

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF COMICS

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## Gerardo Vilches

A journey through the history of comics focused on the authors and major schools of the Ninth Art, from the first superheroes, the birth of manga, and Tintin, to the underground comics, science fiction magazines and Latin American historietas, and at last but not least, the rise of adult comics and graphic novels. The gripping story of a mass medium that is now an essential part of contemporary culture.

### Synopsis

*A Brief History of Comics* offers a fascinating journey through the history of a really powerful artistic medium. From the first newspaper strips to the graphic novel, the book offers a journey through the universal history of comics focused on the most important authors and works of this art. This book shows the origins and evolution of comics as a mass medium aimed at young people and read by millions of people all around the world. The great American newspaper strips, the first superheroes, the birth of manga or the creation of the famous Tintin are some of the key elements of this essay. The political and social changes of the sixties also had a great impact on comics, because it led to the birth of the first comics aimed specifically at adult readers. The underground comics, the science fiction stories of the French magazines or the first attempts to develop a line of adult comics in Spain, coexisted with the beginnings of Marvel superheroes or the genre diversity of manga. Since the eighties, the comic medium has become a mean of expression, an essential part of the contemporary culture for adults; examples of this are the American comic books from independent publishers, the new wave of French comics, the boom of adult manga and the rise of graphic novel.

In this rigorous and entertaining essay, the reader can delve into the history of this artistic medium thanks to the excellent work Gerardo Vilches has done. Furthermore, the author gives us a complete and excellent list of the 100 Most Essential Works of the Ninth Art.

### Biography

**Gerardo Vilches** has a degree in History at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He is a cultural critic that collaborates with magazines such as Rockdelux or Quimera and a reviewer specialized in graphic novel that contributes to webpages such as Entrecomics or The Watcher and the Tower. He has published several papers related to the Ninth Art: "Anatomy of a Japanese Clerk" (Bang Ediciones, 2012) and "The place of Watchmen" in *Watchmen: Watchmen: Radiographs of an Explosion* (Modernito Books, 2013). He has also given several lectures at various universities, such as in the Second International Congress of Great Narrators of the Twentieth Century's of the Complutense University.

He co-directs the online magazine focused on the study and criticism of comics CuCo, cuadernos de cómic, since 2013. <http://cuadernosdecucomics.es/>. You can follow him on his Twitter account: [@WatcherBlog](https://twitter.com/WatcherBlog).



### Sales pitch

-A book like this has never been published before. Although there were similar others in the past, they have been out of print for years and are impossible to find.

-This is a divulgative book that gives us the keys to understand the universal history of comics, offering a journey focused on the main authors and works of the Ninth Art: from the pioneers of this art form to the rise of comic books, from the manga to the Spanish and French comics, from the Italian fumetti to adult comics graphic novels and superheroes.

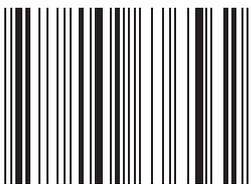
-The book includes more than 50 images of the most famous comics of all time.

-*A Brief History of Comics* explains us the evolution of comics in a chronological way: other similar Works that predated this one were simply descriptive. The comics studied in this book are not only merely described, but given a historical and social background so that the reader can understand the zeitgeist in which they were created.

-It includes additional material: an extensive bibliography and a list of the 100 Most Essential Works of the Ninth Art.



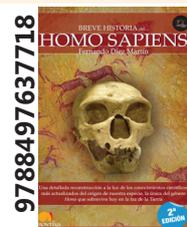
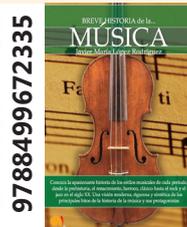
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