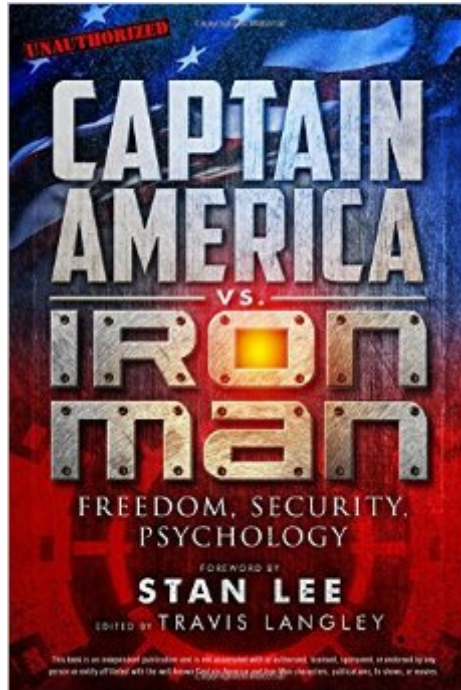


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Captain America Vs. Iron Man: Freedom, Security, Psychology



Synopsis

Freedom vs. security, the basic human dilemma. Can heroes really protect both? Two iconic figures, two living symbols whose choices make them superheroes and leaders, come to completely opposite conclusions. This provocative collection, edited by acclaimed media psychology writer Travis Langley and with a foreword by the legendary Stan Lee (!), examines the complex psychological and political choices made by Captain America and Iron Man throughout their careers, culminating in Marvel's superhero civil war which spreads far beyond the Avengers themselves. Why do Steve Rogers and Tony Stark see things so differently? What are their motivations? Is either one truly in the right? Captain America vs. Iron Man: Freedom, Security, Psychology, our latest entry in this popular psychology series, analyzes the polar sides of this debate--individual freedom vs. national security. How does trauma shape these heroic characters? What does it take to become a hero? What roles do empathy, gender, genius, morality, leadership, and teamwork play in starting conflicts and in resolving them? Fans will find thought-provoking psychological material to contemplate for hours. Do we really have to take sides? Contributors include: Jenna Busch * Josu Cardona * Tommy Cash * J. Scott Jordan * Lara Taylor Kester * Alan Kistler * Alex Langley * Travis Langley * Stan "the Man" Lee * Martin Lloyd * Patrick O'Connor * Billy San Juan * Janina Scarlet * Eric D. Wesselmann * Mara Wood * E. Paul Zehr

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Customer Reviews

I took this book on as a long-term Iron Man fan, but knowing that Captain America was the "foil" intrigued me. They've clashed at several points over the years, sometimes seriously and not because they are profoundly different, but because they are so similar in key areas. I enjoyed seeing the clinical definitions lined up with known story points, because after all, if *you* nearly died throwing a nuke through a wormhole and saving New York, "PTSD" is a polite way to describe the after-effects. Both men in this case are fundamentally decent and problem-solving, so the tone is a more positive one than that of other books in the series, which often involve observations of much darker characters. For the most part, the discussion continually returns to the fact that with a few transitory exceptions, neither is struggling with personality distortions that come anywhere near actual disorders. Its more a matter of examining how, from very different angles, both characters plant their feet and lean into their problems rather than reeling from them. Its not just their tenacity that makes them memorable, but how their pragmatism and desire for a positive outcome leads to many outside-the-box solutions. I finished the book a few days before I saw "Captain America: Civil War" and it made it more enjoyable because I had the various clinical analyses in mind during a few scenes. It added spice to the show. The one small critique I can offer is that contrasted with the other books Dr. Langley has helmed, this one is a bit of a reduction of the form due to its focus on just two main characters. As with group superhero stories, the narrative benefits prominently from comparisons between multiple subjects.

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