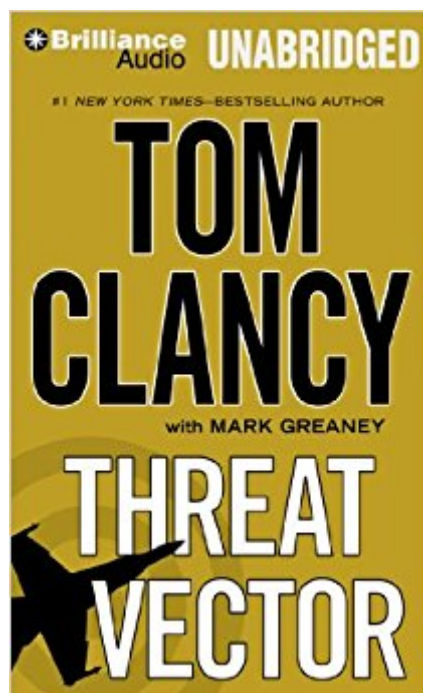


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Threat Vector (Jack Ryan Novels)



Synopsis

Jack Ryan has only just moved back into the Oval Office when he is faced with a new international threat. An aborted coup in the People's Republic of China has left President Wei Zhen Lin with no choice but to agree with the expansionist policies of General Su Ke Quiang. They have declared the South China Sea a protectorate and are planning an invasion of Taiwan. The Ryan administration is determined to thwart China's ambitions, but the stakes are dangerously high as a new breed of powerful Chinese anti-ship missiles endanger the US Navy's plans to protect the island. Meanwhile, Chinese cyber warfare experts have launched a devastating attack on American infrastructure. It's a new combat arena, but it's every bit as deadly as any that has gone before. Jack Ryan, Jr. and his colleagues at the Campus may be just the wild card that his father needs to stack the deck. There's just one problem: someone knows about the off-the-books intelligence agency and threatens to blow their cover sky high.

Book Information

Series: Jack Ryan Novels

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Customer Reviews

"Each plotline comes to us mainly in a series of tightly written action scenes...as visual as anything on a movie screen, with the added enticement of crisp, accurate and hard driving prose." --Chicago Tribune "Hard to put down." --Pittsburgh Post-Gazette --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Thirty years ago, Tom Clancy was a Maryland insurance broker with a passion for naval history. Years before, he had been an English major at Baltimore's Loyola College and had always

dreamed of writing a novel. His first effort, *The Hunt for Red October*, sold briskly as a result of rave reviews, then catapulted onto the New York Times bestseller list after President Reagan pronounced it "the perfect yarn." Since then Clancy has established himself as an undisputed master at blending exceptional realism and authenticity, intricate plotting, and razor-sharp suspense. Mark Greaney has a degree in international relations and political science and is pursuing his master's in intelligence studies with a concentration in criminal intelligence. In his research for the Gray Man novels, he traveled to seven countries and trained alongside military and law enforcement in the use of firearms, battlefield medicine, and close-range combat tactics. Please visit his website at www.markgreaneybooks.com.

THREAT VECTOR is a Tom Clancy novel with Jack Ryan written by Mark Greaney. The fact that it's a Jack Ryan novel makes the story appealing. The book's relevance to today's (2016) real world crises with China and Russia makes it even more enticing. As in most Clancy/Greaney novels the first 20 percent of the book is filled with superfluous and boring background narration. If you can wind your way through this early part you will be rewarded. Most of the action takes place in China and the South China Sea. The book is full of exciting, action-packed scenarios. There's even a couple of good air-to-air battles thrown in to indulge the flyboys among us. President Ryan and Jack Junior play key roles in these scenarios. It was unsettling to read about China's threatening actions against its neighbors and then on today's FOX News I listen to similar reports about China's and Russia's intimidating actions currently taking place in the real world. This is reflective of Clancy and Greaney's writing genius, diligent research and farsightedness. The novel delves into the international world of cyber-warfare. It depicts how scary and destructive cyberkinetic attacks on our power plants and grids can be, as well as a potential wholesale shutdown of our transportation and communication systems. It shows how powerless a country can become when it relies heavily on computer systems and then comes under cyber-warfare attack. America is extremely vulnerable as are all nations in this regard. *Threat Vector* is reflective of what Americans hunger to read—"unapologetic expressions of patriotism with the good guys winning occasionally. *Threat Vector* is a good read. I give it a 5-star rating.

A great read, *Threat Vector* is a fast-paced page turner, very hard to put it down. Very chilling look at how terrorists could use our dependency on everything digital against us! I've read a large number of Tom Clancy books including the originals actually written by Clancy himself. When 9/11

happened I had two thoughts: 1) Bin Laden must be a Tom Clancy fan (Debt of Honor used a plane as a bomb), and 2) Bin Laden would have been smarter to attack out our computer infrastructure. I suspect USA's enemies are still reading Clancy. So why only 4 stars? Well, If this is your first Clancy book, then ignore the rest of this review and assume 5 stars. If you're a long-time fan, then maybe 3 stars would be accurate - don't expect the complexity and attention to detail. I don't know exactly how the new Tom Clancy "brand" works now, but it seems that Tom pitches the storyline and someone else writes it. In this case I loved the suspense and speed of the action but at the end I wished there was a little bit of the old Tom Clancy complex detail, tedious as it was. It seemed the ending wrapped up far too quickly and neatly tied up in a perfect bow. The thought that wiping out one building and one lead hacker & core set of hackers would destroy the cyberwarfare threat is just not realistic. No mention of the depth of impact the cyber-attacks had on the U.S. citizens. The characters Su and Wei were very stereotypical and not too bright. No explanation of how Jack Junior & the rest completed their missions without ever being videoed by multiple cell-phones posted instantly on the web, nor any injury to those primary field ops, nor how they escaped from Hong Kong & China back to the States. I was especially disappointed when John Clark and Kovalenko finally crossed paths again in this book, I had anticipated a fearsome duel, similar to what caused Clark's injuries, but it was, honestly, a whimper. Regardless, this is a very enjoyable thriller that I definitely recommend. Just ignore the lack of detail and enjoy the ride.

I started 'Vector Threat' two months ago, let it sit, and finished it off in three days. This episode with Jack Ryan, Jr., portrays a militant leader seeking to use cyber warfare, with operatives in Russia, the US and China, to declare war on all countries in or near the South China Sea, and bring the US's government, military, and people to their knees. Brave and courageous soldiers are highlighted in the Navy, Air Force and Marines, along with the Intelligent sector, to bring the conflict to a 'cool down' phase for healing and restoration of a once bilateral growing relationship between China and the US.

I also was a big fan of the 'old' Clancy novels and enjoyed them very much but as other reviewers have commented - something has changed in the style of Clancy and not for the better. This story is loaded with technological jargon and detailed technical descriptions that add no value to the story. At one point I began to skim page after page trying to find something of substance that contributed to the storyline/plot. I started to read it and then about half way through I almost gave up. If I wanted

a travelogue on the places that the Hendley crew went to I would use a different source. I felt the overall plot was reasonable but the way they went about resolving the conflicts was unrealistic including the ability to be transported all over the world in an instant. The details of the capability of the fighter jets and the related technology do not contribute anything to the story. In fact they are a distraction. I struggled to finish the book and I will not be reading another Clancy novel unless I find reviews that support his old style of writing. Two stars is generous!

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