

SOME CURRENT SUPERS TO KNOW ABOUT

1) **The Citadel**: the most renowned and influential group of superheroes in the world. They are based out of Washington D.C. but spend a fair amount of time in other major USA cities. Originally formed when PSI was raised in the early 1970s, they have undergone several roster changes, most notably the 1980 Disappearance, when all but one member (Crescent) vanished. They are not a government sponsored group and in fact are especially regarded for their international composition. Their base in Washington D.C., “the” Citadel, is one of the technological wonders of the world.

They include at this time:

The Patriot (male): red-white-and-blue nonpartisan champion of liberty, combat expert with a glowing rope

Atom-Smasher (female): famous Soviet proponent of nuclear research and disarmament, hated by special interest groups for not using her powers.

Soundchaser (male): master of sonics, flies

Evergreen (female): most mysterious group member, controls harmonic life-forces

Star Light (male): wields powerful “cosmic energy,” civil rights proponent, possibly the most famous black superhero

Glimmer (female): ruthless crimefighter, possible exception to the above

Crescent (male): technological genius, builds the group’s gadgets

Warp (male): teleporter extraordinaire

Most of the Citadel do not conceal their identities and live in the Citadel itself.

2) **Doctor Chaos**: the most powerful and successful super-villain in history, his reign of terror lasted from 1946 to 1965. His undersanding of the dynamics of the Cold War and his effective high-tech private army enabled him to play the USSR and USA governments against one another for the gain of whoever paid. Both Cuba and Israel are rumored to have consulted him as they began their modern careers. Various hero groups attacked and thwarted him over the years, but he wasn’t caught until the end, when he seemed to be involved in affairs in southeast Asia. He was unmasked and revealed to be a renegade British noble, Lord Alfred Winsington. Winsington died in prison in 1985.

3) The **Paraphysical Studies Institute** (PSI): in the late 1960s, **Doctor Sebastian Poe** gained massive grant funding to research parapsysics at a spiffy government military installation. His results were barred from use in an international pact, ruining his chances for more money and more research. Poe went to work for himself, getting money from whoever would pay. His operation became notorious, as he had hit upon a way to design superpowers within narrow limits; many of the supervillains of the 1970s were super-terrorists made to order by PSI. Their powers ranged all over the spectrum, such as the **Mentats** (including **Sipho** and **Orpheus**) and the **Bestiary**. In 1977, a team of supers (later to be known as the Citadel) tracked down his base in Pebble Beach, California, via his mob connections. Poe was imprisoned and most of his equipment smashed. His organization was destroyed; if he had a secret backer, he, she, or it was never revealed.

4) Many supers have institutional ties, but none to other supers. French villains **Noir** (darkness), **Frisson** (cold), **Le Docteur Carne** (healer-for-hire), and **Deux** (two-in-one) are loosely associated. **Giri** and **Mt. Fuji** are Japanese corporate crimefighters with control over electricity and enormous strength respectively. USA villains include **Mocker**, a real trouble-maker who continually produces multiple images of himself, and the new and largely unknown **Redline**. An international assassination ring called **Hitsusatsu** (Deathblow) is rumored to be centered in Japan. The “centers” of super activity are several cities in the U.S., Paris, and Tokyo.

5) **Deathwish**: a rock and roll band who use their powers on stage. They do not accept being labeled as heroes or villains, although considering the hard-edged, near-Satanic viciousness of their music, mothers of teenagers everywhere have their own opinion. They include **Morwenna**, who needs no microphone to sing above an amplifier; **Triple-Threat**, who plays a variety of instruments as he duplicates himself; **Wracker**, a mystery man wearing high-tech armor; **Mean Streak**, fastest lead guitar in the world; and Artie Cohen, their nonsuper drummer. They have no interest in participating in crimefighting or other traditional super endeavors.

6) The Disappearance: in 1980, there were about 120 supers extant in the world, the most in history. The majority were in the USA, and the majority were supervillains. In February of that year, 99 percent of them vanished within the space of one week. Some were engaged in cases, some not. Some merely failed to re-appear and were assumed gone with the rest. No one knows what happened at all. Supers have appeared again, but very few are loners and heroes tend to mask their identities, which hasn't been "in" since the 50s.

TIMELINE

1930-1939: Villains become a major disruptive force in urban areas, particularly in realms of crime (Prohibition) and revolutionary unrest (IWW). Becomes apparent that supervillainy is a great way to make money. Villains: **Whiskeyjack**, the **Bruiser**, **Firedrake**.

1939-1945: Supers participating in WWII give rise to term "superhero," Nazi villains and super military actions are widely publicized. Nazis: the **Purifier**, **Phoenix**. Heroes: **Union Jack**, **Liberte**. Supers play a small but dramatic role in combat and espionage; superhero comics make it really big during this time.

1945-1965: **Dr. Chaos** and the **Masters of Disaster** (25 members!) are major international figures; USA superheroes battle them throughout the decade. Public supers endure great hardship during the McCarthy era, effectively ruining USA's future ability to exploit supers in any major way. First Soviet supers appear. About 50 supers are extant throughout crime, politics, and business. In 1965, Dr. Chaos is defeated and caught in southeast Asia, the M of D disbanded; USA role in that part of the world revealed. Heroes: **X** (the strongest super ever), **Powerpath**. Villains: **Iron Maiden**, **Glare**, **Gremlin**, the **Hammer**.

1965-1972: USA supers become more involved with social change and internecine issues, e.g. **Purple Haze**, the **Outlaw**, **Mindbender**, **Nightbird**, **Psuper Psycho**, and the **Dreamer** (and these were the normal ones; supers like the **Fantabulous Hotdog** and **Marvelous Marxist Maryjane** were pretty weird). The line between villain and hero becomes blurred. In contrast, the mom-and-apple-pie **Team USA** has a brief rise and fall, under mysterious circumstances.

1972-1980: Sebastian Poe's **PSI** is the major villain organization with its manufactured terrorism; it's brought down in 1977 by the newly-formed **Citadel**. Smaller villain groups include the **Bestiary** and **Biohazard**. About 120 supers extant in the world, most of them media darlings of one sort or another, about half of them fairly low-powered. Heroes: **Jett**, **Shadowblade**, **Diamondjack**, **Nocturne**, **Kismet**, the **Machinator**. Villains: the **Whisperer**, **Mannequin**, **Electra**, **Nimbus**, **Beastmaster**, **Napalm**, **Sipho**, **Orpheus**, **Zapp**, **Mirror Image**.

1980: the Disappearance removes 99% of the supers from the face of the earth; speculation and investigation reveals little.

1980-1990: slow appearance of new supers; most heroes in USA joining the Citadel; secret identities become more popular. France and Japan are the major super centers outside the USA. **Deathwish** cuts first album in 1986. Rumored existence of **Hitsusatsu**.