



The Avengers and Philosophy: Earth's Mightiest Thinkers

Mark D. White (Editor), Andrew Zimmerman Jones (Contributor)

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An engaging look at the philosophical underpinnings of Earth's Mightiest HeroesAvengers assemble! Tackling intriguing dilemmas and issues that no single great philosopher can withstand, this powerful book enlists the brainpower of an A-list team of history's most prominent thinkers to explore the themes behind the action of Marvel Comics' all-star superhero team.Arms you with new insights into the characters and themes of "The Avengers"Deepens your appreciation both of "The Avengers" comics and the Joss Whedon movie adaptationAnswers the philosophical questions you've always had about Earth's Mightiest Heroes, including: Can a reformed criminal become a superhero? Can an android love a human? If a hero beats his wife, is he still a hero?Helps you think differently about the members of the superhero team--Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, and the others

This thought-provoking book will help you understand this band of superheroes better, whether you've followed the Avengers for years or are a Joss Whedon fan just getting to know them.

The Avengers and Philosophy: Earth's Mightiest Thinkers Details

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From Reader Review The Avengers and Philosophy: Earth's Mightiest Thinkers for online ebook

Tim says

Great read. I wasn't careful enough though and ended up learning a lot.

Alejo says

Take the action out of an action oriented work and what do you get? Chapters 10 to 12 are worth a reading though, and the She Hulk chapter has to be read parallel to the Deadpool one in the X-men book

Mike Vardy says

I didn't "not" enjoy this book, but it felt like a lot of empty calories.

Sure, I learned some new things and found some connections between superhero mythos and philosophy but it wasn't something that I thought was groundbreaking in any way. I think I was just looking for more out of this book than I got.

If you enjoy superheroes and you are a student of philosophy then I still encourage you to give this a read. It wasn't bad but it didn't resonate with me as much as I thought it would.

Ricardo Lane says

I always enjoyed the college classes where the professor was easy going and cool enough to entertain side discussions about how his field could be applied to more mundane interests. Not only did those discussions break up the monotony of daily lectures, they often helped build a more solid understanding of the subject because you could see how the theories really worked. This book reminds me a lot of those types of off-topic, yet fascinating, talks.

The book is a collection of essays applying philosophy 101 to the various heroes of the Avengers. It should be noted that the Avengers in question are the comic book versions, not the movie ones, and I was duly impressed by how much detail and depth of story the essayists went into. These folks know their Avengers lore, and they aren't afraid to let their nerd flag fly as they discuss things like the three philosophical stances represented by Thor, Iron Man, and Captain America, whether Hank Pym can be held accountable for the destruction caused by his creation Ultron, or the if the Avengers had the moral right to participate in the Kree/Skrull War. More, I was also surprised at how current the information from the comics is. They reference storylines and events that aren't more than a few months to a year or so old. Discussions include information about the Dark Avengers, the Skrull Invasion, and the Avengers Academy, and all comics are scrupulously referenced in the footnotes at the end of each chapter.

I know my comics, and I know the rudiments of philosophy. I was worried going in that this would be a simple glossing over of both. While I wouldn't say that they go in depth into the seven or eight schools of thought they cover, they apply them effectively to the subject in a way that makes the essays very entertaining. Perhaps the highest compliment I can pay this work is that when I finished it, I was left pondering the validity of the ideas discussed. That's something I couldn't say about all my college classes.

Rob says

First chapter outlines how Iron Man is an exemplar of the utilitarian philosophy, Captain American is deontology, and Thor is virtue ethics. Really sets the tone of the book.

The chapters get repetitive after awhile - Hawkeye is an example of redemption, Civil War references, Pym is a jerk, etc. - but the book is an overall interesting read using Marvel comic storylines as metaphors for philosophical principals.

Melvin Patterson says

As always, the content of this book, like others in the series, is entertaining. However, the narrator had an annoying penchant for mispronouncing names, concepts and other words he obviously didn't understand. It was a little distracting. But the content was good.

Sarospice says

I like the Avengers and I like philosophy and I like most of this interesting read, but some themes were redundantly examined and every contributor had a big boner for Hawkeye. THERE ARE OTHER CHARACTERS! At least they stopped before Brian Michael Penis. Everyone is NOT an Avenger, and this book examines some themes why not.

Pedro says

Esta colección de ensayos filosóficos exploran distintos temas de manera muy reflexiva, pero en mi opinión con una endeble estructura que hace que el libro se sienta como poco cohesionado. Por ejemplo, en mi opinión, hay demasiados ensayos explorando las distintas implicaciones éticas de Hawkeye como miembro de los Avengers, dado que antes de serlo fue un criminal; o sobre Norman Osbourne como director de SHIELD y jefe de los Dark Avengers. Sin embargo, hay varios ensayos rescatables, como el que explorar la relación entre Vision y Scarlet Witch, la validez del superheroísmo proactivo, y mi favorito, la ética militar en la guerra Kree vs Skrull. En todo caso el libro no es muy largo así que se puede leer fácilmente, y sirva para identificar grandes eventos en la línea temporal de los Avengers y crossover comics. Me hubiese gustado un ensayo que discutiera a fondo la perspectiva ética de la invasión a Latveria en Secret Wars.

Amazingsomeone says

Marvelous.

Dann says

Incredibly fun and entertaining, *The Avengers and Philosophy: Earth's Mightiest Thinkers* looks at the moral and ethical dilemmas faced by Marvel's superheroes. While it implies that it covers the comics, animated series, and Joss Whedon's 2012 live-action film, it really only covers the comics; and then, mainly focuses on the Civil War and Dark Avengers runs. However, the authors provide detailed summaries of the story arcs and do a good job at relating them to the themes and theories that they discuss; such as identity, forgiveness, parental responsibility, metafiction, just war, and time travel. Additionally, the essays feature a good variety of Avengers, from the core members like Iron Man and Cap to C-stringers like Jessica Jones and She-Hulk. Not just for true believers, anyone who likes Marvel super-heroes will enjoy *The Avengers and Philosophy: Earth's Mightiest Thinkers*. Excelsior!

Joseph Santiago says

This book was great! Not only did it compare many areas of philosophy to events that characters did it illustrated the consequences of those events through the stories. This made a somewhat dry topic to be so much more approachable and fun. I read this for fun and enjoyed the selection chosen for philosophers as well as the matching done to create an extension of the Marvel universe through learning about these concepts. I love comics and this made the book a easy choice for me but I highly recommend it for a class or interest reading in the topical area of philosophy.

Mr. Joe

Sherrie Pilkington says

This book was foisted upon me by Mr. Larry Phares...and he was totally right. It's a fascinating read. Each chapter deals with a different aspect of philosophy (and the Avengers) and some are better than others, but over all it was a fun read. Excuse me while I go read 50 comic books now.

Ellen says

This is an excellent way to explore philosophy

Ellie Dynek says

I've just started my junior year of college, and with all the super-hero movies coming out, I found that this was a really interesting book to check out. The various themes about Captain America, Hawkeye and Ant Man definitely provided some enlightenment about some of the biggest names in the Marvel universe. I would definitely recommend this book to any and all superhero fans :)

Barry Simiana says

Sorry, this one was a DNF. Look if spending a lot of time reading reasons why Marvel superheroes are the philosophers of our age, then this is the book for you. I read mostly for entertainment and relaxation, so a little deep and taxing for me. It's well thought out and written as essays and articles, but not my bag. Maybe when I have more time I'll come back to it.
