



The Ages of Superman: Essays on the Man of Steel in Changing Times

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Since Superman first appeared on the cover of Action Comics #1 in 1938, the superhero has changed with the times to remain a relevant icon of American popular culture. This collection explores the evolution of the Superman character and demonstrates how his alterations mirror historical changes in American society. Beginning with the original comic book and ending with the 2011 Grounded storyline, these essays examine Superman's patriotic heroism during World War II, his increase in power in the early years of the Cold War, his death and resurrection at the end of the Cold War, and his recent dramatic reimagining. By looking at the many changes the Man of Steel has undergone to remain pertinent, this volume reveals as much about America as it does about the champion of Truth, Justice, and the American Way.

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The Ages of Superman: Essays on the Man of Steel in Changing Times From McFarland Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1968297 in Books
- Published on: 2012-01-24
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.05" h x .60" w x 5.99" l, .75 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 246 pages

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Review

"Darowski's book features a superior method that views a popular culture icon through a critical lens over a period of time, while also avoiding academic jargon and esoteric theory...The result is a joy to read." -Gary Hoppenstand in The Journal of Popular Culture

"...the most thorough and comprehensive examination of this type to date - ranging all the way from Siegel and Schuster's 1938 inception of the character, to J. Michael Straczynski's 2011 "Grounded" storyline - making this one an easy "must have" for Superman and comic book enthusiasts." -Ain't It Cool News

"The content is not only engaging, but insightful...This book is definitely something you should read if you're interested in the history of Superman, and how his stories reflect American society of the time." -The Superman Homepage

"These scholars write snappy essays with rich footnotes and bibliographies that lead to unexpected and fascinating primary and commentary sources." -John Shelton Lawrence in The Journal of American Culture

The content is not only engaging, but insightful...definitely something you should read *Superman Homepage-News*; well-written...intriguing *Comics Bulletin*."

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About the Author

Joseph J. Darowski, a professor of English at Brigham Young University-Idaho, has published work on comic book superheroes such as the X-Men, Green Lantern, and Superman and is the author or co-editor of several books.

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