

American Hero : A Historical Perspective

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1. Introduction

Our team was interested in American heroes. We focused on cowboys which have been regarded as heroes since old days, and comic heroes that appear in modern movies and animations. Although the times are different, these heroes are liked by the same kind of Americans. We made the hypothesis that there is a common feature between cowboys and modern American heroes.

2. Research

Our team did a literature search using the Internet ,and books about cowboys and American heroes.

3. Results

	Cowboys	Modern American Heroes
Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hat • shirts & vest • bandana (red & blue) • pants <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Chaps=leather pants Blown denim ⇒ jeans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • blue as a dominant color • striped tights (red & white) • shield • mask (with the letter A)
Historical Background	They appeared in novels as “heroes” after the Civil War in 1861 to 1865	Created during the Second World War (1939~1945) Superman was created in 1938 Batman was created in 1939
Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humility • Strong sense of justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An American hero helps people in trouble and gets rid of villains.

《 result 1 》

Both wear clothes based on red and blue.

《 result 2 》

The U.S. was involved in wars when both types of hero first appeared.

《 result 3 》

Both have a sense of justice.

4. Discussion

From the result 1, we found out that their clothes may be influenced by the colors of the American flag red and blue. From the result 2, we think that they were created to cheer up and amuse people who lived in the dark social atmosphere created during war time. From the result 3, we think that they have identities to help weak people. These are the heroes that everyone wants to exist in the real world.

5. Conclusion

We found that there are common points between cowboys and modern American heroes including their appearance, historical background, and behavioral characteristics. Also, we found that heroes are tailored to the social environment of the times. If the social situation changes, the hero's image will also change. Further research into the common points between samurai and modern Japanese heroes may provide a similar result pointing to a universal theme in the social creation of the hero archetype.

6. Reference

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