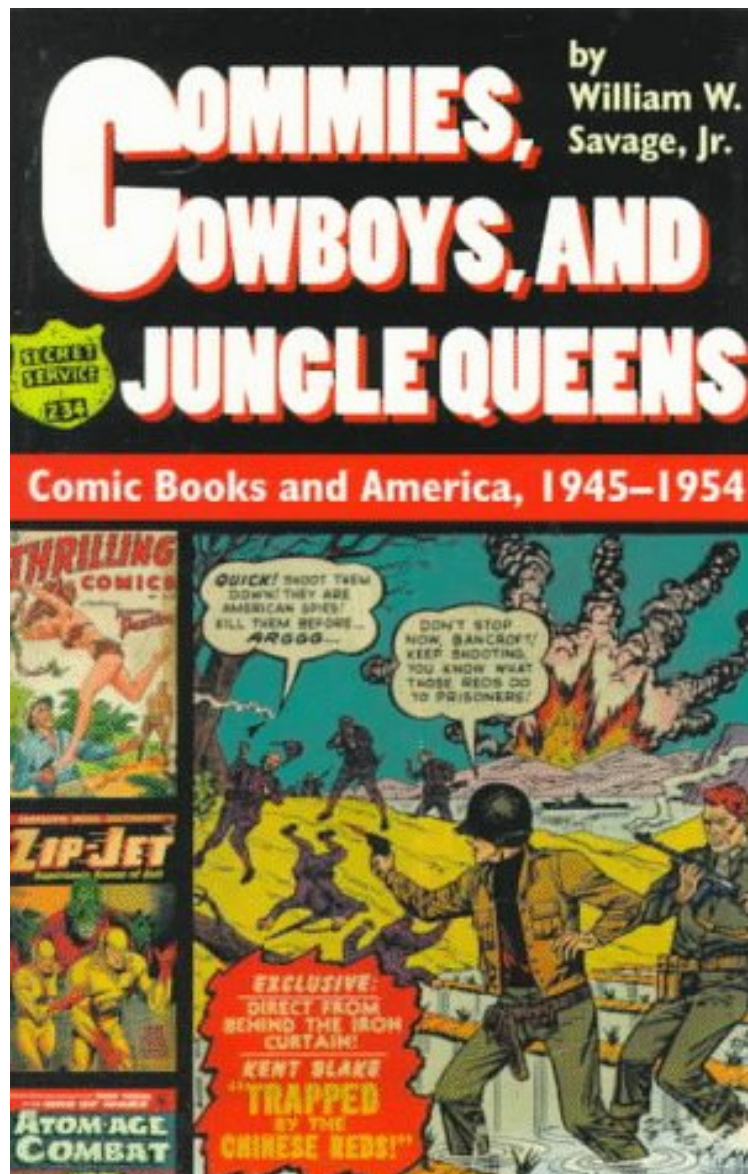


Commies, Cowboys, and Jungle Queens: Comic Books and America, 1945-1954

William W. Savage Jr.

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William W. Savage Jr. : Commies, Cowboys, and Jungle Queens: Comic Books and America, 1945-1954 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Commies, Cowboys, and Jungle Queens: Comic Books and America, 1945-1954:

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Not so bad, not so good. By Giannuzzo I represented Jerry Iger, the creator of Sheena Queen of the Jungle, when he was an old man. The writer here is not so familiar with the entire run of the comic. Sheena became a stronger figure as the book progressed and the book became less racist, but far from enlightened. Judging from that perspective I think that this book while entertaining does not reflect a real depth of knowledge of the subject. On the other hand for the casual reader it should be just fine. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I like it (hey, it's got comics in it) but... By Simon Barrett 'Il Penseroso' I suppose this title from 1990 is about as scholarly as a comic book book can get, which is - not very, two notable exceptions being Comic Book Nation and Men of Tomorrow (the rest are mainly nostalgia, and why not?) though for sheer ebullience All in Color for a Dime is the one to beat. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Look at American Through Comics By Ricky Hunter William W. Savage, Jr. had led the way in this brief volume, colourfully titled Commies, Cowboys and Jungle Queens (original title Comic Books and America, 1945 - 1954). The author was among the first to look at the content of the comic books, read and passed around by millions of children and teenagers and not just a few adults, in terms of their comments on the culture which they reflected, such as the wonderful look at the Korean conflict as reflected in the comics. This book led to the brilliant and highly recommended Comic Book Nation by Bradford W. Wright and for that it should be thanked. This particular volume by William Savage is well-written, insightful, and often very funny. Its main drawback is its brevity and lack of more comic panels for illustrative purposes. All that aside, this is an enjoyable read.

In addition to their entertainment value, comic books offered a unique world-view to a large segment of the American public in the confusing decade following World War II. Millions were distributed to service personnel during the war years, and by 1945, adults as well as children were reading an astounding 60 million comic books per month. These books treated such contemporary concerns as the atomic and hydrogen bombs, growth of international Communism, and the Korean War, and they offered heroes and heroines to deal with such problems. In response to moral criticism, the industry established a Comics Code that specified acceptable content. The code prohibited most of what had appeared in the medium prior to 1954, thus ending what has since come to be known as the "golden age" of comic books. With reproductions of five representative stories supplementing the text, William Savage's book (first published in 1990), will appeal to social historians and others interested in this vivid expression of American culture.

An extremely charming, informative, and funny work. The book is entertaining and scholarly at the same time. Rather than couch these now-amusing texts in dry analysis, Savage uses a playful style that helps to communicate the absurdity of both era and context. American Journalism