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Superhero History: Using Comic Books to Teach U.S. History

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OAH Magazine of History, Volume 24, Issue 2, 1 April 2010, Pages 41–47,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/maghis/24.2.41>

Published: 01 April 2010

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Captain America recently visited my home state of Idaho. To be more precise, in early February 2010, readers of issue #602 of *Captain America* learned that the superhero's evil double, also calling himself Captain America, was in Boise, plotting with a right-wing militia-type organization called the Watchdogs. Meanwhile, the good Captain America, joined by African American superhero Falcon, arrived in town to infiltrate the group

and foil their plans. Hiding atop a building on the main street, the good guys saw a crowd of angry protesters, presumably Watchdog sympathizers who bore a striking resemblance to the conservative Tea Party activists who appeared on the scene this past year. In the sea of white faces, one could spot placards with slogans including “No New Taxes,” “Stop the Socialists,” and “Tea Bag the Libs Before They Tea Bag You.” Falcon joked that it would...

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Online ISSN 1938-2340

Print ISSN 0882-228X

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