



Manga and Philosophy: Fullmetal Metaphysician (Popular Culture and Philosophy)

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Arguably the most important pop-culture import from the East to the West, manga is a phenomenon that can no longer be ignored. Yet just as much as it is a source of visual splendor and riveting storylines, manga — *the* herald of the exotic and über-hip — stimulates intense philosophical interest. Drawing from Japanese art traditions, influenced by the impact of World War II, and a significant player in cross-cultural exchange, manga has rapidly become a literary force worldwide. Readers of all ages eagerly await the next installment of their favorite manga series and delight in discovering new titles. *Manga and Philosophy* joins the lively discussion about manga by examining some of its major forms (*lolicon* to *shonen* to *shojo*), best titles (*Death Note* to *Space Battleship Yamato* to *Gunslinger Girl*), and the cultural factors surrounding it. Can demons be good? Is it morally wrong to sexualize schoolgirls? What do giant robots teach us about the ethics of war? All of these questions and more are dealt with professionally and accessibly, making *Manga and Philosophy* all but indispensable for fans and scholars alike.

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Editorial Review

Review

"... a generous collection of 24 essays which have enough range to provide something for almost any taste."

-- Sarah Boslaugh, *PopMatters* (August 31, 2010)

popmatters.com/pm/review/130362-manga-and-philosophy-fullmetal-metaphysician-by-joseph-steiff-and-ad

"...there's enough of this that is original and thoughtful and scholarly and interesting that I do think it's worth a library request..."

-- Rush-that-speaks, *Engine Summer*, *LiveJournal* (February 24, 2011)

rushthatspeaks.dreamwidth.org/390435.html

"... Josef Steiff on the ethical framework behind the yaoi manga *Hero Heel*, both neatly explored questions of identity and behavior and what makes a person grow morally and made me want to read the manga..."

-- Rush-that-speaks, *Engine Summer*, *LiveJournal* (February 24, 2011)

From the Back Cover

Manga have poured out from their Home Islands to occupy and colonize the Western world. Manga's devastating weapons include riveting storylines, inspired and not always whimsical illustrations, fantastic visions on an epic scale, remorseless realism that is neither sentimental nor cynical, and unexpected insights into the agonizing predicaments of the human situation. --Open Court

About the Author

Professor Josef Steiff is Associate Chair of the Film & Video Department at Columbia College, Chicago, Illinois. He is the author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Independent Filmmaking* (2005) and the co-editor of *Battlestar Galactica and Philosophy* (2008) and *Anime and Philosophy* (2009). Dr. Adam Barkman is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Yonsei University in South Korea. He is the author of *C. S. Lewis and Philosophy as a Way of Life* (2009).

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