

TIMELINE

1930-1939: Villains become major disruptive force in urban areas, particularly in realms of crime (Prohibition) and revolutionary unrest (IWW). Supervillainning is a great way to make money. Villains: **Whiskey Jack, 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, Blitzkrieg**. Allies: **Union Jack, Liberte, Surge, Madame Guillotine**. Supers play a small but dramatic role in combat and espionage; superhero comics make it really big.

1945-1965: Dr. Chaos and the **Masters of Disaster** (25 members!) are major international figures; USA superheros 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; about 15 are heroes. 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 (all M of D): **Iron Maiden, Glare, Gremlin, the Hammer, Steel, Deathbolt, Soulfire, Twist, Thin Mind, The Crippler, Caiman, Mole, Werewoman**

1965-1972: USA supers become more involved with social change and internecine issues, e.g., **Purple Haze, the Outlaw, Revolution, 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; 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: **Crescent, Ego, Ace, Star Light, Silverhand, Firefox, Man Plus, Cyclone, Barrier, Spectra, Jett, Shadowblade, Diamondjack, Nocturne, Kismet, the Machinator**. Villains: the **Whisperer, Mannequin, Electra, Nimbus, Beastmaster, Napalm, Siphon, Orpheus, Zapp, Mirror Image**.

1980: the Disappearance removes 99% of the supers from the face of the earth; Soviets and Brits especially hard hit. It's a mystery.

1980-1990: slow appearance of new supers, most heroes in USA joining the **Citadel**, secret identities being more popular. France and Japan are the major super centers outside the USA. **Deathwish** cuts first album in 1986. **Cortex** continues to work for **Coretech Consulting**. **Serpentine** works freelance for various espionage agencies. **Strobe** gains powers in a glitzy accident and begins rivalry with **Citadel**. **Mocker** is a major troublemaker; French villains **Noir, Frisson, Deux, and Docteur Carne** form the **Combine** (excluding **Le Fauve**). Rumored existence of **Hitsusatsu** and **Patternmaster**.

THE STORY OF THE CITADEL

1977: PSI brought down by Crescent (gadget whiz), Ace (invisible spy type, PSI product), Ego (extremely convincing mind-warper), Cortex (mysterious type who knew a lot about PSI), and Beastmaster (animal controller with scientific bent, also PSI product). The Beastmaster becomes a villain and forms the Bestiary, all of whose members except himself are animals transformed into hominid forms. The Citadel nonetheless gained a good reputation and began actively recruiting.

c. 1979: Members are Crescent, Ace, Silverhand, Ego, Firefox, Man Plus, Cyclone, Star Light, Barrier, and Spectra. The Citadel is very oriented toward public works, charity, and research into crime prevention. Many of their members are aggressively public-spirited and almost none have secret identities. "The Citadel" is their headquarters. They mainly fight the Bestiary and Biohazard.

1980: the Disappearance wipes out all but Crescent and Star Light. They rebuild with a new philosophy. The post-Disappearance Citadel is much more secretive; most members have secret IDs and the team does not keep the public constantly aware of their doings. The Citadel is practically a small fortress; lots of government funding.

1981: Glimmer, Patriot join

1986: Atom-Smasher joins in the middle of the glasnost issue

1990: Members are Crescent, Star Light, Glimmer, Atom-Smasher, Soundchaser, Patriot, Evergreen, and Warp. Warp's famous quote "Strobe is a fool and soon to be a dead fool" illustrates their attitude toward high-profile, public-ID heroes (of course, the fact that Strobe managed to ferret out some details about the Citadel for his program may be involved too).

late 1990: Citadel members start to disappear ...

THE STORY OF DOCTOR CHAOS

- 1920:** Gregory Richard Hamilton born in England
- 1929:** Malcolm Richard Hamilton born
- 1930:** various supers start to appear in USA, England, Germany
- 1935:** massive call for supers in the Allies; Hamilton gains powers when Entity contacts him (supposed to pave the way for Entity by betraying Allies), joins up as Surge
- 1945:** Surge destroyed and reborn as Dr. Chaos when he defies the Entity; from this point Hamilton does not age (physiologically 25)
- 1949:** disgusted with post WWII international policy, Hamilton turns powers to use as Dr. Chaos, begins recruiting useful villains and forming a small army, with bases and supporters around the world. Lord Alfred Winsington helps with the bankroll and the military side of things.
- 1955:** heyday of Masters of Disaster, big business, major involvement in Korea and east Europe
- 1960:** Hamilton and Winsington disagree over southeast Asia policy; Winsington also envies Hamilton's youth
- 1963:** Winsington betrays Hamilton and steals the Chaos powers when Hamilton tries to put them aside (he'd fallen in love in Japan); Hamilton begins to age again. He moves to Japan and gets married, starts career in media
- 1964:** daughter born to Hamilton and Ichiko Shima. He contacts his brother in Jamaica, keeping it covert, and gets some financial help
- 1965:** "Dr. Chaos" (Winsington) taken down in SE Asia, most of M of D go down with him. Powerpath and X resolve to destroy all of the traces of Dr. Chaos' career. Christopher and Catherine Hamilton (twins) born to Malcolm Hamilton and his wife in England.
- 1968:** Hamilton visits Malcolm in Jamaica but is waylaid in their rendezvous by the Entity, demanding a horrible price. He cuts a deal with it, including the creation of the Soulgem; the explosion destroys the Chaos base there. He tells his brother about the gem but flees to protect him. Malcolm moves to Jamaica, lock stock and barrel. X and Powerpath witness the battle; X trapped in suspended animation; Doyle becomes spy on Hamilton family, keeping them away from the gem.
- 1975:** Entity appears again and contacts Hamilton; he separates from his family to protect them (including as-yet unborn son); forced to cut a horrific deal to keep Entity from eating the planet
- 1980:** the Disappearance: between Hamilton, the Entity, and each other, 99% of Earth's supers are toasted. The Entity also takes Hamilton's son and kills Ichiko; the daughter is kidnapped by Hitsusatsu. Hamilton goes underground and becomes media mogul, with an eye out for producing supers that could combat it this time
- 1985:** Hamilton's son released by Entity as its avatar! He is prematurely aged to about 19 or 20; never wants to grow older. he steals Winsington's power-raddled body from the superprison and gains incredible Chaos powers, becoming Raptor; contacts PSI
- 1986:** Hamilton's daughter (21 or so) breaks with Hitsusatsu after her first assignment and becomes freelance agent called Serpentine - has very little understanding of who her father was but wants to know; takes name Naomi Pierce
- 1990:** Raptor puts operation Reapers into effect; Hamilton founds Force Five. Hamilton is now 71 and looks 53

WHAT THE PLAYERS DON'T KNOW

1) Dr. Chaos was not Alfred Winsington; Winsington absorbed the bulk of his powers, imprisoned him, screwed up all his plans for southeast Asia, got busted by the superheroes, and took the fall. The real Dr. Chaos, named Gregory Richard Hamilton, has been enjoying his profits for the last twenty-five years and currently lives in a ritzy suburb of Miami. He is now seventy (although he looks about 10 years younger), having begun his career at 25. He is going to be the patron of the PCs.

2) Winsington did not die in prison; he was kidnapped by PSI. Raptor is using his life-energies as a battery for some of his projects. Not much is left of Winsington per se. Hamilton has no knowledge of this.

3) PSI was crippled in 1977, but not crushed completely. Poe's wife Madelyne and son Simon set him up for betrayal (although they didn't plan on the heroes being so effective). Currently, the two are using Christ's American Church in Miami as cover for their operations. They are also using Deathwish as a fund source; the band has no knowledge of this. Their patron is Raptor; he is using them to revivify and re-vamp the superheroes he is kidnapping. Therefore, the Reapers are a made-to-order group based on kidnapped supers, most of them previously from the Citadel.

4) Patternmaster is about to sew up military-industrial connections with Japan, re: the Mideast crisis, that will make him the most powerful man in the world. Exactly who is he?