CONTENTS

List of Figures  x
Notes on Contributors  xii

Introduction  Comic Books as History Teachers  1
Matthew Pustz

PART ONE  Doing Cultural History through
Comic Books  9

1  How Wonder Woman Helped My Students
“Join the Conversation”: Comic Books as Teaching Tools
in a History Methodology Course  11
Jessamyn Neuhaus

2  Comics as Primary Sources: The Case of Journey into
Mohawk Country  26
Bridget M. Marshall

3  Transcending the Frontier Myth: Dime Novel
Narration and (Jesse) Custer’s Last Stand in Preacher  40
William Grady

4  “Duel. I’ll Give You a DUEL”: Intimacy and History
in Megan Kelso’s Alexander Hamilton Trilogy  59
Alison Mandaville
PART TWO  Comic Books as Cultural Artifacts  77

5  American Golem: Reading America through Super-New Dealers and the “Melting Pot”  79
  Martin Lund

  Jeanne Emerson Gardner

7  Parody and Propaganda: Fighting American and the Battle against Crime and Communism in the 1950s  110
  John Donovan

8  Grasping for Identity: The Hands of Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu  120
  Peter Lee

9  “Paralysis and Stagnation and Drift”: America’s Malaise as Demonstrated in Comic Books of the 1970s  136
  Matthew Pustz

10  The Shopping Malls of Empire: Cultural Fragmentation, the New Media, and Consumerism in Howard Chaykin’s American Flagg!  152
  Matthew J. Costello

PART THREE  Comic Books and Historical Identity  169

11  Transformers and Monkey Kings: Gene Yang’s American Born Chinese and the Quest for Identity  171
  Todd S. Munson
12 Agent of Change: The Evolution and Enculturation of Nick Fury 184
  Philip G. Payne and Paul J. Spaeth

13 The U.S. HIV/AIDS Crisis and the Negotiation of Queer Identity in Superhero Comics, or, Is Northstar Still a Fairy? 202
  Ben Bolling

PART FOUR  Comic Books and Contemporary History 221

14 The Militarism of American Superheroes after 9/11 223
  A. David Lewis

15 September 11, 2001: Witnessing History, Demythifying the Story in American Widow 237
  Yves Davo

16 “The Great Machine Doesn’t Wear a Cape!”: American Cultural Anxiety and the Post-9/11 Superhero 250
  Jeff Geers

Index 263