Primary Sources

Artifacts

America First Committee “Anti-War” Pin, 1940.

I bought this pin on EBay from a collector of World War II memorabilia. This pin is on my exhibit to show the isolationist views on World War II held by some Americans.

United States Army Soldier Identification Tags, 1941.

I bought these “dog tags” on EBay from a collector of World War II memorabilia. The U.S. military issued dog tags to soldiers with letters: “C” for Catholic, “P” for Protestant and “H” for Hebrew (Jewish). The tags displayed on the “war” section of my exhibit are stamped with the letter “H.” Although the religious markings were important for burials, Jewish soldiers worried about the “H” marking if they were captured by German troops.

Books


This book is an autobiography written by Joe Simon, the co-creator of Captain America, and is one of the most important sources for my topic and thesis. Mr. Simon discusses his life growing up in New York, the antisemitism that he faced and his life in the comic book industry. He also discusses the creation of Captain America and the story behind it and the financial risks to Timely Comics, the publisher of Captain America, in deciding to use Hitler as a real life villain in the comic book stories. The two Joe Simon quotes on my exhibit are from page 52 of this book.


This is Joe Simon’s second book. He provides detailed information on his life in the comic book industry during the 1930’s and 1940’s and the threats that he, Jack Kirby and the publisher (Timely Comics) received from American Nazi sympathizers after the first issue of Captain America was published on

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1 I used MLA Handbook (8th Ed.) for my citation format; the handbook states that if a source is from the internet, the citation should include the internet address.
March 1, 1941. He describes his military service in the Coast Guard during World War II. This information was very important to my topic and thesis. One of the photos of Joe Simon on the centerboard of my exhibit is from this book.


This book explains the stereotypes and lies about Jews that resulted in antisemitism, particularly in the United States during the 1930’s. The book provided useful information for me to understand why there was discrimination (unjustified) against Jewish Americans.

Tourtellor, Arthur, editor. *Life’s Picture History of World War II,* Time Incorporated, 1950. This book has hundreds of photos taken during World War II showing the history of the war. I have not studied World War II yet in middle school, and this book was helpful in understanding what happened during the war.

**Films**


This is a great documentary film. It has many interviews with Jewish Americans who fought in World War II. These soldiers recount their U.S. military experience and time spent in the war and the antisemitism they endured in the military from non-Jewish American soldiers. They also describe the antisemitism and discrimination that they experienced while growing up in the United States in the 1920’s and 1930’s and after the end of the war. This information was important to my topic. The quote on the “war” section of my exhibit about the number of Jewish Americans who served in the U.S. military during World War II is from this film, as is the quote about the existence of more than 100 antisemitic groups in the United States in the 1930’s (extended scenes of this film).


This film has the original footage of the German American Bund rally held in Madison Square Garden in New York City on February 20, 1939. It shows a large crowd gathered in support of Nazi Germany. This event, which I describe on the “build-up” section of my exhibit, shows the high level of antisemitism and hatred that existed in the United States in the 1930’s. The quote next to the picture on my exhibit about the completion of the sixth concentration camp at the time that this rally was held is from this film.
Magazine and Newspaper Articles


A copy of this article is on the “build-up” section of my exhibit to show that antisemitism was increasing during the 1930’s.


This article discusses the recent discrimination against some of today’s current comic book writers who are women or people of color. A quote from this article is used on the flat board of my exhibit because it is important to point out that there is still racial and gender discrimination in the comic book industry more than 75 years after Captain America was first published. Human nature is repeating itself as today’s comic book writers face some of the same discrimination and threats faced by the comic book writers who started the industry many decades ago.


This article reports on the protest lead by Bill Nye (the “Science Guy”) against “the anti-vaccination movement and climate-change denial” of the Trump Administration. I used a photo of this protest, which has a Superman symbol, to show long-term impact. Comic book superheroes are often used as symbols in public rallies and protests today to promote important causes.


This article reports on a protest in the United States against the antisemitic policies of Harvard University. This article is important because it provides support for Rabbi Weinstein’s quote used on the “build-up” section of my exhibit that Ivy-League schools had discriminated against Jews.

This letter provides information about the popularity of comic books among U.S. soldiers; one out of every four magazines shipped overseas to soldiers in the U.S. Army and Navy was a comic book. This information is important to the impact of my topic.


Life magazine published this article on the German American Bund. The article reports that the Bund was holding meetings to celebrate George Washington’s birthday. The article states that the Bund hailed George Washington as “‘the first Fascist’ and as a ‘realist’ who knew democracy could not work.” I have included the German American Bund in the “build-up” section of my exhibit because it was one of the largest antisemitic groups in the United States during the 1930’s.


This article reports on a hotel in Comfort Virginia “advertising that Jews were not welcome as guests.” This article, displayed on the “build-up” section of my exhibit, is an example of antisemitism in the United States in the 1930’s.


This article states that the U.S. Army issued an approved list of 189 magazines “based on a combined poll and survey of soldiers’ preferences” and “nearly fifty comic books are included in the list.” This information is important to the impact of my topic and provides support for the quotes on the “war” section of my exhibit about the popularity of comic books among U.S. soldiers during World War II.


This article discusses a rally held in New York to “protest against the persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany.” This article, displayed on the centerboard of my exhibit, shows the division among Americans on World War II.

A copy of this article is on the centerboard of my exhibit to show the isolationist position of the America First Committee on World War II.


This 1945 magazine article has information on the number of people that read comic books in the United States during the early 1940’s. It provided the statistics quoted on the “war” section of my exhibit - about 70,000,000 people (half of the U.S. population) regularly read comic books during World War II. This is important information because it shows the impact and wide-reach of the comic book writers and their comic books.

**Museums**


This museum has on display an original handbill (“Help Hitler Defeat the International Jews Now!”). American pro-Nazi sympathizers distributed this handbill in the U.S. prior to its entry into World War II. This handbill is an example of antisemitism in the U.S. and the division among Americans on the war. A picture of this handbill is on the centerboard of my exhibit.


The three photos of Jack Kirby (U.S. Army uniform and civilian clothes) displayed on my exhibit are from this online museum.


The museum has an original letter issued by Yale University in 1922. In the letter, Yale stated that it was adopting a quota limiting the number of Jews that it would admit into the school. This letter is one of the primary sources that I relied on that supports Rabbi Weinstein’s quote on the “build-up” section of my exhibit that
some Ivy-League schools had adopted quotas limiting the number of Jews that they would admit.

Websites


This website is the source of the photo of Al Jaffee (a cartoonist at Timely Comics and later MAD Magazine) displayed on the “build-up” section of my exhibit.


This photo on the “war” section of my exhibit is from this website. This photo shows soldiers reading comic books, which is important in showing the impact of my topic. I also thought that this photo was appropriate for my exhibit because Jack Kirby, the co-creator of Captain America, fought in the Battle of the Bulge.


This photo on the “build-up” section of my exhibit is an example of antisemitism in the United States in the 1930’s.

Captain America “case no. 1” (first cover on booklet) and Captain America “origin” comic panels, 1 Mar. 1941. Kirbygoldenagecaptain, kirbysgoldenagecaptain.wordpress.com. Accessed 1 Apr. 2018.

These comic panels on the centerboard of my exhibit relate to the creation of Captain America.


This picture and Captain America’s message displayed on the flat board of my exhibit shows the long-term impact of Captain America and his relevance in today’s world.


Most of the comic book covers (including the booklet of covers) on my exhibit are from this website. These covers are some of the most important primary sources for my exhibit. The messages on these covers (and the covers published in the
Fertig book cited below) are shown under the spinning Captain America shield on the “war” section of my exhibit. These messages were part of the war propaganda that was essential to the U.S. war effort. I chose a sampling of covers (with various superheroes) issued from 1941 to 1945 (the end of the war) and bound them into a booklet that is part of the flat board of my exhibit so the reader can see how the covers changed over time. As the war progressed and U.S. casualties increased, the covers became more extreme in their negative depictions of the Axis powers. The messages in the comic books remained the same. The Black Panther cover (the debut issue) displayed on the flat board of my exhibit is also from this website. This cover is important in showing long-term impact of comic books; Black Panther was created to support and defend civil rights of African Americans.


I displayed this cover on the “war” section of my exhibit. The cover was created in reaction to a speech by Goebbels that was publicly broadcast in Europe.


The photo of “Do Not Buy Nazi Goods” on the centerboard of my exhibit is from this website. This photo shows the division among Americans on World War II.


The photo of the German American Bund rally held in Madison Square Garden along with the caption shown on the “build-up” section of my exhibit is from this website. This photo is important because it shows the high level of antisemitism existing in the United States in the 1930’s.


This photo on the “war” section of my exhibit shows the two co-creators of Superman working together on a Superman drawing.

This photo of Jerry Siegel (co-creator of Superman) in his U.S. Army uniform is on the “war” section of my exhibit. This is important to my topic because it shows the patriotism of the comic book writers. They served in the U.S. military during the WWII.


This photo of Joe Simon is the centerboard of my exhibit under one of his quotes.


This photo of Joe Simon is on the centerboard of my exhibit under one of his quotes.


This photo of Joe Simon in his military uniform is on the “war” section of my exhibit. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard during WWII.


This photo of Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda minister, displayed on the “war” section of my exhibit under his quote, shows the impact of the comic books.


This photo of Martin Goodman is on the centerboard of my exhibit. Mr. Goodman was the editor of Timely Comics when the first issue of Captain America was published on March 1, 1941. Timely Comics later became Marvel Comics, one of the most successful comic book companies in existence today.

This cartoon on the “build-up” section of my exhibit was drawn to call attention to the antisemitism than existed in the United States during the 1930’s.


This website has the photo of a young Stan Lee in his U.S. Army uniform displayed on the “war” section of my exhibit under his quote. Stan Lee was a young comic book writer at the time that he served in the U.S. military during World War II. Today, he is one of the most famous and successful writers in the comic book industry.


This database is the source of the Superman comic displayed on the “war” section of my exhibit.


I used this protest photo on the flat board of my exhibit to show long-term impact. The photo is a public protest defending public education; the sign held by one of the protesters has a symbol of Superman.


Vault creates and publishes comic books. This tweet discusses the recent harassment and death threats made against female and minority comic book writers today. I used a quote from this tweet on the flat board of my exhibit to show that, even today, some comic book writers face harassment and threats, the same problems faced in 1941 by Captain America’s creators.


This photo on the flat board of my exhibit shows long-term impact. My mom and grandmother had marched in the Woman’s Rights March. They told me about
marchers who dressed up in superhero costumes to bring attention to women’s rights.

Wonder Women Cover, *Comic Cavalcade*, March 1944.  

This cover on the “war” section of my exhibit is an example of pro-war messages of the comic writers encouraging Americans to support the war effort by recycling.

**Secondary Sources**

**Articles**


This article discusses the information put on “dog tags” that the U.S. military issued to soldiers during World War II. These dog tags had letter markings to indicate the religion of the soldier. Dog tags of Jewish American soldiers were stamped with the letter “H” for “Hebrew” (Jewish). A quote from this article is used on the “war” section of my exhibit.


This article discusses training manuals that were designed in a comic book format and used to train U.S. soldiers. I was curious about how effective these manuals were since my exhibit has a quote of Stan Lee where he talks about creating training manuals in a comic book format.


This article discusses the collaboration between the Writers War Board and the comic book industry and the extensive use of comic books for pro-war propaganda in support of the U.S. war effort, which I refer to on the “war” section of my exhibit.

This article was an important source of information for my topic and thesis. It discusses the start of the comic book industry by Jewish American writers and illustrators. The quotes of Al Jaffee and Jack Kirby on my exhibit are from this article. The author of this article also wrote the book “*From Krakon to Krypton: Jews and Comic Books*,” which had helpful information for my topic and thesis (see below for the full citation of this book).


This article discusses the ban of comic books by the Nazi party and how upset Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda minister, was with Jerry Siegel, the co-creator of Superman. This article is the source of the Goebbels’ quote about comic books poisoning the minds of American youth displayed on the “war” section of my exhibit.


I spelled the word “antisemitism” without hyphens and without capitalizing the “s” in my student-composed words and process paper. Some of the quotes on my exhibit show the word with hyphens and the “s” capitalized, which is the way the author of the quote spelled the word. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), however, recommends spelling the word as “antisemitism,” without any hyphens or capitalizations of the “s.” The IHRA memo states: “The unhyphenated spelling is favored by many scholars and institutions in order to dispel the idea that there is an entity ‘Semitism’ which ‘anti-Semitism’ opposes.”


This article is the source of the quote “Joseph Goebbels proclaimed...'Superman is a Jew!' ” displayed on the “war” section of my exhibit. This is important because it shows the wide impact of the comic books and the superpatriots.

This article is the source of the quote about the significance of the Black Panther comic to the civil rights movements in the United States in the 1960’s. It shows long-term impact of the comic book industry. Comic book writers continued to use their comic art on behalf of others who were subject to discrimination.


This article discusses the Writers War Board (WWB), a volunteer organization responsible for creating and distributing propaganda in support of the U.S. war effort. The article discusses why the WWB teamed up with the comic book industry to use comic books for war propaganda and their importance to the war effort. I refer to the WWB on the “war” section of my exhibit.

Books


This book has an excellent biography on Stan Lee who was the creator of many of the most famous and popular superheroes (e.g., Spiderman, Fantastic Four and X-men). The book discusses his service in the U.S. Army during World War II. The Stan Lee quote on the “war” section of my exhibit is from page 38 of this book.


The chapter in this book describes the antisemitism and discrimination that Jewish American soldiers had to deal with while serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. These soldiers give their personal accounts of this discrimination. This information is important to my topic and provides additional support for the quotes on the “war” section of my exhibit about the antisemitism faced by Jewish American soldiers from their fellow soldiers.

This book describes parallels of Jewish religion and the comic book superheroes. It has an in-depth discussion about the symbolism in Jewish religion that was used as a basis to create the comic book superheroes and their stories. For example, the story of the origins of Superman is based on the biblical origins of Moses.


This book has helpful background about World War II and describes important events that happened during the war. It was important for me to have an understanding of the war since I have not studied this subject yet in middle school.


This book has biographies on the most popular Marvel superheroes in the 1940’s. I used this information to determine which superheroes to use for the collection of comic book covers that are part of my exhibit. I wanted to include some superheroes that were popular in the 1940’s but are no longer published today.


This book was important to my exhibit because it describes Jack Kirby’s life growing up in New York as a first generation son of Jewish immigrants and the antisemitism that existed during that time. It also describes how he started in the comic book industry and teamed up with Joe Simon to create Captain America. Jack Kirby is featured on my exhibit.


This book discusses how and why comic books were used by the United States military as propaganda in World War II. This information is very important to my topic. This book (page 27) provided the statistics quoted on the “war” section of my exhibit about the popularity of comic books during the World War II, which shows the impact of the comic book writers and their comic books. This book has
over 200 comic book covers that were published during the war. Some of the messages of the superpatriots featured on these covers are shown under the spinning Captain America shield on the “war” section of my exhibit.


The chapter in this book was a good source of information for my topic. The chapter is well-researched and, at the end of the chapter, it lists citations to primary and secondary sources. It has statistics on how many people read comic books (young and old, military and civilian) (pages 17 and 18). I used these statistics on the “war” section of my exhibit. The book also describes why comic books were used as propaganda in World War II and how important they were to the war effort. All this information is important because it shows the impact of the comic book writers and their comic books.


The chapter in this book explains the effect of the neutrality policy that prevented the U.S. from becoming involved in World War II prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It also describes the political climate and the antisemitism that existed during that time. This information was important to my topic and thesis because it explains the conflicts that the comic book writers had to deal with and the division among Americans on the war.


This book is where I first found out about the superpatriots. It has background information on all the different comic book publishers.


This book was very important to my topic and thesis. It has information on the antisemitism and the discrimination that the Jewish American writers faced in the 1930’s, how those writers started in the comic book industry and the reasons they created and drew Captain America to be Aryan/Gentile in appearance. It also explains the connections between the Jewish immigrant experience and Judaism and the comic book superheroes. It explains that the comic book stories
are based on biblical stories. The book has citations to primary and secondary sources. One of the quotes on the flat board of my exhibit (why the Jewish writers changed their names to non-Jewish names) is from pages 29-30 of this book. The book also has information on Joseph Goebbels (the Nazi propaganda minister) and describes how upset he was with the creators of Superman. I refer to Goebbels on the “war” section of my exhibit to show the wide impact of the comic book writers and their comic book superheroes.


I used this book for information on Wonder Woman and her origins. My exhibit has covers that feature Wonder Woman.


This book has a detailed description of the Golden Age (1930’s to 1950’s) of DC comics and its superheroes. This book also has helpful information on Jack Kirby, the co-creator of Captain America.


This book describes how comic book writers create a story and the techniques used to tell a good story. It provided useful background information in helping me understand all of the effort that goes into creating a successful comic book.


I have not studied World War II and Hitler yet in middle school. This book provided me with an understanding about how evil and dangerous Hitler was to the world and the terrible things that he did.


This book has key facts about World War II, including the Battle of the Bulge. I was interested in learning about the Battle of the Bulge because Jack Kirby, the co-creator of Captain America, was in the U.S. Army and fought in this battle.


My dad suggested that I look for proverbs in the Bible that might be relevant to my topic because the comic book writers used themes and symbols in their
writings and illustrations that were based on biblical stories. The proverb on the centerboard of my exhibit is from the Complete Jewish Study Bible.


The author, Rabbi Simcha Weinstein, is known as the “Comic Book” Rabbi. He discusses Jewish traditions and religion and the parallels between biblical stories and comic book stories. He also describes how and why Jewish Americans started the comic book industry and the antisemitism that they faced in the 1930’s. This is important information for my thesis. The book is well-researched and has citations to primary and secondary sources. One of the quotes on the centerboard of my exhibit is from pages 48-49 of this book.


This book is a biography on Al Jaffee, who worked for *Timely Comics* and later created *MAD Magazine*. The book has information on his early childhood growing up in Lithuania and later in the United States. His mother had returned to Lithuania leaving him behind in the United States. She never returned to the United States and he believes that the Nazis killed her. He describes the hardship and antisemitism that he and his family faced in the United States. This was useful in helping me understand how bad antisemitism was in the United States during the 1930’s and 1940’s.

**Museums**


I visited this museum with my parents. It has many exhibits on the Jewish people and their emigration from Europe to the United States. A section in the museum deals with the antisemitism in the United States. I learned about Charles Coughlin, the antisemitic Catholic priest, who used his national radio show to criticize Jewish people. I discuss Father Coughlin on the “build-up” section of my exhibit as an example of antisemitism in the United States. One of the museum guides gave me a personal tour when I told her about my National History Day topic and explained the hard life of many Jewish Americans in the 1920’s and 1930’s and the discrimination that they faced in the United States.
The quote used on the “build-up” section of my exhibit about 72% of Americans not wanting the United States to accept Jewish exiles from Germany is from this source. This information is important because it shows the antisemitism that existed in the United States in the 1930’s.

Newspaper Articles


This is the obituary of Adolph Hitler’s bodyguard, Rochus Misch. It describes his account of the time spent in Hitler’s bunker during the last weeks of the war where he witnessed Magda Goebbels (Joseph Goebbels’ wife) poison their six children with cyanide. I included this information on the “war” section of my exhibit to show the irony of this event. Joseph Goebbels had criticized Jerry Siegel (the co-creator of Superman) for poisoning the minds of young Americans.


My exhibit has a quote from this article written by Joe Simon’s granddaughter. It shows the long-term impact of Captain America, as she explains why Captain America is still relevant and needed today.


This article discusses the “H” for “Hebrew” that was stamped on the dog tags issued by the U.S. military to Jewish American soldiers. The quote used on the “war” section of my exhibit about soldiers scraping the letter off their dog tags when captured by German troops is from this article.
**Videos**


This video has the public lecture presented by Rabbi Simcha Weinstein about the Jewish Americans who created the comic book superheroes. A quote from his lecture, which describes why Jewish American writers and illustrators dominated the comic book industry, is on the “build-up” section of my exhibit. This is very important to my topic and thesis.


This video describes the history of Captain America in the comics. It provided me with helpful background information.

**Websites**


Source of Captain America picture used on the “war” section of my exhibit.

Encyclopedia Britannica.


This source describes the America First Committee – an isolationist group that did not want the United States to enter into World War II. I discussed this group on the centerboard of my exhibit.


The definition of “antisemitism” on the “build-up” section of my exhibit is from this source.


This source has information on Charles E. Coughlin (an antisemitic priest in the United States). I discussed him on the “build-up” section of my exhibit.
This biography on Jack Kirby, the co-creator of Captain America, had helpful information for my exhibit. The biography describes Mr. Kirby's life in the comics at different points in time. It also provides information on his military service in the U.S. Army during World War II.

This is the source of one of the antisemitic quotes of Father Charles Coughlin used on the “build-up” section of my exhibit. The website has audios of Father Coughlin’s U.S. radio broadcasts. According to the website, “at the time, his broadcasts were one of the most popular in the country, drawing in millions of viewers and receiving upwards of 80,000 letters per week.” I discussed him on my exhibit because his antisemitic views were widespread and reached many Americans during the 1930’s.

This biography on Jack Kirby, the co-creator of Captain America, had helpful information about his life growing up in New York and his career in the comic book industry.

This source provided the picture of the comic, Jack Frost, shown on the “war” section of my exhibit. Stan Lee created this superhero, which appears in some of the comic books published during World War II.

This website has the quote of Jerry Siegel (co-creator of Superman) used on the “war” section of my exhibit above his photo.

This article discusses the antisemitic policies of Harvard University. From 1922 through the 1930’s, Harvard adopted a quota limiting the number of Jews that it
would admit to the school. The article states that Harvard’s president, Lawrence Lowell, “was convinced that Harvard could only survive if the majority of its students came from old American stock.” This information is important because it supports Rabbi Weinstein’s quote on my “build-up” section of my exhibit that Ivy League schools adopted quotas limiting the number of Jews that they would admit.


One of the quotes describing Father Charles Coughlin used on the “build-up” section of my exhibit is from this source.


The description of the neutrality laws quoted on the centerboard of my exhibit is from this article. This is important in explaining why the U.S. did not take an active role in World War II until the Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.


This is the source of the superhero Northstar comic displayed on the flat board of my exhibit.


This source provided the quote about the superhero, Northstar, being the first openly gay superhero. This is important for long-term impact, as it shows that a new generation of comic book superheroes was created to represent other minority groups.


The quote on my exhibit about Jewish-American soldiers facing antisemitism in the U.S. military is from this article. It was important to include this information on my exhibit because I wanted people who viewed the exhibit to know that antisemitism did not stop when America entered the war and continued to be a serious problem.

The comic panel of Superman holding Hitler shown on the “war” section of my exhibit is from this website.


This is the source of the Timely Comics logo on the centerboard of my exhibit. Timely Comics (later became Marvel Comics) was the first publisher of Captain America.


This source provided the statistical information used on the “build-up” section of my exhibit – 30 million to 40 million Americans listened to Father Coughlin’s weekly radio broadcasts. This is important information because it shows the widespread antisemitism in America during the 1930’s.

Graphics.


This is where I found the box graphics to display my student-composed text to make it look like comic book pages.

Superhero Hand Graphic. bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=oBmtVN9Y&id=CE1C0C4A4D37FDB1D8E6E98C21390DC857F075CD&thid=OIP.oBmtVN9YJAmqnGNy9A69QAHaHa&mediaurl=http%3a%2f%2fcliparts.co%2fcliparts%2fpi5%2f7p6%2fpi57p6Ai9.png&expw=800&exph=800&q=clipart+raised+hand+red&simid=608009174882323323&selectedIndex=1&ajaxhist=0. Accessed 30 Apr. 2018.

This site had the graphic of the superhero’s hand that holds the title above my exhibit.


This site has the graphic of the writer’s hand that holds the title above my exhibit.