A Brief History of Comic Books
The Golden Age
1938 - 1950s

In 1938 Jerry Seigel and Joe Shuster debut the world's first superhero, courtesy of National Comics.
The Golden Age
1938 - 1950s

Bob Kane and Bill Finger follow shortly with Batman, another National Comics character.
The Golden Age
1938 - 1950s

As World War II ramps up, Timely Comics debuts the creation of Jack Kirby and Joe Simon, Captaiain America.
The Silver Age
1956 - 1970s

McCarthyism has declined, but people have found a new thing to fear.
The Silver Age
1956 - 1970s

The Comics Industry agrees to self-censorship.
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The Comics Industry agrees to self-censorship.
National Comics is renamed DC Comics.
The Silver Age
1956 - 1970s

Timely Comics is now called Marvel, and they have something new up their sleeves...

Stan Lee.
The Silver Age
1956 - 1970s

1961: Stan Lee and Jack Kirby create the Fantastic Four.
The Silver Age

1956 - 1970s

1962: Stan Lee and Steve Ditko create Spider-man.
The Silver Age
1956 - 1970s

1963: Stan Lee and Jack Kirby create the X-Men.
The Bronze Age
1970s - 1985

Comics grow up.
The Bronze Age
1970s - 1985

Tony Stark faces his drinking.
The Bronze Age
1970s - 1985

Spider-man faces the reality of his powers.
The British Invasion

1986

Who watches the Watchmen?
The British Invasion

1986

HE SUI TS THE CLIMATE HERE: THE MADNESS, THE POINTLESS BUTCHERY...

AS I COME TO UNDERSTAND VIETNAM AND WHAT IT IMPLIES ABOUT THE HUMAN CONDITION, I ALSO REALIZE THAT FEW HUMANS WILL PERMIT THEMSELVES SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING.

BLAKE'S DIFFERENT.

HE UNDERSTANDS PERFECTLY...

...AND HE DOESN'T CARE.
The Modern Age
Post-Watchmen

Frank Miller single-handedly reinvents Batman with The Dark Knight Returns.
The Modern Age
Post-Watchmen

The Modern Age
Post-Watchmen

The Modern Age
Post-Watchmen

Brian K Vaughn publishes his take on every man's fantasy:
Y: The Last Man, also with Vertigo.
The Modern Age
Post-Watchmen

Superheroes have flaws. Powers make it worse.
The Modern Age
Post-Watchmen

The internet makes publishing easier for everyone.
The Modern Age
Post-Watchmen

Independent artists are free to use the medium as they see fit.