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The American Way: What Superman, Batman, Spider-Man, and the X-Men Reveal About America

[Joseph J. Darowski](#), *Brigham Young University* -

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Abstract

Comic book superheroes have become adopted into American popular culture, and yet few have considered why these characters resonate with Americans. The first comic book superhero premiered in 1938 when Superman appeared on the cover of the first issue of Action Comics. For almost seventy years his adventures and the adventures of other costumed heroes have been continually published. Batman soon joined Superman as a popular costumed crime-fighter, and the early 1960s saw another generation of superheroes created that would be embraced in American culture. Among this new group of heroes were Spider-Man and the X-Men, who have proved as popular as Superman and Batman. The never-ending narratives of comic book characters provide a unique opportunity to analyze how superheroes have evolved across the decades to remain relevant for new generations of Americans. Superman, Batman, Spider-Man, and the X-Men are the most popular heroes, not only in comic books, but in other media adaptations. An exploration of why these specific characters have such resonance with Americans will provide insights into American mindsets, ideologies, and philosophies. Furthermore, comic books are uniquely positioned to allow a new historicist reading, as the characters' adventures have been published on a monthly schedule for decades. A consideration of the alterations made in the narratives to reflect the time periods is inherently enlightening.

Degree

MA

College and Department

Humanities; English

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Dragon Ball Z DBZ battle. Both worlds have well known superheroes like Black Panther, Ironman, Captain America, The Flash, Wonder woman, Captain Marvel, Spiderman, War Machine, The Hulk, Cyborg, Green Lantern, Blue Beetle, Thor, Archangel, The Vulture, Gigantess, Batman, Beast, Starfire, and, Ant-man. Just to name a few of my favorites. But this video is about Spider-Man Homecoming vs Batman vs Superman vs Cosmic Spiderman vs Goku It took me 4 months to make this video. Justice League of America, Lab Rats, Namor, The Sub-Mariner, She-Hulk, Space: 1999 and Star Trek - spans the ages here with Kirby's Fourth World New Gods and the Legion of Super-Heroes. This is the third and final Elseworlds "imaginary story", where Byrne ages Superman, Batman, and in turn the rest of the DC Universe. Generations III spans from the days of Superboy in 1925 to 2925. The subtitle to Generations 3 is now, "An Imaginary Series".