



WHOSE SIDE...  
...ARE YOU ON?

THE MARVEL UNIVERSE IS CHANGING. AFTER THE RASH ACTIONS OF FOUR YOUNG HEROES CAUSE THE DESTRUCTION OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, A SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT IS PASSED, REQUIRING ALL THOSE POSSESSING PARANORMAL ABILITIES TO REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT. REACTION AMONG THE SUPER HEROES IS SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE, WITH AN AWOL CAPTAIN AMERICA ON ONE SIDE AND A PRO-REGISTRATION IRON MAN ON THE OTHER. NOW, TWO ARMIES OF SUPER HEROES COME FACE-TO-FACE FOR A FINAL BATTLE THAT WILL DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF SUPERHUMANS IN THE UNITED STATES.

# CIVIL WAR

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STEVE MCNIVEN

DEXTER VINES

MORRY HOLLOWELL

A MARVEL COMICS® EVENT IN SEVEN PARTS

**MARVEL**

**RATED T+**



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\$2.99 US \$3.75 CAN

DIRECT EDITION

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# CIVIL WAR

A Superhuman Registration Act has been passed which requires all individuals possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government. Those who do not register are considered criminals. Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society and a reasonable request. But Captain America has gathered an underground resistance movement against the new law.

As conflicts rage and tensions rise, heroes on both sides change their allegiances, switching between the pro- and anti-registration camps. Finally, the resistance mounts an attack on the pro-registration faction's holding facility in the Negative Zone. But Iron Man and his forces are lying in ambush.

The battle is joined...



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THE NEGATIVE ZONE:









ARE WE TOO LATE?

NO SUCH THING, PAGGER. RYKER'S WAS THE OFFICIAL DOORWAY FROM THE NEGATIVE ZONE, BUT THERE'S STILL ONE MORE IF I CAN REMEMBER THAT SIXTY-NINE-DIGIT CODE...



I'M ALL TICKED OFF AND I BROUGHT MY CAN-OPENER, SHELL-HEAD!

**SPIDER-MAN!**



WHOOF!

JUST SO LONG AS YOU REMEMBERED THE BANDAGES!



BLACK PANTHER'S OVERRIDING OUR SYSTEM, COMMANDER HILL! PROGRAM SAYS HE'S REROUTING THEIR BRIDGE TO THE BAXTER BUILDING!

CLOSE IT DOWN! NOW! THEY ESCAPE AND IT'S YOUR HEAD, DUBLONSKY!



THEY'RE ONTO US! THEY'RE CLOSING REED'S PORTAL! WE'VE GOT TEN SECONDS AND COUNTING!

PASSWORD:

CLOAK, IT'S ME. WE NEED THE BIGGEST TELEPORT YOU'VE EVER PULLED. T'CHALLA'S SENDING THE COORDINATES.



I CAN'T. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. THERE MUST BE A HUNDRED PEOPLE HERE--

YOU EITHER PULL THIS OFF OR WE'RE STUCK IN HERE FOREVER, TYRONE! DO IT!



I WILL TRY...



WHAT THE HELL?!

OH, GOD. TELL ME THAT ISN'T CLOAK!

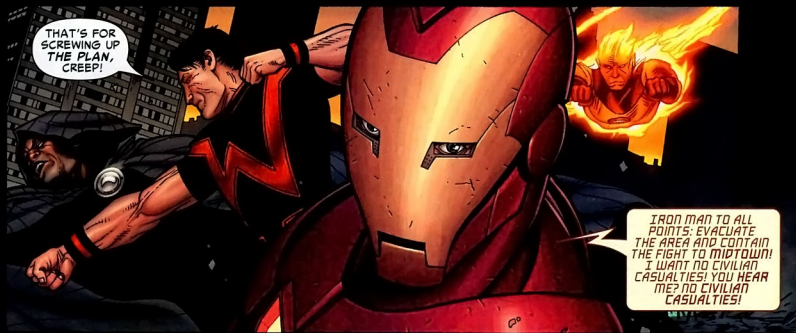




OUTSIDE THE BAXTER BUILDING,  
NEW YORK:







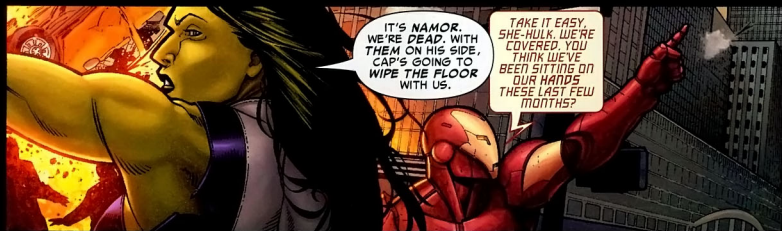












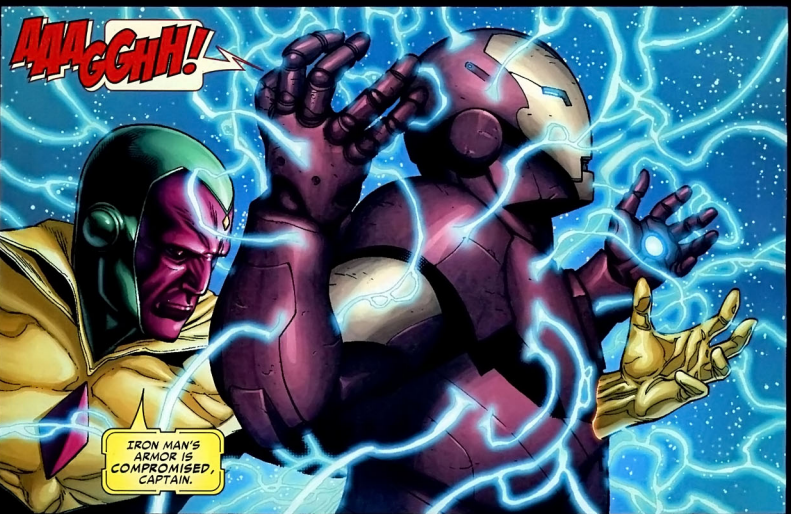
IT'S NAMOR.  
WE'RE DEAD, WITH  
THEM ON HIS SIDE,  
CAP'S GOING TO  
WIPE THE FLOOR  
WITH US.

TAKE IT EASY,  
SHE-HULK. WE'RE  
COVERED. YOU  
THINK WE'VE  
BEEN SITTING ON  
OUR HANDS  
THESE LAST FEW  
MONTHS?



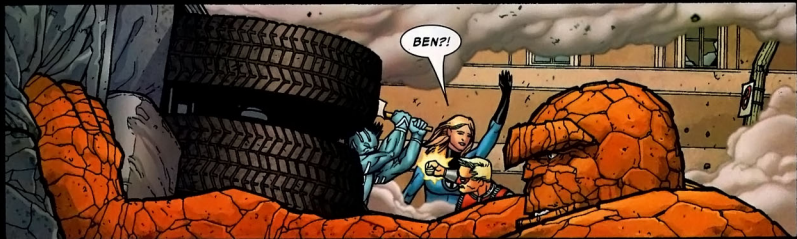
HAVE  
AT THEE, VILE  
TRAITORS!!

WHAT  
HE SAID.









BEN?!



YA REALLY THINK I WUZ GONNA SIT THIS ONE OUT EATIN' CROISSANTS? GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER, SUZIE! WE GOT PEOPLE TA PROTECT!



SORRY. NOT IN MY JOB DESCRIPTION...

SUSAN! LOOK OUT!



REED!



AW, MAN...

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY HUSBAND?

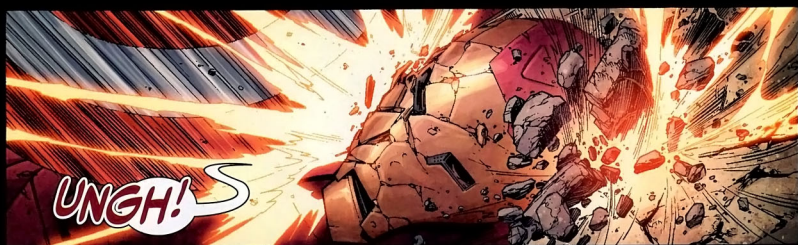




**THOU  
ART NO  
THOR!**















CAP, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THEY'LL THROW US IN JAIL IF YOU SURRENDER.

WE WERE BEATING THEM, MAN. WE WERE WINNING BACK THERE.



EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE ARGUMENT.



AND THEY'RE NOT ARRESTING CAPTAIN AMERICA...



...THEY'RE ARRESTING STEVE ROGERS. THAT'S A VERY DIFFERENT THING.



CAP, PLEASE!

STAND DOWN, TROOPS...





THAT'S AN  
ORDER.



MY DEAR, SWEET SUSAN:



FORGIVE MY ERRATIC HANDWRITING. YOU KNOW HOW DIFFICULT I FIND SLOWING MY THOUGHTS TO A SPEED WHERE THE HUMAN HAND CAN TRANSLATE MY SENTIMENTS INTO LINEAR SENTENCES.

IT HAS BEEN TWO WEEKS NOW SINCE THAT TERRIBLE BATTLE AND I WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT YOU ACCEPTED THE GENERAL HERO AMNESTY GIVEN IN THE WAKE OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SURRENDER.





I SAW YOU DURING THE CLEANUP, BUT FELT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS OUR FUTURE WHILE OUR ADRENAL GLANDS MIGHT STILL IMPAIR OUR JUDGMENT IN ROMANTIC MATTERS.

YOU LOOKED SO BEAUTIFUL, SO VIBRANT AND CLEAR-EYED. I CRIED FOR A FULL NINETY-THREE MINUTES WHEN I RETURNED HOME THAT NIGHT.



BY NOW, YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THE LAUNCH OF THE INITIATIVE...

...AT LEAST ONE SUPER-TEAM IN EVERY U.S. STATE.



I'M SURE YOU CAN APPRECIATE THE PRESSURE WE WERE UNDER...

...CREATING NEW HEROES, REVAMPING OLD ONES...

...DECENTRALIZING THIS COMMUNITY FROM A SINGLE COAST AND BUILDING A SUPER-POWER FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.



EVEN OUR CONTROVERSIAL PRISON IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE WAS MET WITH RAPTUROUS APPLAUSE WHEN WE FINALLY WENT PUBLIC.

HOW FRIGHTENING THE WORLD MUST HAVE SEEMED BEFORE THIS: VIGILANTES, AMATEURS, SUPER-VILLAINS BROODING IN CELLS THAT NEVER SEEMED TO HOLD THEM.

THE ONLY SURPRISE IS HOW WE WERE TOLERATED FOR AS LONG AS WE WERE.



OF COURSE, IT WOULD BE A LIE TO SUGGEST THAT EVERYONE IS HAPPY WITH OUR NEW ARRANGEMENT.

SOME HAVE MOVED TO CANADA IN THE HOPE OF A MORE OLD-SCHOOL CAREER...



...WHILE A SMALL BAND OF CAP'S FOLLOWERS REMAIN RADICALIZED IN THE UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT.

DIG THE OUTFIT, MAN.

THANKS.



NOT TO MENTION CAPTAIN AMERICA HIMSELF...





BUT ON THE WHOLE OUR EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN AN ENORMOUS SUCCESS. WHAT ONCE SEEMED LIKE OUR DARKEST HOUR HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO OUR GREATEST OPPORTUNITY.

HANK PYM:  
MAN OF THE YEAR  
ON HIS GLOBAL  
REVOLUTION.

WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT, OUR REMIT HAS MOVED BEYOND SIMPLY LAW AND ORDER AND WE'RE NOW TACKLING EVERYTHING FROM THE ENVIRONMENT TO GLOBAL POVERTY...

...TONY IN PARTICULAR.

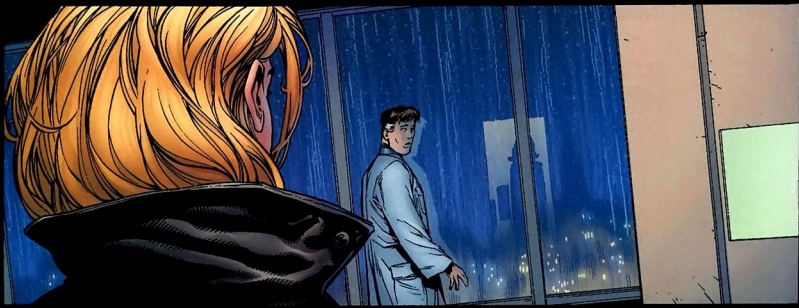
CAN YOU BELIEVE THE NEW JOB THE PRESIDENT HAS HANDED HIM?

BUT THE OPINION POLLS AND UTOPIAN IDEALS MEAN NOTHING UNLESS YOU'RE HERE BESIDE ME, MY DARLING.

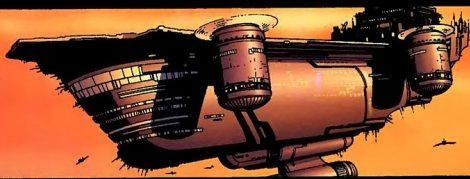
I PROMISE: NO MORE TRAPS. NO MORE CLONES. NONE OF THOSE PAINFUL THINGS WE HAD TO DO ON THAT PATH TO RESPECTABILITY.

NO MATTER WHAT WE ACHIEVE IN THIS NEW AMERICA WE'RE TRYING TO CREATE...IT CAN NEVER BE HEAVEN UNLESS YOU'RE HERE TOO.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE COME BACK TO THE FAMILY WHO NEEDS YOU MORE THAN OXYGEN.



**THE S.H.I.E.L.D.  
HELICARRIER,  
FIVE MILES OVER  
NEW YORK CITY:**



DIRECTOR OF  
S.H.I.E.L.D.?

WHY NOT, MRS.  
SHARPE? AS A MAN  
WITH CLOSE LINKS TO  
BOTH THE GOVERNMENT  
AND THE SUPERHUMAN  
COMMUNITY, I THINK IT  
MAKES PERFECT SENSE,  
IF NICK FURY'S STILL  
AMONG THE MISSING.

UH, COULD WE  
HAVE A COUPLE OF  
COFFEES OVER HERE,  
PLEASE, PER  
COMMANDER HILL?  
CREAM AND PLENTY  
OF SUGAR?





WE WON THE WAR  
AND NOW WE HAVE TO  
MAKE SURE WE WIN THE  
PEACE. I WANT PEOPLE TO  
GET **ENTHUSED** ABOUT THIS  
NEW WAY OF WORKING WE'RE  
HOPING TO INITIATE.

DID YOU HEAR THE  
STATE OF COLORADO  
JUST REQUESTED **THE  
THUNDERBOLTS** AS THEIR  
OFFICIAL TEAM?

YEAH, WELL, AS  
LONG AS YOU DROP  
ONE OR TWO OF THE  
**NUTCASES**, RIGHT?



NEVERTHELESS, IT'S STILL A TREMENDOUS  
STEP. GIVING OFFENDERS A SECOND CHANCE  
IS SOMETHING WE TRIED TO DO AS FAR  
BACK AS THE **ORIGINAL AVENGERS**.

DO YOU KNOW  
WHY WE CALLED OUR  
PRISON "**NUMBER  
FORTY-TWO**"?



NOPE.

BECAUSE IT WAS  
NUMBER FORTY-TWO OF  
A HUNDRED IDEAS REED,  
HANK AND I WROTE DOWN  
THE NIGHT YOUR SON  
WAS KILLED.

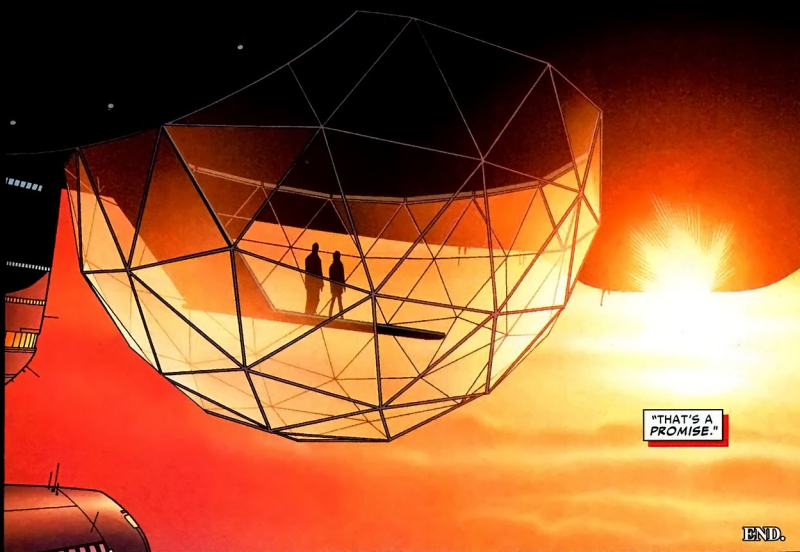
A HUNDRED IDEAS  
FOR A SAFER WORLD AND  
WE AREN'T EVEN AT **NUMBER  
FIFTY** YET. DOESN'T THAT  
SOUND EXCITING TO  
YOU?



CLEANING UP  
S.H.I.E.L.D. IS **NUMBER  
FORTY-THREE**.

BELIEVE ME,  
MA'AM: THE SUPER HERO  
COMMUNITY JUST FOUND  
THE GREATEST FRIEND  
THEY'LL EVER HAVE.

DO YOU REALLY  
THINK I'D LET ANYONE  
ELSE GUARD MY FRIENDS'  
**SECRET IDENTITIES**?



END.



# CUP O' JOE



**Hey there, True Believer,  
good to see you again!**

I have to say that one of the most satisfying things about *CIVIL WAR* hasn't just been the pulse-pounding excitement, nor the crazed media attention. No, it's been all the amazing cards, letters and e-mails we've received from new fans who have discovered the glorious world of comic books and the Marvel Universe through *CIVIL WAR*. To all of you, welcome. Remind me the next time you see me to show you the secret handshake.

Also, to our Merry Marvel Marching Society's card-carrying members I want to say, on behalf of the creative team and all of us at the House of Ideas, thank you for all the wonderful support you've given us on this project. I think it's safe to say that *CIVIL WAR* was made greater through your involvement.

Okay now, kick back for a second, take a deep breath, shake it out and say it, go ahead, it's just us.

**"WOW, WHAT A RIDE!"**



It sure has been, but if you're like me, *CIVIL WAR* has just left you clamoring for more, and here at li'l ol' Marvel we always aim to give ya what you want--and that's a little thing called (insert drum roll) **THE INITIATIVE!**

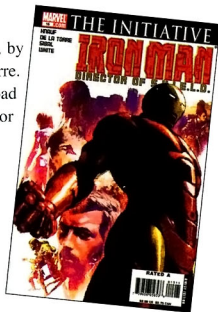
*CIVIL WAR* is going to have lasting effects across the entire Marvel Universe, so allow me to give you a short guided tour of some key titles you may want to put on your shopping list. Each of these will be clearly identified with an *INITIATIVE* banner to make it easier for you to find (and because we're shameless).

## **ON SALE NOW!**

We've seen what *CIVIL WAR* has done to our old pal Spider-Man, but truth be told, you haven't seen anything yet. **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #538**, I can truly say, is the beginning of the end for Peter Parker. It is one AMAZING, AMAZING, AMAZING story!

## **NEXT WEEK**

Hot on the heels of Spidey is **IRON MAN #15**, by Daniel and Charles Knauf and Roberto De La Torre. This new story arc begins the tale of the new road Tony Stark's life will travel, however long--or short--that life may be!



**IN TWO WEEKS, ON MARCH 7th**

For a road map of the post-CIVIL WAR Marvel U, check out **CIVIL WAR: THE INITIATIVE** by the team supreme of Bendis, Ellis, and Silvestri. You can't miss this!



As you can see, things didn't work out the way Captain America had hoped, so to see where it all leads him, check out **CAPTAIN AMERICA #25** by Ed Brubaker and Steve Epting. This is the start of a story that's sure to become an instant classic.

What does **CIVIL WAR** do to the Avengers?

Well, it splits them in two, of course and Brian Bendis and Frank Cho make sure that the split is a good one! So, check out **MIGHTY AVENGERS #1** and get ready to meet the new Avengers.



Oh, and hopefully you've been reading **NEW AVENGERS** and **THUNDERBOLTS**. If you haven't, take a tip from your ol' pal Joey Q and get your mitts on the most recent issues NOW (have I ever steered you wrong?).

**MARCH** comes in like a lion as it sees the following books fall under the *Initiative* banner:

**CIVIL WAR: THE CONFESSION**, in which the final word is written on **CIVIL WAR**; **BLACK PANTHER #26** and **FANTASTIC FOUR #544** which finds Reed and Sue replaced by another super-powered super-couple: the Black Panther and Storm. And don't forget **MS. MARVEL #13**, as Carol Danvers takes the fight to some of the biggest bads in the Marvel U!

**APRIL shows us with two incredible debuts!**

If you want to get in on the ground floor of what's going to be one of 2007's hottest new launches, then you'll want to pick up issue #1 of **AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE** by Dan Slott and Stefano Caselli. And in **OMEGA FLIGHT**, there are some heroes who don't just go underground, they go North to continue the fight!

In the coming months the pressure doesn't let up. Must-reads include: **MOON KNIGHT #11-13** as Moon Knight does the unthinkable! **NOVA #2-3** as Nova finds out what happened to the New Warriors, and faces **PENANCE!** **PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #6-10**: what is Frank Castle going to do with Captain America's mask?

And just to make you smile, we'll be launching a few new titles in **JUNE**:

**CHAMPIONS**

**NEW WARRIORS**

**SUB-MARINER**



*That's it for now, slappy, happy reading!*  
See ya in the funnybooks!

JQ

EEK!





# AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE

APRIL 2007

**MARVEL**  
YOUR UNIVERSE

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