

20th Century History

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Good Job, Greg!
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Ninth Grade

Superheroes and Their Impact

We live in a time of wonder. Everywhere we look, we see the steps of progress. Its wheels roll and grind ahead. These wheels are pushed by the heroes, the gods of our age. Every day, these mighty men, these protectors of the people, risk life and limb against the villains and terrorists. It is certainly true that the heroes have dominated the latter half of the last century and into this one. With such power and control, it's easy to see how much influence these heroes have had on the world's culture and society. By looking at the history of super-heroism, one can trace the evolution of the world and see certain points in which the heroes had enough of an influence to change the direction that the world was going.

In the late 1930s, the world suffered from, and fought out of, a vast economic depression. Organized crime, which had gained a foot-hold during the days of prohibition, gained force by preying on the desperate poor. It was 1938, when an oddly garbed vigilante burst on the scene to bring hope to the hopeless. Dressed in *Arabesque* style, the flying man called himself Al Djinn (Pictured Right). From 1938, until his early death in 1940, Djinn was a defender of the people and the hero of New York.



Al Djinn's example spurred many other heroes into action, notably Fremont City's bow-sliding Gamesman, and the mysterious Night Terror from New Bremerhaven, Washington. These heroes strengthened the spirit of this country, empowering the people to again rise-up for themselves. Before long, these brave warriors set their eyes toward the war in Europe. They did

what the American government could not, bringing the battle against the Nazis. They were shortly joined in their quest by English strong-man Vickers, Irish warrior Brigid, and German giant, Barbarossa, as well as the bizarre and alien, Golden Rapid. They called themselves the Foreign Legion. Under the command of Al Djinn, the Foreign Legion pushed the Nazis out of France by August, 1940. This earned the Legionnaires a 'respite' in the United States.

America

In fact, the heroes returned to ~~American~~ to respond to a surprising increase in super-criminals. Seemingly out of nowhere, villains like the Time-Stopper and Kragor, Master of Cats, sprung attacks on major cities in the United States. By far, the most detrimental villain was the techno-mage, Mephistopheles. Naming himself after the devil in *Faustus*, Mephistopheles had acquired an advanced, prototype atomic bomb, and with it, he hoped to open a portal to hell itself. Through the course of the battle, Al Djinn was killed, his body atomized.

The heroes took the loss hard, and a couple of the heroes, Dough Boy, and Kitchener Jr., gave up their heroic careers. After a three-month absence, during which the German forces re-took the Maginot Line, and were preparing to do so to Paris as well, the heroes returned to the front. The reformed Foreign Legion, now commanded by The Gamesman, again aided allied and resistance forces. They were joined by a new hero, Ben Djinn, the successor to Al Djinn. Despite this, the team had lost a lot of raw power, and they made slow progress pushing the Germans back.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese Navy bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, while America's heroes were in Europe. In response, the Foreign Legion launched an all-out attack on Japan, levelling factories and dismantling war machines and shipping vessels. With no way to replenish its weapons and ammunition, or feed its forces, Japan quickly folded, signing treaties in the fall of 1942.

The attack on Pearl Harbor steeled the United States government. War on Japan was declared on December 8, 1941. In February, the U.S. Army unveiled its secret weapon, the super-soldier codenamed Uncle Sam. Sam was warmly accepted into the Foreign Legion, and with his help, the War in Europe was over by November 1, 1943.

After the fighting was done, ~~Armies~~ cleaned up their equipment and returned to their homes, but the Foreign Legion stayed behind. In all the lands broken through war, they helped



factories the people rebuild, from houses to ~~fetories~~. They used their powers to remove as much of the damage from the land as could be done, while teaching the local residents better ways of farming, producing, and distributing their wares. In an interview with Time Magazine (March 19, 1945), the Golden Rapid (Pictured Left) said, “I was sent from my home planet to spread a message of peace and harmony to all humankind. After all the death and destruction we saw in the war, my fellow Legionnaires and I chose this to be the time to spread

that message. In life, battles must be fought, but only to pave the way for peace, and peace begins when there is no longer a reason for war. If the people’s needs are met, the governments’ will be as well.”

The Foreign Legion continued their work in Europe until 1947, when they set eyes on Africa. From Africa to Asia to South America, these heroes moved, educating and assisting people in bettering themselves and their communities. According to historian and political commentator, Michael Moore, these heroes essentially ended war by 1954.