Magneto’s Origin in the Holocaust and how it Influences His Character Today

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Magneto’s Origin in the Holocaust and how it Influences His Character Today

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Who is Magneto

- Created in 1963 by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, both of which had Jewish backgrounds
- Introduced along with the X-Men and Charles Xavier
- Was a “typical” villain bent on world domination
- Believed Mutants were superior and should therefore rule over non-mutants

Origins in the Holocaust

- In the 1970s, Chris Claremont reworked Magneto’s origin
- New origin was that Magneto was a Jewish Holocaust survivor
- Claremont’s reasoning was to give Magneto a motivation
- That motivation after Claremont’s rework was that Magneto wanted to avoid what happened to his family from happening to the mutants
- *Uncanny X-Men #150:* The first time Magneto mentions his family dying in the Holocaust

Prevalence Today

- Still acknowledged and explored today in both films and comics
- Magneto’s origin is shown in the first X-Men movie (X-Men, 2000) and the latest (X-Men: First Class, 2011)
- In the latest movie Magneto delivers the powerful line: “I’ve been at the mercy of men just following orders. Never again.”
- In 2008, *X-Men: Magneto Testament,* written by Greg Pak, was released - it told the entire detailed story of Magneto’s origins, including his time at Auschwitz

Magneto’s first appearance in *Uncanny X-Men #1* in 1963

References

Singer, Bryan. *X-Men, 2001*

Magneto, at the time known by his birth name Max Eisenhardt, while in Auschwitz, talks about his lack of action throughout the war

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