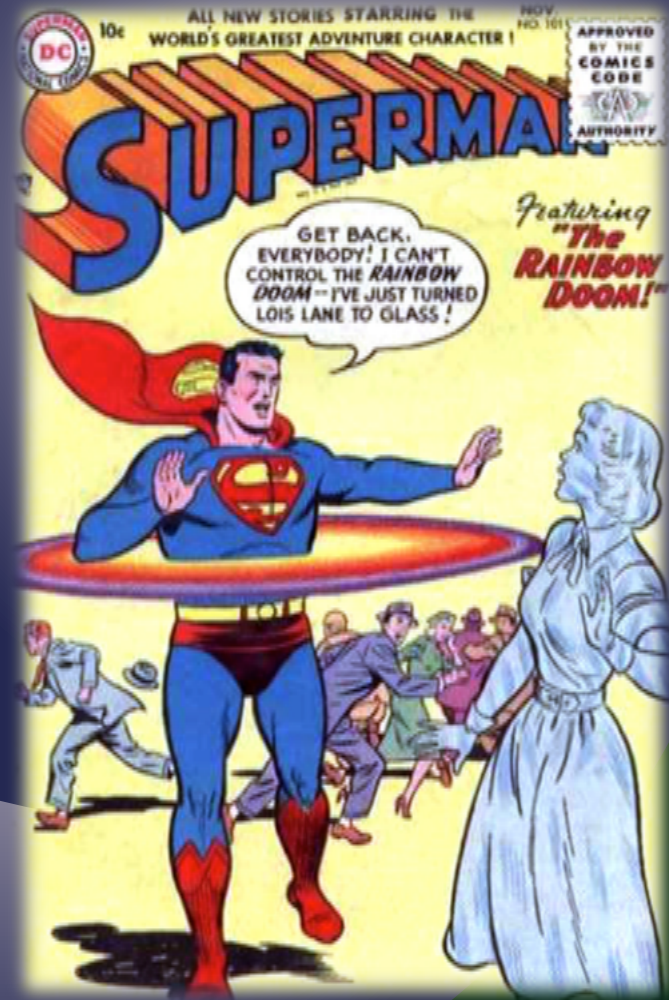


Easter Sunday 1955
With Brother & Cousins



1955 SUPERMAN Comic Book



Pre-1954 Comic Code Authority



The Great 1940s-1950s Comic Book Scare



the author of THE SHOW OF VIOLENCE and DARK LEGENDS

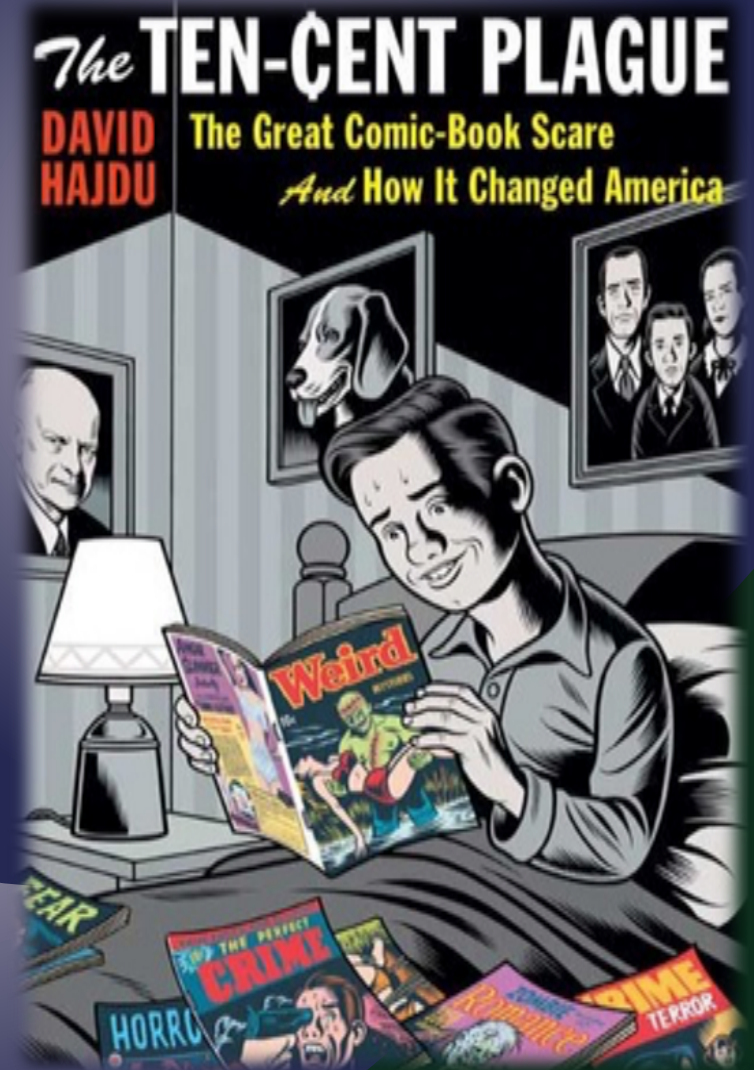
SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT

Fredric Wertham, M. D.

*the influence of
comic books on today's youth*

- By the early 1950s, comic books were the most widely used media in America. In 1948, 80-100 million sold per month
- In the late 1940s, the content and impact of children's comic books were challenged
- Enter psychiatrist Frederic Wertham, MD and his 1954 book: *Seduction of the Innocent*
 - Comic books were filled with violence, sexual perversion, racism, drugs, & anti-female sexism & childrens' morals were being degraded
- Senate Hearings on Juvenile Delinquency (1954) and adoption of the Comic Book Authority guidelines that same year

The panic over comic books falls somewhere between the Red Scare and the frenzy over UFO sightings among the pathologies of post [2nd World War] America. Like Communism, as it looked to much of America during the late 1940s, comics were an old problem that seemed changed, darkened, growing out of control. Like flying saucers, at the same time, comics were wild stuff with the garish aura of pulp fantasy (p. 112)



Moral Panic in the 2010s?

- **Social media** harms mental health
- **Social media** encourages violence
- **Social media** is creating a nation of loners
- **Social media** is the cause of increased rates of selfishness and narcissism **in American children**
- **Social media** is undermining the American family



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Technology

Is social media causing childhood depression?

By Jane Wakefield
Technology reporter

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