



The Virtues of Captain America: Modern-Day Lessons on Character from a World War II Superhero

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The first look at the philosophy behind the Captain America comics and movies, publishing in advance of the movie release of *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* in April 2014. In *The Virtues of Captain America*, philosopher and long-time comics fan Mark D. White argues that the core principles, compassion, and judgment exhibited by the 1940's comic book character Captain America remain relevant to the modern world. Simply put, "Cap" embodies many of the classical virtues that have been important to us since the days of the ancient Greeks: honesty, courage, loyalty, perseverance, and, perhaps most importantly, honor. Full of entertaining examples from more than 50 years of comic books, White offers some serious philosophical discussions of everyone's favorite patriot in a light-hearted and accessible way. Presents serious arguments on the virtues of Captain America while being written in a light-hearted and often humorous tone Introduces basic concepts in moral and political philosophy to the general reader Utilizes examples from 50 years of comics featuring Captain America, the Avengers, and other Marvel superheroes Affirms the value of "old-fashioned" virtues for the modern world without indulging in nostalgia for times long passed Reveals the importance of the sound principles that America was founded upon Publishing in advance of *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* out in April 2014.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Enjoyable and consistently stimulating, presenting complex arguments in ways that will be accessible to just about any reader, *The Virtues of Captain America* is popular philosophy of a high order." - John Gray, *New Statesman*

"...this book is particularly interesting, stimulating, convincing, well-written, and well-documented--using an incredible number of examples, illustrations and quotations from Captain America's adventures." - Alain Marciano, *Journal of Popular Culture*

"And, as was the case with his previous works, this book is particularly interesting, stimulating, convincing, well-written, and well-documented—using an incredible number of examples, illustrations and quotations from Captain America’s adventures.” (*The Journal of Popular Culture*, 17 August 2015)

"If ever there was a need for a philosophical book on a super-hero then Captain America certainly deserves one and I think you’ll find this will fill you in on his motivations and his popularity and how it has been embraced in the recent films.” (*SFCrowsnest*, 1 May 2014)

Review

"An illuminating, well-written volume that gives a whole new insight to Marvel Comics's Star-Spangled Avenger and what he stands for in the 21st century."

Mark Waid, Marvel Comics writer

"An intriguing look at one of the most iconic and misunderstood characters in the history of comics. This book proves that ‘Cap’ is no one-dimensional flag-waver: he’s a fascinating and complex character who has continually reflected the changes in the equally complex nation he represents."

J.M. DeMatteis, Writer—*Captain America, Moonshadow, Brooklyn Dreams*

"Captain America matters more now than ever, and this book proves it. Digging deep, Mark White excavates ‘Cap’s’ complexity, highlighting lessons and virtues that can help heal America."

William Irwin, General Editor of *The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series*

From the Back Cover

Clad in an American flag, the patriotic comic book character Captain America was first portrayed battling against the forces of evil unleashed during World War II. Today, however, Captain America is often seen as

a throwback to a simpler time, embodying a black-and-white ethical code poorly suited to the complexities of the modern world. In *The Virtues of Captain America*, philosopher and pop culture expert Mark D. White argues that “Cap” is indeed a hero for the contemporary era and someone to be emulated now more than ever. White reveals that Captain America’s focus on core principles and ideals, combined with his sound judgment, compassion, and iron will, is anything but simple—and is precisely what we need to navigate 21st-century problems in our personal lives, our communities, and our country as a whole. White shows us that while Captain America is often regarded as a jingoistic flag-waver, he has been written consistently as representing a kind of patriotism that adheres to basic tenets of liberty and equality while staying above partisan politics. On several occasions, in fact, Captain America’s devotion to these principles has led him to defy the American government when he feels it doesn’t live up to its own ideals. Infused with philosophical insights couched in humor, *The Virtues of Captain America* shows us that by following “Cap’s” example, people on both ends of the political spectrum can learn to put their differences aside and focus on their common ground—the basic principles that all of America embodies.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Melba More:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They are reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is definitely reading a book. What about the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, person feel need book once they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will want this *The Virtues of Captain America: Modern-Day Lessons on Character from a World War II Superhero*.

Maria Saad:

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Wiley Wagner:

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explained their plan in the simple way, thus all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this publication. This book will give you a lots of information about this world now. To help you see the represented of the world on this book.

Patricia Ramirez:

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