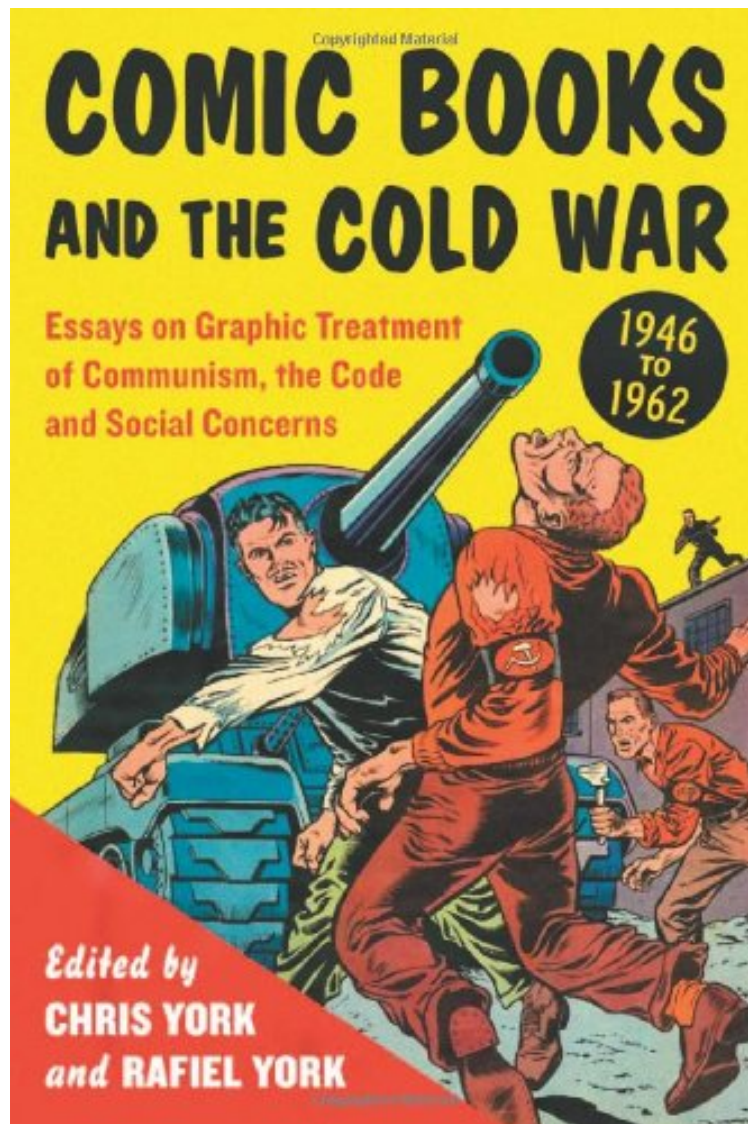


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## Comic Books and the Cold War, 1946-1962: Essays on Graphic Treatment of Communism, the Code and Social Concerns

Rafiel York, Chris York

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#1342260 in Books 2012-02-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.90 x .60 x 5.90l, .70 #File Name: 0786449810231 pages | File size: 46.Mb

**Rafiel York, Chris York : Comic Books and the Cold War, 1946-1962: Essays on Graphic Treatment of Communism, the Code and Social Concerns** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Comic Books and the Cold War, 1946-1962: Essays on Graphic Treatment of Communism, the Code and Social Concerns:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Scott NiswanderFantastic read! The chapter about The Flash was especially interesting!3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Post War Examination of ComicsBy John EatonI've always been a bit dismissive of post-war comics, especially in the treatment of the Communist threat. I think that by the 60's and 70's (when I mostly read comics off the stands) there were only a few remnants of those stories still being explored. When I became a bit older and a comic book fan, those books which defined the "Red Threat" were more interesting due to the covers than the interior content - most of the stories were rather poorly written and illustrated, or so I thought. This book, "Comic Books and the Cold War" has changed both my attitude and perception of those comics.This work by Chris and Rafiel York explores the treatment of the "Commie" threat in both broad strokes and then in small snippets by providing some examples, along with the context driving those stories. I found the approach, which treats the books more like cultural examples of the time in more of a narrative style, increased my interest and kept me reading as, let's face it, unless you're an historian or cultural iconoclast, the subject matter is on the edge of what most would define as interesting.I especially like some of the examples used in the book, some by favorites like Jack Kirby and Wally Wood, to further enhance the points being made by the authors (as they would in any book I imagine). The sections on female roles during that era, along with "sex" and how this affected the Comics Code would also be interesting to researchers, as would the changes in family life. If these are subjects of interest I would highly recommend this book.

Conventional wisdom holds that comic books of the post-World War II era are poorly drawn and poorly written publications, notable only for the furor they raised. Contributors to this thoughtful collection, however, demonstrate that these comics constitute complex cultural documents that create a dialogue between mainstream values and alternative beliefs that question or complicate the grand narratives of the era. Close analysis of individual titles, including EC comics, Superman, romance comics, and other, more obscure works, reveals the ways Cold War culture--from atomic anxieties and the nuclear family to communist hysteria and social inequalities--manifests itself in the comic books of the era. By illuminating the complexities of mid-century graphic novels, this study demonstrates that postwar popular culture was far from monolithic in its representation of American values and beliefs.

"Insightful, well-researched...outstanding...recommended." --Choice."Examines the history of the comic book in relation to global US-Soviet relations and explores the ways in which the medium was influential in structuring narratives surrounding political and social difference in the mid-twentieth century. Chapters include numerous reproductions of relevant comic panels." --Reference Research Book News.About the AuthorChris York teaches English at Pine Technical College in Pine City, Minnesota. He has been an active participant in the Comics and Comic Art Area at the National Popular Culture Association Conference for nearly a decade, and his comics scholarship has appeared in the International Journal of Comic Art. Rafiel York is a teacher in Jackson, Minnesota.