

The First Appearance of Superpowers: The origins and initial manifestations of superpowers are shrouded in mystery. The official record indicates that the first recorded person to possess a superpower was a child named Leo Watson. His power awakened publicly for the first time in 1871 in the city of New Orleans. Leo's eyes emitted lasers, causing a building to catch fire and resulting in casualties. However, historians suspect that superpowers may have appeared earlier, with some conspiracy theories suggesting that mythical heroes like Hercules, once thought to be mere legends, might have been real individuals. Due to the limited scientific understanding of superpowers in the past, the true history remains unknown.

I Era of Superpowers: "Era of the Outlaw"

As superpowers began to emerge, the world was facing a period with limited law enforcement compared to the present day. A prevailing sentiment arose that superpowers could and should be utilized for personal gain, leading many individuals to use this as an excuse to act selfishly and seize whatever they desired. Power became the ruler, with the individual possessing the strongest superpower or the "biggest stick" if you will, asserting dominance. Governments, attempting to retain or regain control during this era, faced opposition from superpower users who refused to bend the knee. To reinforce their authority, governments resorted to public displays of force, often resulting in disastrous outcomes for both sides. With the exponential growth of superpowers, cities became the only havens of relative order while governments struggled to maintain control in the countryside. The peak of the outlaw era occurred in the late 19th century when crime became highly organized, giving rise to mafias and crime syndicates that held sway over significant portions of countries.

However, gradual changes were taking place. Larger governments with some power retained were able to build arsenals of superpowered individuals by enticing them with great rewards and privileges. With this, they would begin to successfully crack down and truly threaten and stop existing criminal organizations. At the same time a propaganda campaign aimed at framing superpowers as tools for national security, rather than personal gain, began to gain traction. From this the creation of the first true super-powered militaries. However, smaller nations or less influential governments, unable to cope with the rising influence of powerful criminal groups, opted to merge with one another, forming larger countries to withstand the pressure. By the early 1900s, this process gradually diminished the size of the mafias, as governments became better equipped to handle disruptions with the emergence of official heroes who battled and dismantled many of these criminal organizations. In certain countries, more questionable developments unfolded, such as the formation of the first Superpower Dynasty in France during this period. Napoleon III married and had a son named Napoleon IV, who possessed a potent telekinetic superpower. By the end of this era, the king himself had become the country's top national hero, often showcasing his power by using it on criminals and publicly executing them.

Short Summary of Important Countries:

France: Instituted the First Superpower Monarchy and experienced the most rapid growth in the ratio of individuals with superpowers due to promoting superpower marriages.

Russia: Collapsed under the weight of its massive population, becoming an anarchist state.

China: Similarly collapsed under its own weight, resulting in multiple anarchistic states engaged in constant infighting.

Germany: First to regain full control and established a hero society, resembling our own in certain ways, with hero agencies. However, heroes were still required to serve as soldiers.

United Kingdom: Lost many colonies but successfully regained control over its mainland and Canada.

United States: Stabilized as the last of the Great Powers, facing challenges in rebuilding after the Civil War, alongside its large and geographically dispersed population.

Japan: The government waged war against the newly established Yakuza, resulting in a disastrous outcome. This led to a corrupt democratic state controlled by the Yakuza.

Global Trend: The sentiment of quirks being used for personal gain had not fully died and still existed, just in a different guise of serving your nation. On top of that, this era would be the origin of the core mistreatment of those who were powerless, which would remain even to the modern day, albeit to a lesser or more hidden extent. Lastly, while the influence of criminal/rogue organizations was diminished and no longer dominant in the most powerful countries, they would persist for many decades to come.

II Era of Superpowers: "Era of The National Hero"

The Second Era of Superpowers officially began in 1911 when France established the first official superpower division of soldiers, igniting a military arms race among countries to possess a greater number of powerful superpowers. Three major world powers emerged during this era: the United States, the British Empire, and the French Empire. Each of these superpowers focused on expanding their manpower and increasing the number of citizens with superpowers.

France took the lead during the previous era, implementing massive government programs to incentivize superpower marriages and create a society with a higher concentration of pure superpowers. The United Kingdom embarked on a reconquest of its former colonies and beyond, extracting useful superpowers from these regions and forcibly relocating people to the mainland, where they were compelled to serve in the military. Meanwhile, the United States attracted powerful and useful superpowers through many different monetary and cultural incentives, such as a promise for more personal freedom and use of powers which encouraged them to settle in the country.

This era was marked by scrambles for various "open" territories, such as South America and Africa with severely weakened states. Rampant corruption characterized this period, with heroes prioritizing their image and ranks rather than focusing on citizen protection. As countries built their military forces based on superpowers, tensions rose, and the world became a powder keg with a lit fuse.

The War of Superpowers

The War of Superpowers, also known as The Great War or The Great Superpower War, was triggered by an entirely avoidable incident had countries been more cooperative. A group of villains fleeing from France crossed the German border and was eventually captured by German authorities. France requested the return of the villains, sparking a heated discussion as the Germans sought to punish them for the crimes committed within Germany during their escape. The situation escalated when one of the villains, unbeknownst to the heroes, revealed a brainwashing superpower and used it to control a French hero, prompting an intense battle in which the French hero lost his life. This incident became an international crisis, and the French demanded retribution.

In response, the French Empire issued an ultimatum to Germany, demanding permission for their own heroes to investigate the incident. When Germany refused, war became inevitable. The United Kingdom attempted to mediate between the two sides but ultimately sided with Germany to prevent France from becoming too powerful, while the United States initially stayed out of the conflict, (many nowadays believe this was more waiting for an opportunity than anything else). On February 26th, 1932, the French Empire declared war on the German Republic.

Major Events in Chronological Order:

The United Kingdom and Benelux join the war on the side of Germany.

France rapidly mobilizes its forces and launches a large-scale invasion of Southern Germany.

France's allies, Italy and Spain, join the war.

Germany and Britain mobilize in Northwestern Germany.

To weaken Germany's position, France reroutes the Rhine and many other rivers using thousands of superpowers, resulting in one of the largest war crimes in human history as Northwestern Germany is flooded and hundreds of thousands to millions of German citizens and allied soldiers perish before heroes can halt the flooding.

France restores the rivers to their original courses and launches attacks on the now weakened defenses of Northwestern Germany.

The French Empire and its allies make rapid progress through Germany and the Benelux countries, employing devastating superpower bombardments on Berlin.

France captures surviving German heroes and incorporates them into its own army, publicly executing those who do not bend the knee or resist rare mind-altering powers which were cultivated within France.

The UK's colonies come under attack by French allies as France prepares to invade the British Isles.

French airborne hero squads land and launch an assault on London, known as the Battle of London, but fail to capture the city.

French attempted naval landings during the Battle of London are thwarted by the British Navy.

A stalemate ensues as Italy, possessing a significant industrial capacity, uses submarines and superpowers to sink ships, aiming to starve the British of supplies and superpowers from their colonies.

Unable to break the stalemate, France begins invading the rest of Europe to acquire more manpower and resources for its war machine.

France conquers all of non-allied Europe, including vast parts of Russia.

The United States finally enters the war due to French war crimes and overexpansion, believing it would come out too strong from such a war.

Resistance movements emerge and expand in Russian and German-occupied territories, causing chaos within French-controlled lands.

British and American forces join together in the British Isles and colonies, establishing squadrons of planes and deploying flying superpowers to bomb French and Italian industries.

After a long campaign, the US and British secure the Suez Canal and conquer key northern French colonies.

The Anglo-allied nations successfully land on Italian soil, creating a new front a year after the conquest of Russia.

Both sides utilize intense geoengineering techniques quite literally changing the very geography through superpowers to gain an advantage over the other.

The Battle of Rome concludes with a costly victory for the Anglo-allied nations, who seize the center of Italian industry, resulting in significant destruction due to battles between heroes.

The allies advance through southern Italy, relying on their superior numbers of superpowers, and reach the Alps.

The French destroy large portions of the Alps, creating chaos along the allied lines once they reach the mountain base.

Milan suffers extensive damage.

Despite the difficulties posed by the main chokepoint at the French-Italian border, the allies continue their push towards France.

Allied forces launch another invasion through the Netherlands.

A French plan to destroy the Dutch water barrier fails, preventing the flooding of the Netherlands.

The allies advance from both fronts and eventually reach the French capital.

The Battle of Paris becomes the bloodiest battle of the war as the French mobilize all their heroes for a fight to the death, resulting in the complete devastation of the city.

Napoleon IV himself engages in battle against the combined American and British hero forces and is ultimately defeated, which is romanticized as the war's end, despite ongoing fighting in various parts of the city.

Aftermath of the War:

The world was forever transformed by the brutality witnessed during the conflict, with an estimated death toll of 100 million spread out across multiple continents. Serious questions arose regarding the use of superpowers in warfare, leading to a societal frown upon such practices in the immediate aftermath of the war. The United States and the United Kingdom emerged as the remaining global superpowers. As expected, these two nations eventually turned against each other. Europe, including what remained of Germany, fell under the British sphere of influence, while the US claimed most of France. The British focused on rebuilding their own islands, which had suffered significant damage from frequent air raids at the war's outset, while the US brought its architects to assist in the reconstruction of France. The world ended up more divided than ever, with a looming fear of another massive Superpower war, and propaganda dominated the global landscape, the world had come the closest it ever has to being dominated by true dystopias. Both superpowers primarily waged war through proxies, as neither wanted to engage in another devastating conflict.

III Era of Superpowers: "Era of the Superhero"

The Era of the Superhero can only be fully understood by delving into the life and career of the man who would become known worldwide as Vindicator, the Greatest Hero.

The Life of Vindicator

Vindicator, originally named Jonathan Vinson, was born on January 1st in Austin, Texas, into an average middle-class family. He possessed a seemingly middling superpower, the ability to absorb and temporarily store energy upon impact, which he could only do in limited amounts. Despite his seemingly modest abilities, Jonathan felt a deep desire in his heart to help and protect people, to mend the wounds left by the Superpower War. Eventually, through many difficulties, he gained admission to VI (Valor Institute), one of the most successful national superpower training schools dedicated to advancing powers within the country. Jonathan faced challenges not only physically but also ideologically during his early years at UA. Many considered his ideals of wider world peace impossible and his secretly scorned his desire to protect the innocent over anything else, believing he was trying to assert a moral superiority over them. He found himself outperformed by classmates, particularly Darian Harris, who possessed a powerful superpower that generated explosive slime from his hands and feet. Darian held the number one rank in their year and adopted the hero name Blast Point.

In his second year at VI, Jonathan discovered the ability to amplify the power he gained from impacts and also learned to absorb sunlight for additional power. This significant breakthrough led to a sharp rise in Vindicator's abilities, surpassing his classmates as time went on. By the final exams, Vindicator astounded government observers by defeating all his classmates with a single blow. This created intense resentment between him and Blast Point, which only grew as the government and even the President of the United States approached Vindicator, promising to help him make his dreams of saving everyone a reality. Vindicator was paraded worldwide as America's most powerful pro hero, but the true nature of this arrangement was hidden from him. In reality, he was being used as a deterrent to America's rivals, which would be abused by the Super Power to extend their secretive operations worldwide to extend their influence further than ever. While Vindicator was celebrated as the most powerful, Blast Point climbed the ranks within the US Hero Department, aiming to surpass Vindicator and amass significant wealth through any means, no matter how corrupt or immoral, as a way to ultimately claim his own ultimate victory.

Over time, Jonathan began to see glimpses of the truth through outside sources and his own observations. He was eventually deployed on a mission in Indonesia, where British-funded terrorist groups had discovered a way to challenge Vindicator and the US. These formidable villains forced the Americans into a battle in the midst of a highly populated area, where they had taken civilians hostage. Once Vindicator learned of this, he refused to engage the powerful terrorists until they ensured the safety of the innocent people. However, due to the rising costs of the operation, the political situation in Indonesia, and the anti-war sentiments back home, the US decided to proceed with the operation, with or without Vindicator. Many other pro heroes were deployed to cover up the battle from Vindicator, as clearing each building one by one without a full-scale battle would be a lengthy and expensive process.

Growing skeptical, Vindicator decided to investigate the situation himself and discovered the truth. He intervened to rescue as many civilians as possible while the two sides were engaged in reckless combat. Vindicator saved enough people to feel it was safe to fully engage in the battle, catching the terrorists off guard and decisively defeating them by utilizing more of his power, but along with doing this he successfully disarmed and forced the American forces to stand down to minimize further risk to civilians. This triggered a heated argument between Blast Point, backed by the American government, and Vindicator, who was furious at the government for putting innocent lives at risk and intentionally concealing information from him. The ultimatum given to Vindicator was to either continue his career and follow orders or be fired and denounced by the world. Vindicator chose the latter.

In the following months, the American government slandered Vindicator, accusing him of failing his country and people and blaming him for the losses in Indonesia. Vindicator went into hiding and joined forces with a group of like-minded heroes known as The Hero Movement, who aimed to help him prove his innocence. After several years of rebellion and gathering evidence, the group successfully exposed the government's lies, corruption, and selfish system. This revelation led to massive public outcry, and Vindicator gained widespread support. In 1992, he stepped into Washington for the first time since his denouncement, publicly marching to the White House with demands for change. Many other heroes and ordinary civilians joined Vindicator, and together they embarked on what became known as The Hero's March. The Hero Movement staged a protest in front of the White House, which eventually led the government to deploy their own heroes, led by Blast Point, to disperse the crowd. However, Vindicator and his allies refused to back down, escalating the situation. Blast Point's animosity towards Vindicator reached a boiling point, and he attacked both the movement's heroes and the crowd.

The battle raged for several minutes, with Vindicator restraining his full power to avoid causing excessive damage in a populated area near the White House. Nevertheless, The Hero Movement gained the upper hand and cornered Blast Point after his government team was incapacitated. Overwhelmed with anger and on the verge of losing everything to Vindicator, Blast Point overloaded his superpower, causing a massive explosion that could have leveled the entire area. He directed the blast towards Vindicator and the crowd. Witnesses in the crowd still recall Vindicator's smile and his words, "Do not fear, everyone! For true heroes do not lose!" as he pulled back his fist and unleashed a punch, diverting the colossal explosion around the shockwave. While some buildings were still destroyed, the damage was minimized as everyone had already been evacuated from those affected buildings. Vindicator later admitted feeling sadness upon seeing Blast Point, someone he had known since high school, resort to such a desperate act of self-destruction in an attempt to bring him down.

In the aftermath of the battle, Vindicator held a discussion with the President of the United States and emerged from the White House, declaring, "A new era of peace, one that does not sacrifice freedom or rely on deceit and lies, begins today!" With the support of the United States and its allies, Vindicator ended the Cold War between America and Britain. Countries around the world were pressured into participating in the creation of an independent organization called The United Heroes, dedicated to upholding peace, community service, and sacrifice as true Superheroes.

Modern Hero Society

Under Vindicator's leadership, The United Heroes prohibited the use of superpowers in warfare and made heroes independent of governments. While governments continued to fund heroes for internal defense, they could no longer order heroes to turn against their own kind or attack other countries, as the UH would intervene in such situations. Wars became less common as heroes frequently intervened and encouraged countries to seek diplomatic solutions. The establishment of strong checks and balances ensured that the corruption of previous eras was significantly diminished or eradicated altogether. These extensive reforms transformed the world into one where the word hero truly meant something, shifting the purpose of superpowers from serving governments to serving the people. A culture of hero worship emerged. The UH funded and established schools across the globe to train pro heroes for the demanding challenges they would face in their noble profession. Among these institutions, VI which would rename itself to the Phoenix Academy, where Vindicator himself had graduated, stood out as the most prestigious and globally recognized hero training school, specializing in training heroes, scientists, engineers, and diplomats.