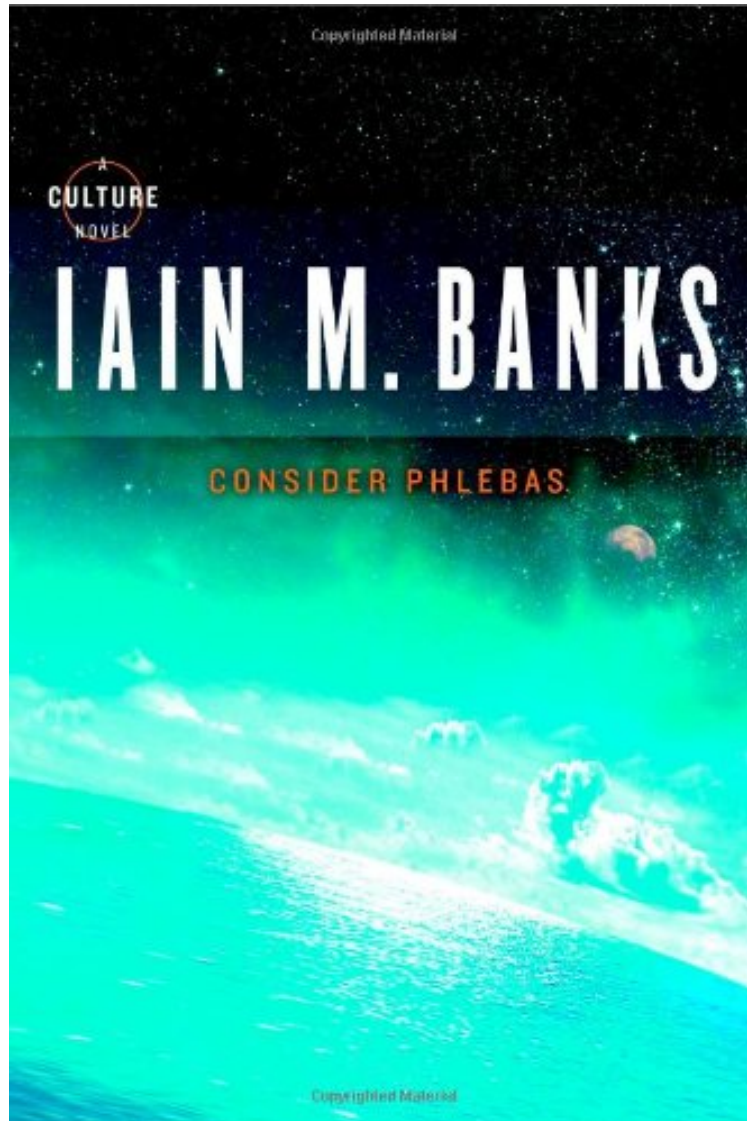


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## Consider Phlebas (Culture)

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**Iain M. Banks : Consider Phlebas (Culture)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Consider Phlebas (Culture):

37 of 37 people found the following review helpful. An appetizer to the CultureBy MetalcastrAfter reading all the Culture novels, it's time to do a review on each one. This is book 1 of 10.Let's start with The Culture: Extremely advanced utopian conglomeration of pan-humans, aliens, and machines enjoying all life has to offer facilitated by the most advanced AI's in the galaxy. There's many goings-on.Consider Phlebas is the first of the Culture series, and I feel the most experimental. Banks shows us the peace-loving Culture at what they subsequently consider the worst part of

their history, during a galactic war with aliens who are bent on domination. This book shows you the Culture through the eyes of an outsider, which is why this review is titled "An appetizer..." as the Culture is much broader than is stated in this novel. The main character has their own agenda and doesn't like the Culture very much. This causes some friction. This book is not the best one of the series in my opinion, however it gives you an introduction to the Culture and the events which shape discussion throughout the rest of the series. There's many interesting plot points and situations that the main character gets into, of different varieties. One feature I appreciated about this book, is how it takes place in the far future, however does not alienate the reader with unexplained strange terms or technologies. In addition, people still behave like people, have human thought-processes, and are relatable. This is not to say there isn't unique, interesting, and enjoyable strangeness. Some will tell you to skip this book, or start with another. I'd say read them in published order for an interesting experience. Before beginning this series, I had no idea what to expect, however the rave reviews from fellow Sci-Fi fans brought a copy to my door, and led to reading all 10 books in succession (or Excession??). Next up is the second book, "The Player of Games" which really starts getting into the Culture, its wonders, and a smaller than galactic-scale but still interestingly thorny issue. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Creative and powerful writing By Kindle Customer Banks creates a universe that is beyond imagination- immense, complex and absorbing while on the micro level his characters are rich and their stories xxxx. What I really liked is how sympathetic to each the author made me feel even though they were on opposite sides of a horrific war. I realized as I neared the end, I still was unable to pick a side to root for, a testament to the idea that the forces that lead to war cannot be simply broken down to right and wrong nor those on each side simply characterized as good or bad. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun read! By BrianTA fun read! Does a good job of introducing more of the "Culture" universe, and has an engaging story with some solid "gotcha!" moments. You do not need to have read other Culture series books to enjoy this one, I think. While it's not what I would think of as "hard SciFi" in the Asimov tradition, it does have a plausible and consistent model of the universe behind it.

"Dazzlingly original." -- Daily Mail "Gripping, touching and funny." -- TLS The war raged across the galaxy. Billions had died, billions more were doomed. Moons, planets, the very stars themselves, faced destruction, cold-blooded, brutal, and worse, random. The Idirans fought for their Faith; the Culture for its moral right to exist. Principles were at stake. There could be no surrender. Within the cosmic conflict, an individual crusade. Deep within a fabled labyrinth on a barren world, a Planet of the Dead proscribed to mortals, lay a fugitive Mind. Both the Culture and the Idirans sought it. It was the fate of Horza, the Changer, and his motley crew of unpredictable mercenaries, human and machine, actually to find it, and with it their own destruction.

From Library Journal In the midst of a war between two galactic empires, a shapechanging agent of the Iridans undertakes a clandestine mission to a forbidden planet in search of an intelligent, fugitive machine whose actions could alter the course of the conflict. Banks ( Walking on Glass ) demonstrates a talent for suspense in a new wave sf novel that should appeal to fans of space adventure. For large sf collections. JCCopyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. Poetic, humourous, baffling, terrifying, sexy - the books of Iain M. Banks are all these things and more \* NME \* There is now no British SF writer to whose work I look forward with greater keenness \* THE TIMES \* Banks is a phenomenon: the wildly successful, fearlessly creative author of brilliant and disturbing non-genre novels, he's equally at home writing pure science fiction of a peculiarly gnarly energy and elegance \* William Gibson \* About the Author Iain Banks came to controversial public notice with the publication of his first novel, The Wasp Factory, in 1984. Consider Phlebas, his first science fiction novel, was published under the name Iain M. Banks in 1987. He is now widely acclaimed as one of the most powerful, innovative and exciting writers of his generation.