genre of alien-invasion fiction, is a thrilling story and a warning about the risks of the hubris, and limitations on the power of humanity (Withers & Tyrrell 2020). Its discussion of expansionism, technical advancement and environmental exploitation has rendered it an undertaking of enduring importance, prompting the reader to consider the moral implications of their actions and the natural complexity of life on Earth.

According to researchers, the legacy of Wells is certain due to his ability to balance speculative fiction and profound community analysis. Such a formulation has predisposed works of uncountable science-fiction novels that find the existence of humanity. Perched on the position of humanity as the vulnerable, the novel challenges the claims of superiority and control that are frequently used to characterize human self-image. *The War of the Worlds* has also undergone this exploration of vulnerability and pliability as an intergenerational work, encouraging readers to wonder how they relate to technology and the environment (Schiavon 2025).

2.4 A deeper dive into human and alien dynamics

2.4.1 The protagonist's evolution: From observer to survivor

Wells uses the protagonist's journey in *The War of the Worlds* to illustrate a profound shift from passive observation to active survival. At the novel's beginning, the narrator embodies the role of a detached, scientific-minded individual fascinated by the arrival of the Martians. At first, he sees the Martian cylinder with curiosity, calling it 'a blackened mass,' and does not appear to feel any particular threat. Even more, his detachment of spirit is shown through his realization of how advanced the Martians were, even calling their tripod machines, 'incomprehensible marvels.' He underestimates the threat based on this intellectual interest, a human tendency to feel safe from far-away perils until they are nearly upon you (Houfková 2019). However, as the invasion continues, the protagonist's perspective finally starts to change massively. He is torn from his initial detachment by the ruin of his city by the Martians. In particular, he is forced to flee London, where he witnesses humanity's collapse in all of its chaotic glory. He recalls the Martians' devastating heat rays. He describes the panic in the streets: "The trampling over of others was universal: men and women were demoralized, and ran hither and thither, and were knocked over like ninepins". This incredibly chaotic moment forces the protagonist to understand the reality of the Martian threat, destroying his intellectual detachment and thrusting him into a state of existential dread. His interaction with other characters, such as the curate and the artilleryman, also indicates his evolution as a narrator. For instance, as the man encounters the curate, he is afraid; he is saying the end of the world has come about as a spiritual crisis in the face of alien invasion. In this case, the protagonist is forced to confront the human tendency to cry out for religion to seek something to give meaning and comfort when confronted with the unknown. On the contrary, the artilleryman provides a picture of a chance to survive among the Martians by hiding underground using their technology to which humans can return. The protagonist is initially attracted to this vision, but he soon becomes disillusioned with its impracticality and the artilleryman's delusions. In the end, several moments of intense personal transformation on the protagonist's part result from being forced to go from passive observer to active survivor, plucked from the jaws of death by a Martian invasion. His physical survival becomes entwined with his emotional and psychological struggle, highlighting the adaptability of the human spirit in the face of overwhelming crises (Harper 2023). The narrator's shift from intellectual detachment to instinctual survival reflects a

broader commentary on human vulnerability and resilience in the face of existential threats

2.4.2 The Martians as the ultimate "other"

The most important part of *The War of the Worlds* is the description of the Martians as the archetype of the other. These aliens, equipped with knowledge and organic developments that are vastly superior to human skills, are an unknown element that is corrupting the human civilization on its fundamental levels (Beard & Hobson 2024). Humans are treated as specimens in *The War of the Worlds* and this metaphor is similar to the dehumanization of colonialism where the colonizers regarded the indigenous population as inferior, and exploitable. Like imperial powers, the Martians see humans as objects to be controlled, reinforcing imperial ideologies of domination. Wells conceives the Martians through a thoughtful sense of difference, highlighting their complete indifference to human suffering. Moreover, their inspirations and nature are as unintelligible to humans as their movements are upsetting, making them a force that defies conventional human understanding. The Martians' representation raises important queries about the power dynamics amongst the colonists and the settled. Their emotionless diagnostic method of humanity, where individuals are little more than insignificant specimens, imitates the viewpoint of grand conquerors through the past. The descriptions of the Martians observing and overpowering individuals "as a scientist might examine creatures in a drop of water" serve as a striking analogy for colonial assumptions of superiority and control. Moreover, this representation challenges the reader to reflect on how those exposed to imposing control strength observe humanity's supremacy, turning the tables on the colonist story and inviting critical reflection. Moreover, the technological advantage of the Martians exposes humanity's limitations. Wells uses this power imbalance to discover the susceptibility of human development, which, despite its technological advances, proves exposed against a more advanced species. The Martians' comprehensive control over individuals highlights the instability of human development, discouraging trust in the strength of human accomplishment. The story challenges readers with the disturbing realism that human knowledge and innovation while imposing are not dependable, and there may continuously be forces beyond human understanding and control.

2.4.3 Psychological and sociopolitical implications

Wells' investigation of character and plot extends into psychological and sociopolitical domains, investigating how persons and civilizations react when confronted with existential pressures. The novel presents a range of human answers, from denial and fear to logical, albeit occasionally morally unclear, tactics for survival (Lostoski-Ho 2023).

Lostoski-Ho (2023) claims: "In the face of the Martian invasion, the breakdown of established societal norms forces characters to confront their deepest vulnerabilities, as rational thought gives way to emotional turmoil" (p. 52).

The role of the curate is a mainly emotional study of emotional failure. His helplessness to process the crisis shatters his spiritual framework, contributing to his descent into madness, representing the failure of traditional frameworks that many rely on in to make the sense of the world. This psychological collapse stands

in plain difference to the more pragmatic and adaptive response of the artilleryman, who, however defective, signifies a more grounded response to the invasion. As Lostoski-Ho (2023) notes: "The curate's descent into madness mirrors the collapse of a spiritual paradigm, wherein his faith, once an anchor, now becomes his undoing".

Moreover, the artilleryman's vision for building a new humanity undergoes a harsh, Darwinian viewpoint on survival based only on the fittest or most practical may suffer. Meanwhile, his tactics may be impractical and overly principled, but they highlight an essential human drive to discover answers, however flawed in the face of apparently insoluble odds (Cole 2019). Cole (2019) posited, "The artilleryman's attempt to forge a new society reflects an effort to maintain a semblance of control, however flawed, amid the chaos of the Martian onslaught." These contrasting character arcs expose the complex nature of human flexibility and the various coping strategies individuals employ when realism becomes unrecognizable.

2.4.4 Humanity's hubris and the humbling of civilization

One of the central themes in *The War of the Worlds* is human hubris. Wells breaks the illusion of human superiority, revealing a civilization that falls apart soon under outside pressure. The ruthless attack by the Martians reveals the weaknesses of human society including deficiency of military effectiveness, and the breakdown of social organization (Hill 2022). As an example, the fact that the main character thinks that the threat of the Martians is not such a big one in the beginning, assuming that their superior technology will be defeated, is also indicative of an overall societal arrogance. The problem is overconfidence, for humanity believes its ingenuity will see off any challenge. Nevertheless, as the Martian's ruin begins, it is found out that humanity is prone, and along with it, they are in a vulnerable position. This humbling process traces the progression from disbelief to terror as the protagonist recognizes that man is not the pinnacle of creation but a species subject to forces of greater power. By looking at the rapid collapse of societal structures, Wells admonishes the complacency and overconfidence of the era and its broader prevailing beliefs regarding human progress and Western civilization's 'mandate of heaven.' In the story, for example, the protagonist initially dismisses the Martians' power, and minutes later, entire cities are destroyed due to human arrogance, demonstrating just how formidable the Martians are (Taylor 2023). This confrontation with the other, beginning from the humility born from it, terrifies and teaches. It forces humanity to reconsider its place in the universe. Through the protagonist's journey, Wells highlights the importance of adaptability, humility, and respect for forces beyond human control.

3. Analysis

3.1 Fear of the unknown

Wells employs the psychological collapse of the curate to bring out the weakness of the man in the face of the unknown. He ends up losing faith and descends into madness, which shows the extent to which belief systems are entrenched in a way that they break down when faced with the act of existential threat. This shows how powerless people and the society can be in the presence of such huge and

indistinguishable forces. *The War of the Worlds* intensifies human apprehension toward the unknown, which Wells embodies in the Martians. Their motives and technical capacity are veiled in unrecognizable, narrative strategy that highlights the fear that they indicate. The Martians arrive on Earth through a twist of fate, disrupting the normal life on Earth with their scary alien hardware. Wells embodies them as a horrific other,

Highlighting humans' shame and anxiety in being put about with beings beyond familiar thought and classification. This consideration strikes a profound, almost primal panic of the inexplicable, a subject that runs through the novel. With little warning, The Martians get away.

Their sudden and catastrophic arrival plunges the human race into chaos because they represent the ultimate mysterious, influential, strange, and entirely indifferent to the suffering of human beings. The insignificance of these creatures puts into focus how insignificant humanity is to the huge galactic order. Wells takes advantage of the glowing and worrying imagery to cement the terror that these extraterrestrial invaders cause. Their knowledge is depicted as captivating and disturbing, the combination of fundamentals of organic and mechanical elements that defy human empathy. By highlighting the Martians' comprehensive indifference to the worries of human existence, Wells reproduces a kind of empirical fear that questions humanity's preparedness for encounters with life outside Earth. The story led readers to visualize the fright of meeting a progressive type that, rather than being engaging in any form of communication or cooperation, proceeds only through destruction. This description strikes a chord with readers, compelling them to challenge the restrictions of human understanding and control in the face of an infinitely superior strength.

The emotional impact of this unfamiliar hazard is possibly best demonstrated over the plot of the curate. His response to the attack exposes the thoughtful experiential emergency that stands up when intensely held principles are reduced to worthless. The curate's religious beliefs fail to provide relief or clarification in the face of such an overwhelming and frightening reality. He cries out, "Why are these things permitted?" and "What sins have we done?" queries representing his fight to settle the attack with his worldview.

These appearances demonstrate the confusion and powerlessness of understanding when traditional belief systems fail under the mass of rather far beyond social knowledge. Wells uses this episode to advise that humanity's current frameworks for understanding creation, be they spiritual, technical, or educational, are ill-equipped to grasp truly unfamiliar phenomena. This failure in understanding and belief highlights the fragility of human understanding when challenged with the definitive strange. The predominant theme of anxiety is emphasized by Wells' careful pacing and escalation of tension. He theorizes a story where the intelligence of nervousness and horror progressively rises, reflecting the spreading disorder and obliteration imposed by the Martians. From the community's early disbelief of the community to the ultimate general fear, the story captures the transition from unawareness to a terrible understanding that humankind is without help in the world and unprepared to defend itself against such a risk. By tracing humankind's

response to the indefinite, Wells involves current worries and lays the foundation for an enduring description that reverberates with readers.

3.2 Collapse of civilization

The collapse of human civilization is an extra central theme in *The War of the Worlds*, used by Wells, to analyze the instability of social order. Moreover, the Martians developed over England with their heat-rays and towering tripods, and the impression of human constancy smashes almost promptly. The story paints an intense picture of social norms decomposing, revealing the fragility of even the most unshakable organizations when confronted with existential pressures. Governments, which once appeared supreme, are reduced to helpless, and military forces prove completely unsuccessful over the Martians' superior technology. The rapidity with which civilization collapses is surprising, serving as a powerful reminder of humankind's susceptibility. Conferring to one investigation, the study leaks, "How easily [civilization] can be undone" when humankind encounters a much larger strength. Wells' representation of social breakdown is both comprehensive and disturbing. Cities that are hurried with daily life and commerce are condensed to ruins, and organized communities dissolve into confusion. Individuals' routines, homes, possessions, and social obligations are determined solely by the nature to endure. The scenes of fear and displacement reveal, the essence of people's fragility, highlighting how thin the veneer of order is. Wells proposes that the constructions humankind depends upon administration, faith, and social ladders are mere concepts, vulnerable to fast breakdown under the burden. This analysis of social progress suggests that short of the constancy provided by these concepts, individuals are not so dissimilar from the creatures over whom they privilege territory. The assault develops a substance that strips away the artificial trappings of civilization, leaving a raw and anxious struggle for existence. Wells provides vivid examples of civilization's collapse in *The War of the Worlds*. In addition, when the protagonist says,

'London' is a vast pit of destruction,' they mean 'London' was once a city almost destroyed. The Martian tripods make 'cannons and rifles useless against military forces.'

Moreover, panic spreads down the streets as 'people were no longer concerned with their neighbors', as standard social order is breaking down and survival instinct overpowers societal norms. It also discusses more dependence on technology and how it gives you a false sense of security. Notably, Martian equipment and weaponry also grew progressively beyond the limits of human skill. This divergence underscores the temporary nature of technological dominance and analyzes the superiority that usually shows human development. Instead, the parts that depict military dissatisfaction (in which rifles and cannons are no match to the Martians' fighting machines and heat-rays) inspire readers to conclude that human achievement is far removed from supreme.

Additionally, humankind's ineffectiveness of its defenses is an omnipresent prompt of hubris that will elude people to their susceptibilities. Contemporary readers will recognize the echo of this theme as they confront the implications of technical dependence and even the potential fragility of modern societies.

Researchers have distinguished that the breakdown described by Wells mirrors current worries about resilience in society in the face of catastrophe. The novel points out the rapid unraveling of the communal arrangement, which raises questions about humankind's attention to practical disasters, whether natural, technological, or extraterrestrial. The vital symbols of people's fragility are carried on by the vivid descriptions of a world held to its knees by an external, insistent force that makes humility, caution, and preparedness in the appearance of the unknown necessary.

3.3 Human resilience

The War of the Worlds also explores humankind's resilience amid the anxiety and disorder in which it occurs. A strand of human stamina is left at the overwhelming odds and the widespread destruction created by the aliens. The character begins as a passive spectator to recount the events and gradually grows into an active survivor. Human flexibility is emphasized with this development from interest to an anxious fight for endurance. With his adaptability, the protagonist symbolizes adaptability in the face of disaster in *The War of the Worlds*. It represents the human ability to endure and adapt from being the passive observer to its transformation into the determined survivor. Amidst the chaos, the novel shows people forming alliances, which show how strong communal bonds can be, bringing hope and reflecting on the fundamental human instinct of cooperation when the civilization is crumbling. In fact,

This highlights resilience at both individual and collective levels. Additionally, it exposes the normal will to endure in the face of the seemingly inevitable catastrophe. This story feature introduces a measure of hope to counter gloomy themes of social failure, a ray of confidence in a terrible place. It is symbolic of humankind's dimension of determination. He accepts existence as acute woe, but he persists in forcing his advancement due to nature's willingness to allow him to continue to live. His encounters with other typescripts, such as the artilleryman, disclose various emphatic answers: despair, unworkable futuristic plans of dominance, etc. As he comments on these communications, Wells learns of the ways people cover disturbance and hesitation. There is individual strength and flexibility because the character finally understands that he trusts his flexibility rather than his carefully constructed plans. In the face of apparently impossible problems, this representation of human flexibility claims there are grounds for hope and endurance.

The novel's representation of flexibility spreads outside the character to the broader human community. Moreover, despite the Martians' persistent devastation, there are many instances of people coming together, offering one another assistance, and forming temporary communities. These moments of solidarity amid disorder demonstrate the human capacity for cooperation and mutual support in times of disaster. Meanwhile, the scale of the devastation is huge, and the persistence of human life, though fragile, suggests an ongoing capacity to resist. This theme of resilience resonates strongly in science fiction, as it often reflects humanity's fundamental hope and willpower to reconstruct in the aftermath of devastation. Researchers have noted that this importance of flexibility stimulates

readers, emphasizing the possibility of overcoming adversity. The character's struggle compared to the Martians represents the wider human soul that refuses to be extinguished. The narrative thus presents resilience as a testament to human strength even when survival appears unlikely. The novel recommends that although evolution may hesitate, the important human will to endure perseveres and contributes to a certain amount of confidence for the future. This representation of flexibility offers an intelligence of stability to the story, reminding readers that even after being challenged with the mysterious, humankind possesses a persistent drive to endure and adapt.

3.4 Real-world implications of *The War of the Worlds*

H. G. Wells, in *The War of the Worlds*, develops a sustained critique of the imperial expansion by reversing the conventional colonial order. Wells reverses the situation by imagining man as the colonized, and powerless against a technologically advanced and superior Martian empire, instead of depicting Britain as an empire that is the dominant power in the world. This calculated reversal makes the reader face the invasion and oppression situation in the eyes of the oppressed and not in that of the conqueror. The setting of England as the location of invasion subverts imperial beliefs of superiority and permanence, revealing the precariousness of the colonial power structures. The invasion of the Martians is a metaphorical response to the European imperialism. The British Empire was more than ever powerful in the world, but the concerns about the geopolitical competition and the weakness of the Empire became very tangible in the late nineteenth century. Wells uses these issues to direct his anxieties through the character of the Martians, who are the embodiment of both the technological and emotional superiority with the moral callousness that is commonly linked to the colonialist governments. The destruction of the human settlements by the Martians is similar to the process of history when colonized people are destroyed by the imperial conquest. By so doing, Wells turns science fiction into a kind of socio-political commentary.

In *The War of the Worlds*, there is a great inversion of roles where humanity, who has always believed in their superiority in terms of civilization, is helpless before a more developed species. This reversal challenges anthropocentric and imperialist beliefs, indicating that supremacy is not something natural or eternal. By presenting humans as the colonized and not the colonizers, Wells makes the readers sympathize with the colonized societies and criticizes the morality of imperialism. The novel has a historical setting, but it also appeals to modern issues of globalization, technological reliance, and environmental susceptibility. The crashing social order revealed by the Martian invasion reveals the vulnerability of the contemporary infrastructure and the illusion of security in the high-tech civilizations. Institutions, transportation systems, and communication networks fall apart at a rapid pace, which is a reflection of the current anxieties about climate change, pandemics, and uncontrolled technological growth.

The War of the Worlds also criticizes humanity's misplaced trust in scientific power. Although technological progress has been associated with control and improvement, Wells shows that scientific superiority has the potential to create domination and destruction. The heat-rays of the Martians and their mechanical

fighting machinery are an allegory for the duality of innovation that can bring about progress and can equally cause destruction. This conflict is strikingly relevant in the era of artificial intelligence, nuclear armaments, and environmental abuse, which reminds readers that with technological capabilities, there are moral responsibilities that accompany technological power. The novel also brings out the weakness of interconnected systems. The rapid spread of panic, displacement and institutional collapse are predictors of the domino effects of crises in an interconnected world. The hierarchies and assumptions that have been developed through the years are shattered in the face of the unexpected danger and demonstrate the importance of humility before forces greater than human institutions, whether natural or technological. Wells eventually transcends his Victorian background to provide a lasting treatment of the subject of power and moral responsibility. He uses the alien intrusion as a metaphor of colonialism to criticize imperialism, and to warn against the complacency of modern times. The novel challenges the readers to understand that superiority is only temporary and that being the most adaptable is the only way to survive.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, this paper has demonstrated that H.G. Wells's *The War of the Worlds* is a foundational inquiry into the dual realities of human vulnerability and endurance, perfectly capturing the core tension between structural fragility and psychological resilience. The catastrophic Martian invasion serves as a narrative crucible that immediately exposes the deep fragility of human civilization; it shatters the illusion of societal stability and proves that institutional structures, governments, and military forces are helpless when confronted by a superior existential threat. However, this study argues that the true weight of the novel lies in its counterbalancing exploration of human resilience. As the social order crumbles into chaos, the protagonist's evolution from a passive observer to an active survivor manifests the profound flexibility and survival instincts of the human spirit. Symbolized by the persistent presence of hope and courage amidst devastation, the text reveals that while artificial human systems are inherently fragile, the biological and mental fortitude of humanity remains unbreakable. Ultimately, Wells forces a shift from imperial arrogance to universal humility, concluding that when humankind faces overwhelming, uncontrollable forces—whether alien or natural—true resilience depends on our collective awareness and innate capacity to adapt, endure, and survive.

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