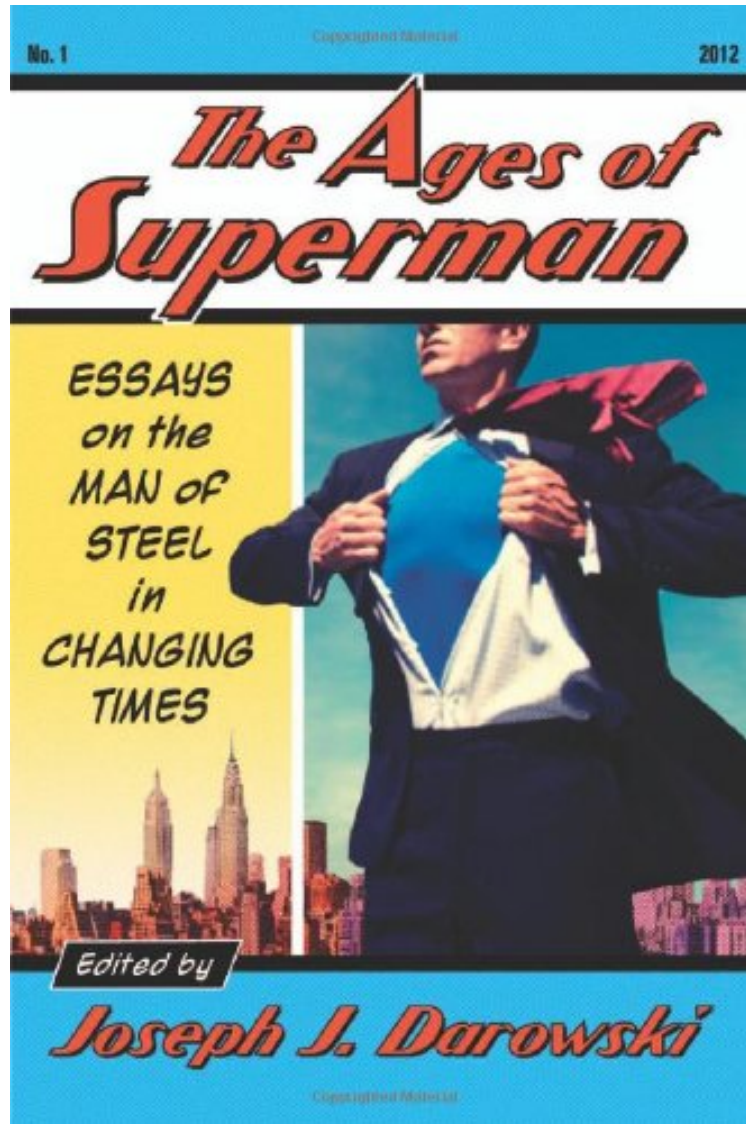


(Download free pdf) The Ages of Superman: Essays on the Man of Steel in Changing Times

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

From McFarland

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#3269245 in Books 2012-01-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.05 x .60 x 5.991, .75 #File Name: 0786463082246 pages | File size: 49.Mb

From McFarland : **The Ages of Superman: Essays on the Man of Steel in Changing Times** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ages of Superman: Essays on the Man of Steel in Changing Times:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worthy of a spot on your bookshelfBy Miss_Kitty89As a historian with research interests in comic books and Superman specifically, I was happy to find a book that took an analytic

approach to the Man of Steel's history. In my experience, most comic histories focus on the character's creation and development in the real world (such as his foray into film and television) and the various changes that took place at DC. This book, by contrast, works to illustrate the ways in which the first superhero has remained relevant for over seven decades by examining alterations to Superman's characterization and the type of stories the comics tell. The monograph's ability to achieve this goal is slightly mixed. Some chapters do an excellent job incorporating scholarly literature and contextualizing Superman and his adventures within American history. Others, however, fail to demonstrate how their discussion of the Man of Steel correlates to the period under examination. Often times these chapters focus too much on telling us the stories found within the comic issues of their study, forgetting to connect to the real world events and people. Such problems are mostly evident in the earlier chapters that deal with Superman's earlier history. I suspect this is because few of the contributors are trained as historians. An additional, but less significant, problem with the book is the lack of images. As a small publishing company MacFarland most likely has few resources available to gain the licensing rights to the comics referenced and used by its contributors. For instance, the book could not even use an actual image of Superman for its cover, instead having to allude to Clark's famous shirt-ripping transformation into Superman sans the "S" shield. Despite this, the book takes a strong step forward in using comics as a source of historical investigation and acts a nice summary of Superman's literary history for those less familiar.

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.

"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 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.