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War, Politics And Superheroes: Ethics And Propaganda In Comics And Film



Synopsis

Superhero adventure comics have a long history of commenting upon American public opinion and government policy, and the surge in the popularity of comics since the events of September 11, 2001, ensures their continued relevance. This critical text examines the seventy-year history of comic book superheroes on film and in comic books and their reflections of the politics of their time. Superheroes addressed include Batman, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man, Superman, the Fantastic Four and the X-Men, and topics covered include American wars, conflicts, and public policy.

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Customer Reviews

"A thorough, thought-out treatise that offers new ways of looking at comics and film. It will take its place in the annals of exceptional comic book/film scholarship...essential." --Choice."This unique work on popular culture is a seamless, well-constructed, deeply researched, sharply written, and politically insightful academic book." --Religious Studies Review"DiPaolo's command of real-world politics as well as the broad knowledge of so many superhero stories (with "superhero" also defined in a very broad sense) really sells the project. I don't think there is another book like it, and my hope is that it will inspire fanboys who love the superhero narratives to also take more of an interest in the political intrigues and relationships that genuinely affect our lives." --Will Brooker, Kingston University, author of Batman Unmasked and Using the Force.

Marc DiPaolo is an assistant professor of English and Film at Oklahoma City University. He is a

frequent contributor to books and journals, the author of a book about screen adaptations of Jane Austen's Emma, and serves on the editorial board of The Journal of Popular Culture.

my son collage book he loves it

Marc rocks this genre. Buy his books.

The book jacket features a picture of Iron Man and the word "Superheroes" in all caps, but there is so much more within the covers. While Dipaolo offers a rich helping of superheroes in comics, television and film, each of his chapters opens a virtual cornucopia of America's social and political history, with a primary focus on attitudes about war and politics, as promised in the title. Dipaolo weaves a delightful and informative web of connections between popular culture and politics with crystal clarity and lively writing informed by extensive research. If you're interested in where we are and how we got here, this is a must read.

While Dipaolo admits his bias in his introduction, the book's scholarly value is dramatically reduced by the clear political agenda found on every page.

This is a fascinating application of politics into superhero comics. The chapter titles are interesting and hysterical. Examples include, "President Obama vs. the Zombie Apocalypse" and "The Punisher as Murderous Immigration Officer and Vietnam War Veteran." The content is definitely biased, but he provides strong evidence for his statements. It covers all figures from the X-men to Thor to the Green Lantern to James Bond.

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