



Comics and the World Wars

A Cultural Record

Jane Chapman, Anna Hoyles, Andrew Kerr and Adam Sherif

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Jane Chapman is Professor of Communications at Lincoln University, UK, Research Associate at Wolfson College, Cambridge, UK and the author of ten books. She is Principal Investigator for the Arts and Humanities Council's Comics and the World Wars: A Cultural Record project, for which Anna Hoyles, Andrew Kerr and Adam Sherif are researchers, and is an AHRC grant holder for two other projects on World War One.

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"Mining comics and cartoons as historical sources, this is an innovative, theoretically sophisticated study that crosses national and geographical boundaries. It makes a pioneering contribution to print, labour, gender and new cultural history, and the expanding field of humour studies, through a captivating series of case studies from both World Wars."

- Bridget Griffen-Foley, Macquarie University, Australia

"This study's focus on homefront and front-line comics from the two world wars brings welcome attention to texts generally ignored by scholars of history and comic art alike. Its argument for the significance of these largely overlooked comics as valuable source material opens the doors for further studies in these two fields and beyond."

- Gene Kannenberg, Jr., Northwestern University, USA

About the book

Comics and the World Wars argues for the use of comics as a primary source by offering a highly original argument that such examples produced during the World Wars act as a cultural record. Recuperating currently unknown or neglected strips, this work demonstrates how these can be used for the study of both world wars. Representing the fruits of over five years team research, this book reveals how sequential illustrated narratives used humour as a coping mechanism and a way to criticise authority, promoted certain forms of behaviour and discouraged others, represented a deliberately inclusive educational strategy for reading wartime content, and became a barometer for contemporary popular thinking.

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