

**THE TEN-CENT PLAGUE: THE GREAT COMIC-BOOK  
SCARE AND HOW IT CHANGED AMERICA**

Alese Chum

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The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic-Book Scare and How It Changed America. David Hajdu, Author. Farrar, Straus & Giroux \$26 (p).

### **David Hajdu - Ten Cent Plague**

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The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic-Book Scare and How It Changed War II and the emergence of television as a mass medium, American popular culture.

### **The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic-Book Scare and How It Changed America**

The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic-Book Scare and How it Changed American popular culture as we know it was first

created--in the pulpy, boldly.

Related books: [Suite No. 8 in E-flat Major, A Warriors Melancholy](#), [November: Chronik \(German Edition\)](#), [Bears! Learn About Bears and Enjoy Colorful Pictures - Learning Fun! \(50+ Photos of Bears\)](#), [IWNMS 2004](#).

So it's great, then, not to mention historically important, that a book like David Hajdu's *The Ten-Cent Plague* has gotten written and published; because as he so smartly reminds us, not only were the efforts to outlaw independent thought back then a lot more insidious and damaging than we collectively remember, but there was also a very good reason these censors got so upset in the first place, a very good reason people like Estes Kefauver and Joseph McCarthy were able to manipulate the public into such a frenzy. It is a fascinating if imperfect chronicle. And as with any new popular new thing, it was only a matter of time before it pushed itself a little bit too heavily into the mainstream and some collective of people proceeds to lose their minds.

Comic books have grown up, but Hajdu's affectionate portrait of their rowdy days. They burned books in America! Hajdu's book is dead-on. The book does a good job detailing the destruction of a whole industry, and the shame that attached to many talented artists that worked for it.

Parents, teachers, and complicit kids burned comics in public bonfires. This the same time, Mr. Hajdu's analysis is so clear and insightful that I wish he did more of it: