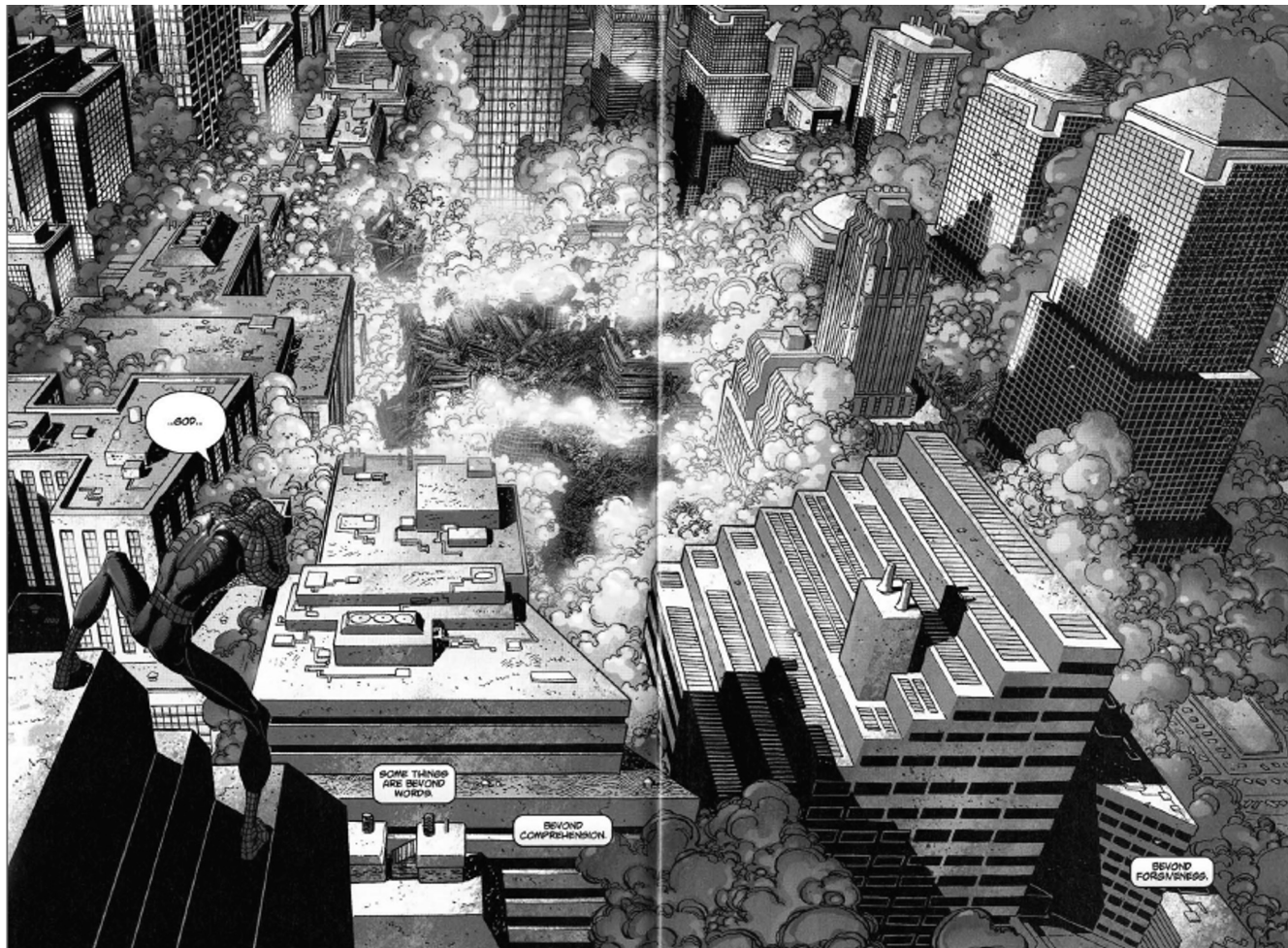


# Comics and 9/11



- Immediate response
- *The Amazing Spider-Man* #36
  - by J. Michael Straczynski & John Romita, Jr.
  - focus on inability of superheroes to save the day
  - focus on common humanity
  - focus on innocent victims
  - question of who is a hero

- Article by Johnson, “Terrified Protectors”
- argues that comics got ‘darker’ in the post-2001 world
  - initial response: grief
  - but then -> darker story lines
- reflected massive changes
  - in U.S., new laws that restricted civil liberties (“Patriot Act,” etc.)
  - global war on terror:
    - invasions of Afghanistan & Iraq
    - global drone wars
    - use of torture

- *Avengers Disassembled* (2004)
  - writer: Brian Michael Bendis (1967-)
  - Avengers essentially destroyed / killed
  - Scarlet Witch creates a new warped reality -> random attacks kill and maim
  - no one safe
- *House of M* (2005)
  - also by Bendis
  - mutants take over in a terrorist plot
- *Civil War* (2007)
  - writer: Mark Millar
  - US government regulates superheroes
    - Superhuman Registration Act
    - asks superheroes to work with U.S. government
  - Iron Man vs. Captain America
    - C.A. capitulates
  - eventually in post-Civil War world, C.A. dies
- *Secret Invasion* (2008)
  - Who can you trust?
- Basic philosophical issue
  - freedom vs. security
  - fundamental issue in American society in post 9-11 world

