

Superman: Red Son

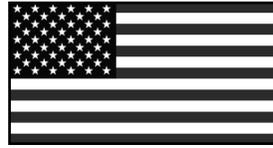


Super Villains.....

- *Superman: Red Son*
- DC Comics, 2003
- Writer: Mark Millar (1969-)
- premise: what if Kal-El had landed in the Soviet Union during the Cold War instead of the U.S.



Soviet Attempts to Catch Up



- exploded A-bomb in 1949
- exploded H-bomb in 1953
- exploded A-bomb in 1945
- exploded H-bomb in 1952



"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

LATE CITY EDITION
10 CENTS

VOL. CXLV, No. 100,000 PUBLISHED DAILY NEW YORK, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1957 PRICE 10 CENTS

SOVIET FIRES EARTH SATELLITE INTO SPACE; IT IS CIRCLING THE GLOBE AT 18,000 M. P. H.; SPHERE TRACKED IN 4 CROSSINGS OVER U. S.

HURFA IS ELECTED TEAMSTERS HEAD; WARNS OF BATTLE

Defiant Two Run 2 to 1—Says Union Will Fight 'With Every Gun'

That of the Hurfa, address is printed on Page 4.

By A. B. HARRIS
Special to The Times

It was not until 1955 that the Hurfa, address is printed on Page 4.



IN TOWER OF VICTORY. New York, setting base of the Transamerica Tower, main base of the radio station, on Oct. 4, 1957.

COURSE RECORDED

Navy Picks Up Radio Signals—4 Report Sighting Device

By WALTER WELLS
Special to The Times

Washington, Oct. 4.—The Navy today announced that it had picked up radio signals from the Soviet satellite in the North Atlantic.



The approximate orbit of the Russian satellite satellite in the North Atlantic. The satellite is shown at one of the points where the orbit crosses the equator.

500 MILES HIGH

Visible With Simple Binoculars, Moscow Statement Says

From Our Special Report on Page 1

By WALTER WELLS
Special to The Times

MOSCOW, Oct. 4.—The Soviet Union today announced that the satellite in the North Atlantic was visible to the naked eye from a height of 500 miles.

FAUBUS COMPARES HIS STAND TO LEE'S

Says He Will Remain Loyal to People of Arkansas—All in Face of School

By ROBERT WELLS
Special to The Times

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Oct. 4.—Governor Faubus today compared his stand on the school desegregation issue to that of General Lee during the American Civil War.

ARGENTINA TAKES EMERGENCY STEPS

State of Siege Proclaimed in Buenos Aires Region—Armed Forces

By WALTER WELLS
Special to The Times

BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 4.—A state of siege was proclaimed in the Buenos Aires region today as the Argentine government took emergency steps to deal with a situation of civil unrest.

Device Is 8 Times Heavier Than One Planned by U. S.

By WALTER WELLS
Special to The Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4.—The Soviet satellite in the North Atlantic was found to be 8 times heavier than the one planned by the United States.

SATELLITE SIGNAL BROADCAST HERE

Signals Carried on Radio and T.V.—First Reported by Long Island Station

By WALTER WELLS
Special to The Times

LONG BEACH, N. Y., Oct. 4.—The first report of a satellite signal broadcast here was received today by a Long Island radio station.

Warfare in Poland

By WALTER WELLS
Special to The Times

WARSAW, Oct. 4.—The Polish government today announced that it was preparing for a possible conflict with the Soviet Union.

Worms Crashes Near Protest; Clubs, Year Gas Rent Students

By WALTER WELLS
Special to The Times

NEW YORK, Oct. 4.—A worm crash today caused a protest in the stock market, and a year's gas rent increase caused a student protest.

- Sputnik
- World's 1st artificial satellite
- launched by the Soviet Union
- October 4, 1957

City Sifts Charge That Schupler, Brooklyn Councilman, Sold a Job

By PAUL HENNING
Special to The Times

BROOKLYN, Oct. 4.—The city today sifted a charge that a councilman had sold a job to a contractor.

Ex-Premier Mallet Accepts Bid To Form a New French Cabinet

By WALTER WELLS
Special to The Times

PARIS, Oct. 4.—The former French premier today accepted a bid to form a new cabinet.

Swiss Lake Agrees With Going Back West

By WALTER WELLS
Special to The Times

BERNE, Oct. 4.—The Swiss government today agreed to a plan to go back to the west.

Worms Crashes Near Protest; Clubs, Year Gas Rent Students

By WALTER WELLS
Special to The Times

NEW YORK, Oct. 4.—A worm crash today caused a protest in the stock market, and a year's gas rent increase caused a student protest.

Worms Crashes Near Protest; Clubs, Year Gas Rent Students

By WALTER WELLS
Special to The Times

NEW YORK, Oct. 4.—A worm crash today caused a protest in the stock market, and a year's gas rent increase caused a student protest.

Worms Crashes Near Protest; Clubs, Year Gas Rent Students

By WALTER WELLS
Special to The Times

NEW YORK, Oct. 4.—A worm crash today caused a protest in the stock market, and a year's gas rent increase caused a student protest.

- *Superman: Red Son*
- historical allusions
 - Cold War competition
 - “...Russia winning the Space Race”
 - Eisenhower announcement of Soviet possession of Superman
 - “...the Cold War just evolved into a whole new animal...”
 - Stalin
 - Iosif (“Joseph”) Vissarionovich Stalin (1878-1953)
 - ruled over Soviet Union from c. 1928 to 1953
 - *stal* = steel
 - N.K.V.D. = People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs
 - Soviet secret police in the 1930s
 - presided over the Great Terror in 1936-38
 - headed by Nikolai Yezhov (1895-1940)





- Lavrenty Beria (1899-1953)
- probably the model for "Pyotr Roslov"

- Examples of alternate historical reality
 - Nixon assassinated in 1963
 - Kennedy president in 1970s
 - married to Norma Jeane
 - most countries eventually became socialist
 - except USA and Chile
 - USA also fragmenting, in chaos
 - civil war of 1986

- Analytical themes
 - political systems
 - socialism
 - socialism vs. “superman”
 - freedom vs. economic security
 - does Superman impose total control? Like Stalin?
 - chaos vs. order
 - USA vs. Soviet Union in later years
 - Luthor as President vs. Superman as Premiere
 - demagogue vs. demagogue
 - Superman: “I offered them utopia, but they fought for the right to live in hell”
 - what is the role of Batman?
 - issue of genius
 - Lex Luthor
 - gender
 - how does Lex treat Lois?
 - how does Superman treat Wonder Woman?
 - masculinity: Superman, Lex Luthor, Stalin

1. Excerpt one sentence from the reading by Frank Verano ("Superheroes Need Supervillains") that you think captures the relationship between Superman and Lex Luthor in the graphic novel *Superman: Red Son*. Explain your answer with an example from *Superman: Red Son*.

2. What is meant by "moral pornography" in the assigned article by Pizarro and Baumeister? Do you see any way that we might apply the idea to *Superman: Red Son*? Give a specific example from the novel.

3. Do you see graphic novels that deal with "alternate histories" such as *Watchmen* or *Superman: Red Son* as useful in learning about the moral complexity of history (e.g., about the Cold War or about the Reagan era) or do you find them mostly just indulgent fantasies good for entertainment but not much else. Use either *Watchmen* or *Red Son* to explain your answer (w/ appropriate examples).

Optional Extra Credit question (will give you one or two EXTRA check marks, depending on your answer): Do you find the concept of "moral pornography" useful in thinking about either Frank Miller's *The Dark Knight Returns* or Alan Moore's *Watchmen*? Give examples.