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Civil War: Marvel Universe

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SC, TPB, in cello, New, Written by BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS, WARREN ELLIS, PAUL JENKINS, DAN SLOTT, MICHAEL AVON OEMING, MATT FRACTION, ROBERT KIRKMAN, TY TEMPLETON, and MARC GUGGENHEIM. Art by MARC SILVESTRI, TOM RANEY, PAUL SMITH, LEINIL FRANCIS YU, DAVID AJA, PHIL HESTER, SCOTT KOLLINS, and TY TEMPLETON. Cover by MARC SILVESTRI. Published in June of 2007, Softcover, 128 pages, full color. Cover price \$11.99.

Civil War: Marvel Universe Details

Date : Published June 20th 2007 by Marvel (first published May 16th 2007)

ISBN : 9780785124702

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Format : Paperback 136 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Superheroes, Marvel, Comic Book

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From Reader Review Civil War: Marvel Universe for online ebook

Christian Smith says

5/10 Stars

"years ago, you were forced to make a decision that would change the world. You chose to be a hero. Counteract the poison. Be on the side of the pure."

Sesana says

Really just a bunch of stuff thrown together. The only thing here that interested me at all was the Howard the Duck story, that was at least amusing and did a better job of exposing the absurdity of the SHRA than any of the "serious" stories.

Jake Martin says

Solid character driven story where both sides are given ample opportunity for the reader to fully appreciate both sides of the conflict and where each side is coming from.

Greg says

This collection seems to be just some issues that couldn't be collected anywhere else. About half of the stories were good, but the other half I had no interest in. I guess it's nice to see Howard the Duck make an appearance, but his story was actually what made me push this down to a two instead of three star rating.

Andrew Galbreath says

Very good but uneven collection of side stories from the Civil War arc. The first part is fairly meandering until the Howard the Duck section, which was entertaining. Most of the book is slice-of-life or one-shots involving different Marvel characters. The best ones are "The Return of Captain Marvel," which is short but one of the more emotional stories, "The Decision," since I always enjoy stories involving the Sentry, and the big final story, "What If Civil War Ended Differently?," which is the best of the collection and gives a truly convincing portrayal of the most ideal way the Civil War could have worked out; sadly, that's not how it did in our timeline. But that's a story for another day. Be warned this collection assumes you have already read the main Civil War storyline and will contain huge spoilers if you haven't.

Nadine Jones says

I'm not really sure why I put this on hold at the library (maybe because I saw Brubaker's name?) but I did, so I read it, and it was really random, just sort of a bunch of pages bound into one book.

Cooper Crawford says

So It starts off as a team of hero known as the knew defenders have a reality tv show to show how real heros act they to try and stop a threat which they fail causing a bomb to go off killing a bus of innocent children which causes the hero registration act to make heroes turn over their masks in order to keep the city safe. Many heroes turn over their masks to save the city and other think the Ideas think it outs a bigger target on the heroes themselves endangering the lives of all. When the act was installed all the heroes who did not register were captured in a high tech prison and were tortured for intel on the other heroes. This was an entertaining book that fun twists and cool turns on how to win. I never thought of the Author was trying to show the heroes can be as human we are based on their special powers and when push comes to shove we are all people. To be honest this is a good story and very story driven more than actual fighting which almost makes it better due to the great story I personally loved it

Rasheem Johnson says

Once again I'm reminded why I read DC and NOT marvel comics.

In civil war we have superheroes pitted against each other on an issue that's so one sided you have to wonder how they're even arguing. Iron Man is OBVIOUSLY correct. Perhaps reading this comic in 2015, when our own police has become militarized and lacks accountability, has skewed my view of the issues. Still think I'd be hard pressed to even entertain Capt. America's stance.

Superheroes protesting to not be registered by the government, and fighting for their right to fight crime without accountability is totally ridiculous. Of course you guys need to be registered. Of course we need to know who you are, cause like you guys are destructive and reckless. Case closed. The civil war morals in this comic is even more black and white than the actual American Civil War (Iron Man pretty much represents the North). The way the argument is set up, there's really no way to side with the anti-registration heroes. Perhaps with a better writer and more time we could've delved in to the grey areas of the arguments, but as it's presented there's really no other way to see it.

Laura says

So this book is going to represent ALL the Civil War comics (since there isn't one book on goodreads for them all and I am totally not commenting on and putting each one individually on my lists). I have all the comics digitally so I'll pop back on here once I finish them all.

See you on the other side.

Henry says

It was good, but it was just a bunch of random stories and some of them weren't even that good. Some of the stories didn't even make sense. Eh I don't really care.

Arturo says

Choosing sides is intended as promo for other series. So quick previews kinda suck. Kirkman's Ant-Man is most memorable, just cuz it's so different. The Iron Fist one is good, but I think it's collected in the Iron Fist TPB anyway.

In The Return, Sentry seems out of character, I just kept thinking 'why is he talking?' With Iron Man and Mr. Fantastic there, they can handle it.

Maybe cuz Bendis has made him into a unstable yet controllable loon. Then again Jenkins created him. Anyway it's another promo.

Plus the Sentry story, which is ok.

CW: The Initiative. Has Great art by Silvestri. and an ok story.. Or promo for Omega Flight, Thunderbolts and Avengers.

Story wise, even if I look at it as ..what are these characters up to and how is the civil war affecting them.. Kinda Way.

I just don't really care about them. (Even Venom isn't venom. It's not Brock its Gargan.

I wont mention the She-Hulk and Winter Soldier stories, cuz they are collected in their own book anyway.

Jack says

Yes, I'm currently reading a comic book. Since it's theoretically 120+ comic books and actually a fairly intelligent discussion on what civil rights are and what it means to be "a good guy" and how thin the line can really be between "good intentions" and "bad policy", I think it counts as a book. I'm going to treat it like one anyway.

I'm about 40 comics through the series, which is excellent so far, I'll write a more complete review when I'm done.

[done]

I'll admit, I was really disappointed in Marvel's Civil War. Let me start off by saying that I really enjoy Marvel's comics, though I don't read them often. I also enjoy the more comprehensive story arcs such as this one or The Age of Apocalypse, mainly because I don't read comics very often and it's hard for me to remember all the little back stories and side plots and everything else that make the normal serials enjoyable. These kinds of story lines generally serve as a kind of "reboot" where everything stands on its own and everything you need to know about the characters is contained within the pages of the story. That holds true

for this story as well.

I've been wanting to read this series since it came out in 2006. It appeared to be a critique of the worst abuses of our current War on Terror, and seemed to ask the very existential question of, "if you win the war, but sell out your very soul to do it, have you really won?" I think the questions originally asked by this comic are questions that still need to be asked today, and as such, despite being six years old, it still seemed highly relevant. I also thought it was amazing that it was a comic book that was asking these questions, as it would reach an audience that would not normally be exposed to such deep thought and might never ask such things. It would also be read by children, who I feel need to know that there was a time where we didn't cower in fear and didn't continually attempt to trade liberty for security.

What disappointed me was the way the comic handled actually answering the questions.

It started off fantastic. To put the comic in context, there's a 9/11 style event, where a supervillain goes nuclear and destroys a significant portion of a town, including a small school, killing 600 citizens and several dozen children. Worse, it was the result of a small group of amateur superheros working on a reality television show about apprehending supercriminals.

Immediately, everyone wants something to be done. A mutant registration act is passed, so that mutants can be tracked, monitored, and controlled. Those who do not comply are subject to indefinite detention in a prison facility that's not even on this world. They're subject to extraordinary rendition and when one of the superheros responsible for the catastrophe is found alive, he's brutally beaten and tortured in prison. Sound familiar? To top it all off, Captain America, of all people, stands up to say "This is not American, and this is not what Americans do." Standing on the side of law and order are Iron Man and Reed Richards, who effectively say "This is what the people want, and it is the law, so it must be followed." Definitely two different ways to look at the law and it draws some interesting parallels to the world we live in today. There's also some shadowy stuff going on behind the scenes involving both political and corporate espionage and corruption. Really, the stage is nicely set for some really powerful political statements and some fantastic arguments about law, justice, and the American Way. I was completely sucked in.

Sometime in the second act, it all starts to fall apart. The writers really had no idea where they wanted to go with the story and they lacked the conviction to actually see their difficult questions through. Semi-minor plot lines that seem to be leading into a bigger picture eventually go nowhere and are dropped without explanation. Major characters change their motivation at the drop of a hat, without any hint of internal conflict or crisis about their decision. And all those difficult questions? They're brushed off by an effective, "yes, it's ok and if you question it you don't deserve an explanation" kind of answer. By the end, it's all a jumbled mess with a conclusion that while shocking, isn't at all satisfying.

I guess I shouldn't have expected so much from a comic. But I did. Marvel, you're better than this.

Emmanuel Lightbourne says

Story was awsome and drawings were epic, but the collection is too short and you know the end is really just the beginning here. Nonetheless great effort, looking forward to getting the rest of the books to get some context here.

Anirudh says

To start with, I am not a comic book reader. I've read a few manga but after my failed attempt to read X-Men Apocalypse, this is my first full attempt at a comic book arc. I cannot comment on sketches so my focus will be on the story. I know next to nothing about comic books. I only know these characters from Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Civil War was a nice experience. There were some good things and there were some bad things in the arc. I read the whole set including related comics such as Black Panther and Spiderman. Without those this comic makes no sense. It is a crossover with events taking place in multiple comic books.

What I really liked about this book was the theme. It was dark gritty and very realistic. It addressed a social issue which post 9/11 USA faced. (Comics were probably addressing real social issues until super villains took over) I liked it because it was a theme people could relate to. Much better than reading about say Galactus eating the planet. The writers compared the struggles to real life events like the US civil war, WW I, slavery and civil rights movement. On one side there is Tony Stark who supports registration and on the other side there is Captain America who opposes. The whole superhero team ends up picking sides and ironically previous Super Villains are signed up by Iron Man to hunt down Super Heroes who won't register. Moving on to the negative points, there were three things that went wrong in the arc.

First the whole idea of a registration is based on the fear Iron Man has that super heroes will end up in a war because he met King Arthur. He seems to forget that there are already superhero battles taking place but with super villains. In order to save the world from this war he himself starts this war. His theory is supported by Mr. Fantastic based on strange math formulae which predict earthquakes and volcanoes and whatnot destroying the world. No idea how registration will help prevent any of that. So the entire arc is based on shaky ideas from the start.

Second thing to go wrong is the ridiculously stupid ending given to this arc. Something even a ten year old will be sceptical to believe. The entire struggle which lasted over a year of publication is over in one single page and suddenly Captain America realises he is wrong. That made no sense at all.

Lastly the aftermath is also very unconvincing. We are told time and again from the point of view of Captain America that the registration will lead to many problems but in the end Stark becomes Director of S.H.I.E.L.D and instantly everything is right in the world. Only Stark's story is upheld and Captain America's fears are waved away as baseless propaganda. Considering they spent such a long time opposing it there must have been some reason to do so. That is not addressed at all. There are no consequences apart from one because of the registration.

A nice book to enjoy for people who are not familiar with the comic world and only care for a casual reading.

Annette Jordan says

The big one that asks the big questions- should people with special powers register and be held accountable for their activities or should they be free to keep their identities secret.

A good read with some really cool artwork

Following an explosion with high civilian casualties this very issue has come to the fore, with it now being a legal requirement for those with powers to register. On one side Iron Man, pro registration as he sees it as a way to keep doing good without the risk of being banned. On the other Captain America who believes in freedom first of all...the rest of the world is split between the two sides, with the pro registration powers being charged with rounding up their former friends and allies who refuse to register. The reappearance of an apparently dead Thor on the side of registration causes consternation, especially when he kills some of the resistance, but all is not what it seems, and this action causes some of Tony's allies to rethink, especially Sue Storm and Spiderman who have always been uneasy. Sue even helps the resistance to escape before leaving herself with her brother a Johnny. Peter confronts Tony and also leaves then encounters some old enemies while hiding. An unlikely hero comes to his rescue and brings him to the resistance . Daredevil is captured and imprisoned.

Meanwhile the plan to roll out superhero teams in all 50 states is going ahead while Cap has a plan of his own to break into the prison and free all the captured heroes. Its a long shot and he's going to need help so Sue Storm pleads with Namor to no avail,Dr Strange is staying out of it but Black Panther is in. The prison break seems to be going too easily, and as it turns out its a trap which leads to a huge battle to end all battles. In the end Cap sees the damage the fighting is doing, not just to his friends or to the city but to how the people see their heroes so he surrenders. Most of the rebels are pardoned but some go underground. For now it looks like Tony has won, registration continues, the prison stays open and life goes on .
