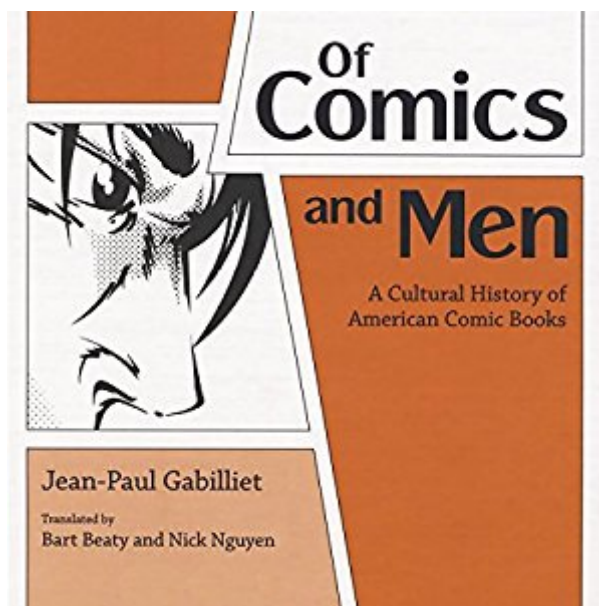


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# Of Comics And Men: A Cultural History Of American Comic Books



## Synopsis

Originally published in France and long sought in English translation, Jean-Paul Gabilliet's *Of Comics and Men: A Cultural History of American Comic Books* documents the rise and development of the American comic book industry from the 1930s to the present. The book intertwines aesthetic issues and critical biographies with the concerns of production, distribution, and audience reception, making it one of the few interdisciplinary studies of the art form. A thorough introduction by translators and comics scholars Bart Beaty and Nick Nguyen brings the book up to date with explorations of the latest innovations, particularly the graphic novel. The book is organized into three sections: a concise history of the evolution of the comic book form in America; an overview of the distribution and consumption of American comic books, detailing specific controversies such as the creation of the Comics Code in the mid-1950s; and the problematic legitimization of the form that has occurred recently within the academy and in popular discourse. Viewing comic books from a variety of theoretical lenses, Gabilliet shows how seemingly disparate issues - creation, production, and reception - are in fact connected in ways that are not necessarily true of other art forms. Analyzing examples from a variety of genres, this book provides a thorough landmark overview of American comic books that sheds new light on this versatile art form. The book is published by 2015 University Press of Mississippi.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Who knew that the finest book about American comic books would be written by a French American Studies scholar? C'est vrai! Gabilliet tells the history of the American industry and explores the

means by which comics are produced and distributed. For anyone seriously interested in comics as a medium, this book is a must have.

In response to the complaint that the book is not illustrated, that is not what this particular book is designed to be. *Of Comics and Men* is exactly what the subtitle calls it, a cultural history of American comic books. As such, it is fantastic. Every important point from the beginnings of the industry to the end of the twentieth century is touched upon, as well as examinations of the cultures of the creators and consumers of comic books. To be fair, this is a work of academic or scholarly writing, and illustrations would have been nice to break up the density of the text. However, I must assume that the costs of licensing the appropriate images from the various media giants who now own them would have been more than a small university press could afford to do. If you want pictures, buy the *Comic Book History of Comics*, it lacks the depth and rigor, but covers much the same territory as the first section of this book and does it in the medium it is telling you the history of.

This book is over 300 pages long and does not have any illustrations or examples of American cartoons or comic books. None.

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