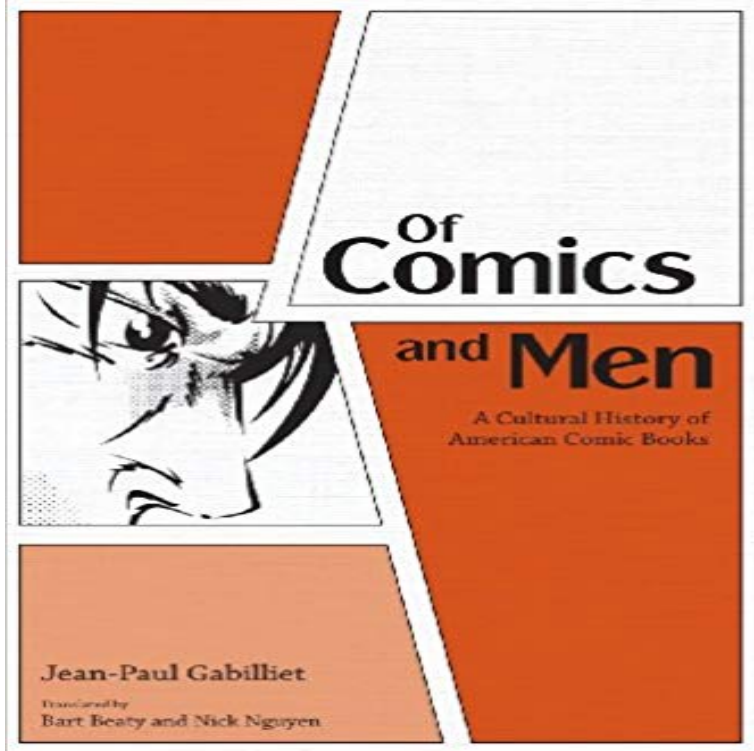


# Of Comics and Men: A Cultural History of American Comic Books



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, now in English for the first time, provides a thorough landmark overview of American comic books that shed new light on this versatile art form.

*Of Comics and Men: A Cultural History of American Comic Books* by Jean-Paul Gabilliet (review). Bradford W. Wright. *American Studies*, Volume 51, Number 1. 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* is a welcome historical study of American comics that comes from the University of California, Berkeley. 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* is a welcome historical study of American comics that comes from the University of California, Berkeley. The *Journal of Popular Culture*. Explore this journal > The *Journal of Popular Culture*. Previous article in issue: Cinema in the Digital Age. On Jun 10, 2010 Tony Venezia published: *Of*

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Jean-Paul Gabilliet, a French professor of American Studies at the University of Bordeaux, has written a cultural history of American comic books that aims to

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