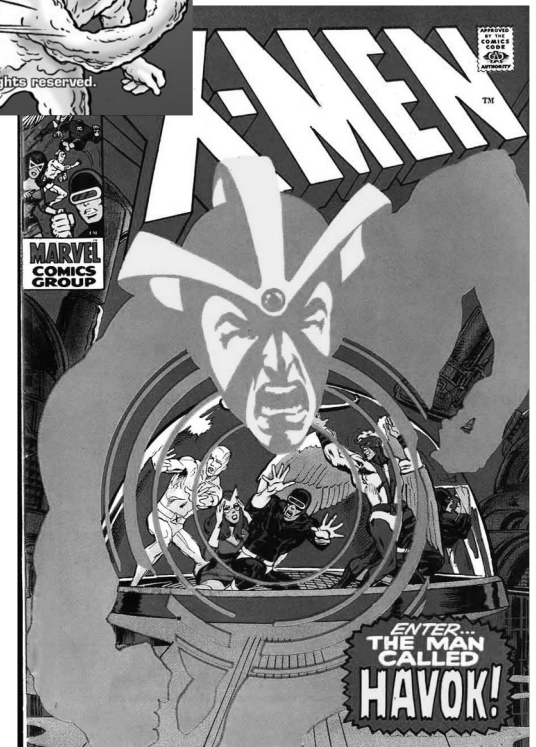


- X-Men
  - introduced in 1963
  - “mutants”
    - Cyclops
    - Marvel Girl / Jean Grey
    - Angel
    - Beast
    - Iceman
    - Professor Xavier (Professor X)
  - Principal antagonist
    - Magneto
  - unlike ‘regular’ superheroes, there is no origin story
    - they were born that way
- consistent theme in the storyline was persecution by humans despite heroic acts
- complicated by ‘bad’ mutants
- How to respond?
- through 1960s
  - allegory for Civil Rights movement
    - Martin Luther King, Jr.
      - Professor X
    - Malcolm X
      - Magneto
- Mutants as ‘The Other’ in society
  - outsiders
  - Jews, African-Americans, LGBTQ, etc.
  - connection to experience of original comic book writers



- in late '60s, X-Men was cancelled
- soon, in 1970s, comics once again in a slump
  - writers / artists -> job insecurity
  - most of the money in merchandise
  - in 1978, Stan Lee appointed 28-year old Jim Shooter to become Editor-in-Chief of Marvel Comics
    - threw Marvel into turmoil for many years
- one bright spot: *The Uncanny X-Men*
  - new writer: Chris Claremont (1975-)
  - new artist: John Byrne (1975-)
  - restarted the title in 1975
  - under Claremont, by the 1980s, X-Men became the most popular comic in the history of comics
- What did Claremont do?
  - new characters
    - Wolverine, Storm, Nightcrawler, Colossus, etc.
  - more diversity
    - Storm – from African nation
    - Colossus – Russian
    - Nightcrawler - Roma
  - strong women
  - emotional soap-opera style writing w/ intricate plots
  - very long arcs
  - permanent losses
- Centerpiece: “Dark Phoenix” saga
  - 1976-80
  - death of main character: Jean Grey
    - new approaches to writing
      - lengthy sagas



- X-Men: “Days of Future Past”
- Published in 1981
- Alternates between 1980 and c. thirty years into the future (2013)
- Year 2013
  - dystopia
  - three classes of people
    - H – human, allowed to breed
    - A – anomalous humans, normal person possessing mutant genetic potential
    - M – mutant
  - Mutant Control Act of 1988 made mutants outcast
    - Sentinels – AI robots
    - most mutants killed, remainder herded into camps, superpowers taken away
    - Sentinels begin to control all life
  - South Bronx Mutant Internment Center
    - Wolverine, Sprite (Kate Pryde), Storm, Colossus, Franklin Richards, Rachel, Magneto
- 1980
  - Brotherhood of Evil Mutants
    - Darkholme (Raven), Avalanche, Destiny, Pyro, the Blob
  - killed Presidential candidate Robert Kelly, Charles Xavier, Moira MacTaggert
  - set into motion actions leading to reactivation of Sentinels
- Kate Pryde sent back in time (to 1980) to inhabit her younger self and thwart assassination
- Meanwhile in 2013, Wolverine, Storm, Colossus make their way to the Baxter Building, Sentinel Headquarters
- Does it work?

