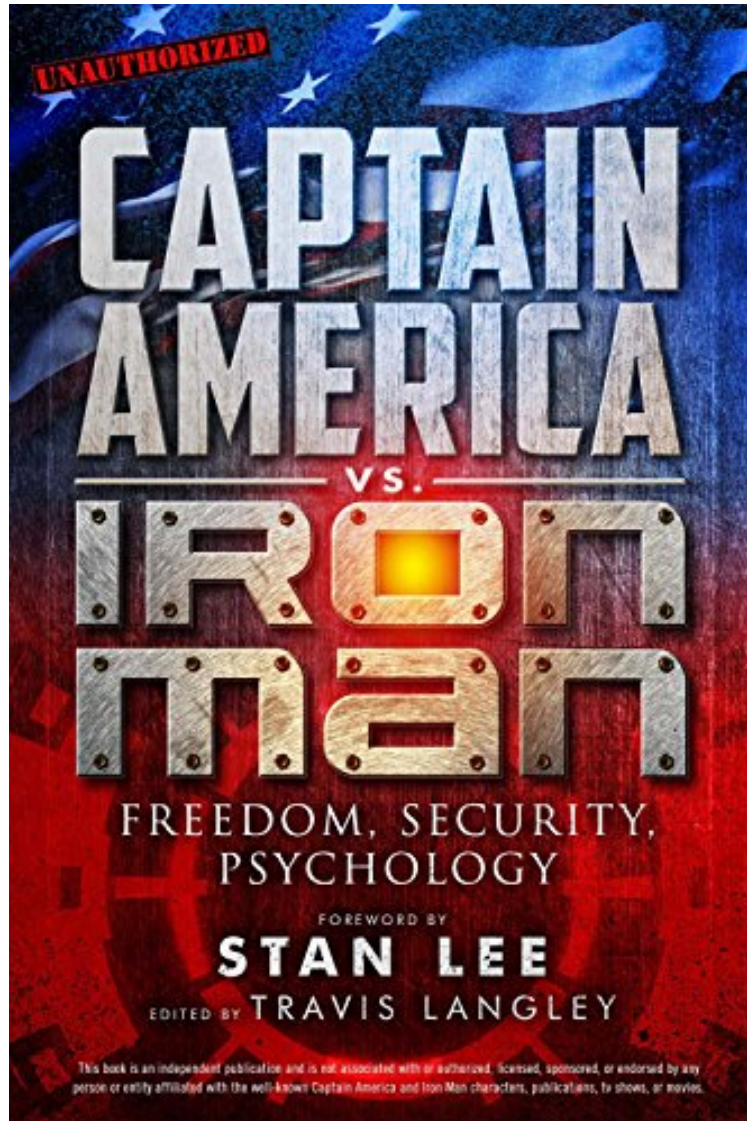


Captain America vs. Iron Man: Freedom, Security, Psychology

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From imusti : Captain America vs. Iron Man: Freedom, Security, Psychology before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Captain America vs. Iron Man: Freedom, Security, Psychology:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. For Psychologists, Sociologists, and EducatorsBy Michael KarounosIf you appreciate the supehero and philosophy books edited by Mark White which employ a comparatively rigorous methodology even when using Continental approaches (e.g. Nietzsche), do not buy this book. I don't know what it is about sociology, psychology, and education as disciplines, but the scholarship is all smoke and mirrors,

relying on hidden references, paraphrase, and allusions. For example, the chapter "Ego," written by editor Travis Langley, comprises 3 1/2 pages, one of which is a bulleted list of reductive definitions: "During a period of prolonged stress, he numbs himself through /regression/..." (104). This is...elementary. Additionally, the broad, disciplinary gesturing is embarrassing. So, Langley lists at the end of this 2 1/2 page "essay" (I don't count bullet points as argumentation) no fewer than 22 footnotes, 24 "Other References," and 7 "Comic Book References." Worse, authors Eric D. Wesselmann and J. Scott Jordan in less than 9 pages manage to cram 57 footnotes, 27 "Other References," and 15 "Comic Book References" into 13 sub-titled sections, 9 of which are one paragraph long. This is a clever way of writing bullet points in which information is presented as argumentation. For example, "Morality based on in-group / loyalty focuses on strengthening individual attachments to established social groups (e.g. family, country) and safeguarding those groups' unity and well-being" (118). If you are a psychologist or sociologist or professional educator, this book will be a familiar read, but if you are expecting deeper insights grounded in philosophy and theology it's not for you. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Read if your a fan!! By chrisgreat read7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. An absorbing study of the contrast between two icons By David I took this book on as a long-term Iron Man fan, but knowing that Captain America was the "foil" intrigued me. They've clashed at several points over the years, sometimes seriously and not because they are profoundly different, but because they are so similar in key areas. I enjoyed seeing the clinical definitions lined up with known story points, because after all, if *you* nearly died throwing a nuke through a wormhole and saving New York, "PTSD" is a polite way to describe the after-effects. Both men in this case are fundamentally decent and problem-solving, so the tone is a more positive one than that of other books in the series, which often involve observations of much darker characters. For the most part, the discussion continually returns to the fact that with a few transitory exceptions, neither is struggling with personality distortions that come anywhere near actual disorders. It's more a matter of examining how, from very different angles, both characters plant their feet and lean into their problems rather than reeling from them. It's not just their tenacity that makes them memorable, but how their pragmatism and desire for a positive outcome leads to many outside-the-box solutions. I finished the book a few days before I saw "Captain America: Civil War" and it made it more enjoyable because I had the various clinical analyses in mind during a few scenes. It added spice to the show. The one small critique I can offer is that contrasted with the other books Dr. Langley has helmed, this one is a bit of a reduction of the form due to its focus on just two main characters. As with group superhero stories, the narrative benefits prominently from comparisons between multiple subjects. That said, I'm one of those fans who have it bad enough to be displaying nine forms of Iron Man stuff in the house. Iron Man really took off during Warren Ellis's Extremis arc and then writer Matt Fraction's award-winning run on the series. If you've followed the character enough to recognize those two eras, you'll especially enjoy the mix of Marvel history and science here. It's an excellent observation of one of the stronger friendships in comics.

Freedom vs. security, the basic human dilemma. Can heroes really protect both? Two iconic figures, two living symbols whose choices make them superheroes and leaders, come to completely opposite conclusions.

"An intelligent and thoroughly entertaining compilation of essays that should be of equal interest to comic book fans and psychology buffs alike." - Pop Mythology