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Dare to know

Alternative Histories (Comics)

Fictional comics in which the plot or setting assumes an alternative outcome of an historical event. A genre in which the course of known history has deviated from a key point to create an alternate timeline and a different version of reality. To avoid being speculative fiction about the future, the change must occur in a past historical period, often with actual historical events included. The reasons can be fateful decisions, missed opportunities, significant assassinations, enormously influential movements in art, major wars, or advances in technology. Stories typically occur long after the point of divergence, permitting the alternate timeline to develop. This allows writers to speculate on the consequences and implications of these deviations, providing a fresh perspective on familiar historical periods. Other times, the history has been rewritten to include some element of magic or fantasy. René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo's *Asterix the Gaul* (1959-1960) is a classic example.

Common Elements

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| “What-if” scenarios |
| Consequences of changes in historical events |

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| Everyday life in a reworked place and time |
| The possibility and reality of historical change |

Graphic Novel Examples

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| <i>Adventures in the Rifle Brigade</i> (2016) by Garth Ennis and Carlos Ezquerra |
| <i>Block 109</i> (2010) by Vincent Brugeas and Ronan Toulhoat |
| <i>DMZ Volume 1: On the Ground</i> (2006) by Brian Wood and Riccardo Burchielli |
| <i>Honour Among Punks: The Complete Baker Street Graphic Novel</i> (2003) by Gary Reed and Guy Davis |
| <i>Hope Volume One: Hope for the Future</i> (2017) by Guy Adams and Jimmy Broxton |
| <i>JFK Secret Ops</i> (2014) by Craig Frank |
| <i>The Last West</i> (2014) by Lou Iovino and Evan Young |

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| <i>Ministry of Space</i> (2001) by Warren Ellis, Chris Weston, and Laura Martin |
| <i>Murder Inc. Volume One, Valentine's Trust</i> (2023) by Brian Michael Bendis and Michael Avon Oeming |
| <i>The Pterodactyl Hunters in the Gilded City</i> (2010) by Brendan Leach |
| <i>Rome West</i> (2018) by Justin Giampaoli, Brian Wood, and Andrea Mutti |
| <i>The Royals: Masters of War</i> (2014) by Rob Williams and Simon Coleby |
| <i>The Scarlet Traces: Volume One</i> (2017) by Ian Edginton and D'Israeli |