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Comics and cartoons are ingrained in American life. One critic has called comic books crude, unimaginative, banal, vulgar, ultimately corrupting. They have been regarded with considerable suspicion by parents, educators, psychiatrists, and moral reformers. Why do comics both amuse and arouse controversy? Here is an attempt at an answer in a sharp-eyed comic-book lovers probing look at this step-child genre. He finds comics both loved and hated, relished and sneered at. Comics as Culture Paperback February 1, 1990. by M. Thomas Inge (Author).

These ten essays by one of America's foremost authorities on popular culture survey the influence of the comic strip and, despite the legions of detractors, show it to be an art form that has enriched and reflected most of American culture.

From the Inside Flap.