

OUR ENEMIES



I was browsing reddit one day and saw this image, so I decided that it was both extremely clever and powerful. This image was taken of [Vishavjit Singh](#) in 2013, and according to him "Vishavjit Singh is the first turbaned and bearded editorial cartoonist in U.S." It can be found at [his post](#) for www.salon.com. Singh says that "I stepped out as [Captain America to mess with people's perceptions of turbans and beards](#)."

I picked this image because it evokes many thoughts and assumptions from our sub-consciousness. If you were to do this in 2001, you might have been lynched, just for wearing a turban. In 1941, Captain America was created as a character to fight against the Axis powers.

The first thing that I thought when I saw this image was "Is that a turban?!" which then turned into "Holy crap that is genius". This was a really simple way to get people thinking, and evaluating their thinking. It is very easy to subconsciously adopt an "us and them" mentality and apply what our environment(news, friends, ect.) tells us to as our enemies. Life as a human being is a constant battle of ideologies and opinions. "Nobody's right if everybody's wrong" Is a line from "For what its worth" by Buffalo Springfield. It describes perfectly an aspect of the way that I view life. In his post, Singh talked about how children came up to him and said "that's not right, he doesn't wear a turban". Well, Captain America is a fictional figure that you can do any damn thing you well please with it. I prefer the female Captain personally, and there are numerous and infinite variations of any fictional character you can imagine. There is no solid "enemy" that exists, there is no "thing" you have to beat, no "right and wrong", because at the end of it all, Human beings are essentially just Ideologies. Without even saying anything, just the existence if this picture is yet another battleground where opinions will clash. This image really made me think.

-Christian Mejia