



Written by [Thomas R. Eddlem](#) on July 23, 2011

Captain America: The Avenger Who's Not Vengeful

This is not a masterpiece superhero movie in the line of the Batman [Dark Knight](#) series, but it's a solid film. Batman, Superman and Green Lantern belong to a different universe — [DC Comics](#) — which is different than [Marvel's](#) X-Men, Iron Man, Hulk, and Spiderman. As a self-confessed geek, I knew this without looking it up, and admit to having subscribed to the *Captain America* comic book as a kid more than 30 year ago. This film's chief weakness is that most of the characters are not well developed, except Steve Rogers.



I confess to prefer Marvel Comics over DC comics, with the exception of the *Dark Knight* series, and while the Marvel series has not created a *Dark Knight* masterpiece, it's produced some fine movies such as the [Spiderman](#), [Iron Man](#), and [X-Men series](#). *Captain America* fits in nicely with the upper range of this genre, and it ties the Marvel universe together nicely, including cameos for Dr. Howard Stark (Dominic Cooper) of the *Iron Man* legend Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) of the upcoming *Avengers* movie.

The Hollywood zeitgeist says that retro movies don't work commercially with modern audiences, but this movie's retro portrayal is actually a strength. At the beginning of the movie, expatriate German scientist Dr. Abraham Erskine (Stanley Tucci) asks Steve Rogers: "Do you want to kill Nazis?" Rogers responds: "I don't want to kill anyone. I don't like bullies. I don't care where they are from."

The movie harkens back to an era when people sometimes had to fight wars without blood-lust, unnecessary brutality or vengeance, and who love their country without hating others.

In another scene, a prisoner fears torture at the hands of his U.S. captors, but Col. Chester Phillips (Tommy Lee Jones) brings the prisoner a steak dinner instead, and then conducts an interrogation free of torture or brutality. No doubt, there will be a few neo-conservatives who will bemoan the lack of brutality in interrogations during that era. But Captain America hates bullies, regardless of what flag they wave.

That's why Captain America's patriotism is a breath of fresh air over empty globalism. Later in the movie, Captain America confronts Dr. Erskine's first failed experiment, the Red Skull, who mocks Captain America's flag-emblazoned uniform: "I have seen the future, Captain. And there are no flags." Captain America responds: "Not in my future."

Go see this movie, unless you hate superhero movies. I give it three and a half stars out of four, or an A-. It is a clean, fun summer blockbuster.



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