Marvel's Captain America: Civil War

Screenplay by Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely

About the writers and the Marvel Cinematic Universe

Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely wrote the screenplays for *Captain America: Civil War* (2016), *Captain America: The First Avenger* (2011), *Thor: The Dark World* (2013), and *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* (2014). Next will be *Avengers: Infinity War* and an as-yet untitled Avengers movie.

The Marvel Cinematic Universe is an American media franchise that is centered on a series of super hero movies produced by Marvel Studios. The characters originally appeared in comic books published by Marvel.

These characters now also appear in short films and feature films, television series, and digital series. The shared universe was created using common plot elements, settings, cast, and characters. This new approach to storytelling has inspired other movie studios to try to create similar shared universes.

Summary

In protecting the people of Earth, the Avengers' actions resulted in a series of accidental deaths in cities across the world. In response, the United Nations decides to prevent the Avengers from working independently and insists they sign the Sokovia Accords. The Avengers are divided in opinion: Iron Man (Tony Stark) agrees that they should sign the agreement; Captain America (Steve Rogers) does not agree. The other Avengers side with either Iron Man or Captain America and the situation splits the Avengers for the first time.

In the past, terrorist group Hydra brainwashed Bucky Barnes, making him the Winter Soldier—a super soldier they controlled and used to commit terrible crimes. He is now accused of blowing up the U.N. building in Vienna, Austria, where the Sokovia Accords were being signed. Captain America believes his old friend Barnes is innocent. The Sokovian terrorist Helmut Zemo wants to destroy the Avengers to avenge the deaths of his family. His plan causes a civil war that tears the Avengers apart and puts the Sokovia Accords at risk. It brings Barnes together with Iron Man, who learns that, as the Winter Soldier, Barnes killed Stark's parents in 1991. In the end, Captain America hopes the Avengers will be able to work together again.

Chapter 1: In Siberia, Russia, in December 1991, Karpov, a Hydra soldier, brainwashes Barnes using special words from a book and sends him out to steal chemicals for brainwashing men. Years later, Zemo needs the Hydra report of the events of that night. When Karpov refuses to hand it over, Zemo kills him and takes the book.

Chapter 2: Captain America, Scarlet Witch (Wanda Maximoff), Black Widow (Natasha Romanoff), and Falcon (Sam Wilson) go to Lagos, Nigeria, to stop Crossbones (Brock Rumlow) from stealing police weapons, but Crossbones and his men are there to steal chemical weapons. The Avengers fight them. Black Widow gets the chemicals. Captain America learns that Crossbones's buyer is Barnes. Crossbones tries to blow up Captain America. Crossbones is engulfed in a ball of fire, which Scarlet Witch tries to control. Instead it hits a hotel, killing many people inside.

Chapter 3: After the deaths in Lagos, the United Nations decides that the Avengers must sign the Sokovia Accords. Secretary of State Thaddeus Ross tells them that 117 countries will be signing it in Vienna and they must, too. Captain America and Falcon refuse but Iron Man and several of the other Avengers sign. At the signing, an explosion tears through the U.N. building, killing many people including King T'Chaka of Wakanda, a country in Africa.

Chapter 4: Rogers and Wilson learn of the bombing on T.V. Barnes is the suspected bomber. Captain America finds Barnes in Bucharest, Romania. Barnes escapes but is chased by a man in black, who turns out to be Black Panther (Prince T'Challa), and the Avengers. War Machine (James "Rhodey" Rhodes) stops them and tells the police to take Captain America, Falcon, and Black Panther away. In Berlin, Germany, the U.S. Secretary of State's chief against terrorism, Everett Ross, takes their weapons.

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Barnes is locked inside a glass cage. Stark tries to convince Rogers to sign the Accords but fails.

Chapter 5: A doctor arrives to interview Barnes but Zemo kills the doctor and goes in his place to brainwash Barnes and turn him into the Winter Soldier so he can get the report on December 16, 1991. As the Winter Soldier, Barnes attacks the Avengers. Later, Barnes becomes himself again and tells Rogers the "doctor" wanted information about the events of December 16, 1991. It becomes clear that Barnes killed Stark's parents that night. The chemicals he took from their car were used by Hydra to turn men into a special Death Team. Rogers must find this man before he brainwashes them again. Rogers and Wilson decide they have to work alone.

Chapter 6: Secretary Ross gives Stark thirty-six hours to find Barnes, Rogers, and Wilson. Stark needs help so he goes to Queens, New York, to get Spider-Man (Peter Parker). A high school student, Parker was very surprised that Stark came to his home to meet him. Stark convinces the teenager to help.

Chapter 7: Stark puts Wanda in a safe place—a safe house—protected by Vision, a robot. Barton arrives, telling Wanda that Rogers needs them. Vision tries to stop her from leaving with Barton, but she becomes Scarlet Witch and attacks him. Rogers's old girlfriend, Sharon Carter, secretly meets Rogers and returns his shield and Falcon's suit. At Berlin airport, they meet Barton and Wanda, and Scott Lang (Ant-Man). Iron Man, War Machine, and Black Panther arrive, asking Rogers to give himself up. Rogers says they are after the wrong man. Natasha warns Rogers that Avengers are going to fight Avengers: it will be a civil war.

Chapter 8: Spider-Man arrives to help Iron Man. Falcon lets Captain America know that he's found a plane for them. The two teams fight. Vision appears and tells Captain America he must give up. Falcon asks Captain America what they should do. He replies that they must fight.

Chapter 9: The two teams fight. Barnes tells Black Panther that he did not kill Black Panther's father, but Black Panther does not believe him. Ant-Man turns off the power inside Iron Man's suit. Barnes tells Captain America they must go to Siberia to catch the "doctor" before he brainwashes more men. Black Widow helps Captain America and Barnes get away.

Chapter 10: Captain America and Barnes are flying to Siberia. Falcon shoots down War Machine, nearly killing him. Stark gets information about the real doctor and the imposter, Zemo. Stark flies to the U.N. secret prison in Siberia, where he admits to Wilson that he was wrong about Barnes. He asks where he can find him and Rogers. Stark finds them inside Hydra's secret compound, looking for Zemo. Zemo reveals his plan to start a civil war between the Avengers. Stark learns about his parents' deaths and attacks Barnes. Captain America defends him and fights Iron Man.

Chapter 11: Zemo is found by Black Panther, who knows Zemo was getting his revenge for the killing of his family in Sokovia. Zemo is taken to Secretary Ross. Rogers and Stark's friendship is damaged. Rogers sends Stark a letter offering to help Stark if he ever needs him.

Background and themes

Loss: Wanda Maximoff, Peter Parker, and Tony Stark have all lost their parents. To avenge their deaths, they choose to do good in the world. Prince T'Challa lost his father and Helmut Zemo lost his family and they want revenge. Ask students: *How do some people try to do good after the death of their loved one in a terrorist attack? Why do others choose to avenge their deaths?*

Friendship: The Avengers are friends until the Sokovia Accords comes between them. The Accords cause a civil war and tests their friendships to the limit. At the end of the story, Rogers writes a letter to Stark, hoping to mend the break in their relationship. Ask students: *Are friends important to you? Why (not)? Can people live without friends?*

Fighting terrorism: The Avengers agree they have made mistakes. The U.N. believes the world needs global cooperation to fight terrorism. Ask students: *Do countries need to work together in fighting terrorism?*

Discussion activities

Chapters 1–2

While reading

1 **Discuss:** Ask students to stop at the end of the 1991 section. Put them in small groups to discuss what they know about December 16, 1991, and Karpov.

After reading

2 **Role play:** Put students in pairs. Student A is Captain America. He tells Scarlet Witch about Crossbones

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and what Crossbones told him about Barnes. Student B is Scarlet Witch. She tells Captain America how she was trying to protect the people from Crossbones.

Chapter 3
While reading

3 **Read carefully and discuss:** Put students in small groups. Tell them to read the conversation between Secretary Ross and the Avengers up to where Ross leaves. Ask them to discuss who is right, and why.

After reading

4 **Role play:** Student A is Tony Stark. Student B is Natasha Romanoff. Ask students to imagine the conversation between Tony and Natasha after Steve Rogers leaves. Ask them to work in pairs and prepare the conversation, and then perform it for the class.

5 **Guess:** Put students in small groups and ask them to discuss what they think will happen next.

Chapter 4
While reading

6 **Role play:** Ask students to stop reading at the end of the conversation between Captain America and Black Panther. Student A is Black Panther. Student B is Falcon. Ask students to prepare Falcon's further questions for Black Panther about his special powers, his suit, and the work he has done. Have them also prepare Black Panther's answers. Finally, they can act it out for the class.

Chapter 5
After reading

7 **Discuss and guess:** Put students in small groups. Ask them to discuss: *What happened to the real doctor? Who bombed the power station? Why? What has Zemo planned to happen next?*

Chapters 6–7
While reading

8 **Role play:** Read to the end of Chapter 6. Put students in pairs. Ask them to practice performing the conversation between Tony Stark and Peter Parker with their books open; then, again for the class with their books closed.

After reading

9 **Discuss and guess:** Ask the class which super heroes are on Captain America's team and what superpowers and weapons they have. Do the same for Iron Man's team. Ask them to predict which team will win and why.

Chapters 8–9
After reading

10 **Discuss:** Put students in small groups and ask them to discuss the big battle between the two teams. Ask: *Which super hero was your favorite? What did you find most amusing? What was most exciting? What was most surprising?*

Chapters 10–11
After reading

11 **Role play:** Student A is Rhodey. Student B is Stark. After the story ends, Rhodey wants to know about Zemo's plan. Ask students to prepare Rhodey's questions for Stark and Stark's answers. Then they can perform the conversation for the class.

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