

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Why the World Needs Superheroes | 5 |
| 2. The Genre of the Superhero Comic | 23 |
| 2.1 Origin Story– From Comic Strip to Comic Books | 23 |
| 2.2 The Golden Age | 29 |
| 2.3 The Silver or Marvel Age | 33 |
| 2.4 The Bronze Age | 40 |
| 2.5 From the Universe to the Multiverse– Marvel and its Fandom | 46 |
| 3. Approaching Evil | 59 |
| 3.1 Theories of Evil | 59 |
| 3.2 The Villain | 68 |
| 3.3 Supervillain as Supermonster | 77 |
| 4. Stereotypical Evil During the Cold War | 83 |
| 4.1 Medial Pressure and Propaganda: Jameson’s Medial March Towards Power | 88 |
| 4.2 The Red Threat as a Uniting Tool: Magneto as Common Foe and Never-ending Evil | 107 |
| 4.3 Breaking the <i>Us-vs.-Them</i> -Ideology: Doctor Doom the Possible Twin of Mister Fantastic | 130 |
| 5. US Supremacy over Evil by Mythological, Religious and Scientific Superiority | 155 |
| 5.1 Challenging US Exceptionalism: Po-Siden the Colonizing Alien Invader | 160 |
| 5.2 The Necessity of a Devil: Loki Holding the Balance of Power | 180 |
| 5.3 Science as Savior: The Green Goblin’s Downfall | 204 |
| 6. Representations of Marginalized Groups as Evil | 231 |
| 6.1 Female Sexuality as Temptation towards Evil: Namor’s Sexuality Challenging the Holy Haven of Matrimony | 235 |
| 6.2 The Transformation of the Monstrous African: Black Panther Overcoming his Rage | 251 |
| 7. The Functions of Evil in the American Superhero Comic, or: Why the World Needs Supervillains | 271 |