

How Wolverine fits into the Decades: Heroic Depictions of America from the Mid 1970's to the  
Early 2010's Through the Lens of the Comic Book Hero, Wolverine

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To his fans, Wolverine could be known by several different names, but depending on the decade they read him in, they might call him something different. To the 1970's, his fans called him Logan. Those who read him in the 80's might refer to him as Patch. The 90's often called him Weapon X, and those who read his comics in the 2000's could have easily referred to him James Howlett. Even to the current decade, Headmaster Logan is not an uncommon title.

Like his titles, his role throughout Marvel history and American history changes constantly. Ranking #5 on Marvel.com's "Favorite Heroes of 2011" and #4 in Empire Magazine's "50 Greatest Comic Book Characters", this antihero has become one of the most popular heroes, but why? Some might note it to his freedom to kill with his own set of morals; others might consider his mentorship to be important, or even his sense of revenge. What they haven't acknowledged is that each decade, Wolverine has managed to transform into something that his current readers need. Relating to the decade of which he resides, writers have used Wolverine to express issues that each decade experiences.

#### 1970s: Getting to know Wolverine

Wolverine's history begins in his first fight with the Hulk in '74, where he is first introduced. Although a supporting character only with the Hulk, he is eventually drafted into a regular series with the X-Men in 1975. During this time we slowly pull back the layers of Wolverine as he makes himself vulnerable to his friends and the rest of us.

Professor Xavier approaches him with an offer he can't refuse, giving him an opportunity to work with the X-Men, but more importantly, as a free agent. "A chance to get out from under the red tape and rigmarole eh? All right Professor – you've found your man!" (*Essential X-Men* Vol 1 #1, 7). Of course the Canadian government doesn't like the sound of this. Wolverine shows a claw, threatening them and walks out with Xavier.



The way Wolverine responds to this sets the tone for his experiences with the X-Men. Bradford Wright, the author of *Comic Book Nation: The Transformation of Youth Culture in America*, sees Wolverine as “one of the many tough, right-wing antiheroes who emerged in popular culture to reflect the antigovernment attitudes generated by the Vietnam War, Watergate, and the reaction against the rights revolution of the 1960s” (Wright 265). Wolverine was a type of character that was beginning to pop up all over America in the 70’s. So many people felt like they couldn’t take action or things would have been different if they were in charge. Wolverine provided that outlet to that attitude, with his disrespect towards authority and killer instincts.

After joining the X-Men, Wolverine finds himself in an interesting position. Most of the new X-Men are learning about their powers, while Wolverine confidently knows all about his own. The readers are slowly revealed to things about Wolverine that he has known, just like his teammates. In X-Men #98 it’s revealed that Wolverine’s claws are in fact part of his body. Banshee, one of his teammates, comments “Yer claws, laddie...Lord above, they’re a part of you—We...I...Didn’t know!” Wolverine comments back, “Why should you, Irish? It’s none o’ your business” (*Essential X-Men* Vol 1, #98 15). He continues this in “X-Men” #102 where he reveals his claws are made of adamantium, in #103 we learn his real name is Logan, and in #116 where he reveals he can heal supernaturally.

This pattern of revelation towards the audience is something that goes along with his character. Claremont is quickly establishing that Wolverine not only is a private person, but also that he isn’t telling us everything about himself. Wolverine’s character in the 70’s is rather brutish and distant from others, giving himself not only an element of surprise to everyone around him, but also concealing the monster within.



Above (*Essential X-Men Vol 1 #95*, 14). Wolverine expresses his frustration for the loss of control he experiences.

It's quickly established that Wolverine has a side of him that he holds back from the others. When his killer inside of him is released, it's hard for the X-Men to stop him from slaughtering. Often when he comes out of it, he realizes what has occurred.

Wolverine shows these moments of savagery, yet he also reveals to us that he does have a problem reacting to situations hastily and killing mercilessly. This issue isn't unlike a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, where Wolverine can't help reacting to things angrily or without turning savage because he's been trained by the military to do this, and when his put in the situation, he reacts how he's been trained to do so.

One thing to keep in mind is how Wolverine does relate to the 1970's. Saigon had fallen on the 30th of April in the same year that Wolverine appears in for the first time with the X-Men and his first appearance in with Hulk wasn't more than six months before that. Wolverine worked for the government, although Canadian, and understood what it meant to protect and serve and get no appreciation for it. This undertone of Wolverine's personality comes straight from the aftermath of the Vietnam War. "U.S. soldiers returned to a nation determined to ignore or demean their sacrifices, and they quickly learned to keep their combat-induced traumas to themselves" (Jones 619). These feelings of betrayal and frustration could easily change to anger and rage, an emotion Wolverine is very comfortable expressing.

The 70's also introduced Wolverine to Mariko, his future lover. Speaking Japanese, Logan reveals more about himself as he talks with her in Japan. This relationship will be important because, other than Jean Grey, this is the first real romantic interest Wolverine has had. Wolverine while he's around Mariko is a completely different person than Wolverine with the X-Men. He's charming and polite, even smiling a few times. Although she's completely different than him, being a wealthy daughter of a high-stature family in Japan, Wolverine finds himself attracted to her subtle yet strong personality. This dynamic shows a completely different side of Wolverine, the more gentle side that we haven't seen.

Wolverine continues to run into her, giving her a white chrysanthemum while in Japan. She takes it and compliments him. "<It is very **beautiful** Wolverine-san.> <And so are you>" (*Essential X-Men* Vol 2 #120, 5). Mariko is really the first person that we know of that sees Wolverine as beautiful, instead of powerful or savage. Mariko not only works as a romantic interest for Wolverine, but also a direct foil. She's classy, sophisticated, wealthy, and deeply submerged in Japanese culture, while Wolverine is gruff, rude, militant, and the only thing he

has submerged is his killer instincts. Showing how opposites attract, this relationship will prove itself important in the 80's.

Wolverine on his way back from Japan runs into his old team, Alpha Flight. When he was working with the Canadian government, he had teamed up with them, but when he runs into them with the X-Men, their looking to take him in. When this happens, Wolverine doesn't want the X-Men to help him. "Stay **outta** this, bub. It's **my** fight" (Essential X-Men Vol 2 #120, 7). This is just one of the machismo attributes that Wolverine displays. From calling women broads and threatening them to picking a fight with anyone, Wolverine's ego seems to exceed him. This instance though is also a matter of honor. When Wolverine picks a fight, he doesn't let anyone finish it other than him. His honor also comes back to his personality. If Wolverine had an enemy, he would never involve someone else in his battle because of pride but also because he doesn't want people hurt when he can heal himself.



Above (Essential X-Men Vol 2 #121, 13) Wolverine and Vindicator brawl it out, revealing Wolverine's feral past.



The X-Men of course can't help getting involved when Alpha Flight directly attacks the entire team. Wolverine and Vindicator, the leader of Alpha Flight, get into a battle along with the rest of their teams and they have a very interesting dialog.

Later on through the years, this story begins to unravel on how Wolverine had been taken care of by Vindicator and Heather while he was feral in the wild, but this is important because it's one of the few things about Wolverine's past that it revealed, and it is a major component of who he is. He had lost control, like previously, but when his wild side came out, it took a lot more for him to gain control. Although he is much more in control now, Wolverine's potential for completely losing himself to the monster within does relate back to the decade. Those who came back from Vietnam struggled with a lot, but also coming to grips with what they had done there was hard. Wolverine hadn't completely made peace with the monster inside, but he was better off then where he was.

Wolverine also stops Cyclops from continuing the fight after Storm is injured. He gives himself up willingly to Alpha Flight, giving the reason that he can't watch his friends get hurt because of him (*Essential X-Men* Vol 2 #121, 16). This moment shows Wolverine's softer side, especially seeing how until now Wolverine has never stopped a fight for any reason. This is the beginning of Wolverine's soft spot for the suffering of women on his account, but here Wolverine not only is saving his teammates, but for the first time he refers to them as friends.

He does this again in the second battle with the reality manipulating mutant, Proteus. Jean Grey, as the Phoenix, attacks Proteus, being the only one who is strong enough to go head to head with him. When he fights back, almost killing her, and Wolverine loses it, slicing Proteus open. Wolverine continues to be very protective of Jean after her incident in space when she becomes the Phoenix, being attracted to her. While she was in the hospital, he almost gets

her flowers, but when he sees the team, he stops. Wolverine's protection and attraction to women continues to be a weakness and strength of his. Even though he may not always treat them right, he always protects Storm and Jean while they're on the team.

Wolverine also begins a friendship with Colossus, helping him out when he can't reach his potential. Wolverine sabotages the exercise Colossus is doing and puts himself immediately in harm's way. Colossus has to push harder to save the both of them, ruining the equipment and breaking past his barriers (*Essential X-Men* Vol 2 #122, 3-4). Wolverine does this, not as a cocky gesture, but to help the boy, in a Wolverine kind of way. Wolverine continues to push the X-Men harder after he begins to consider them to be his friends. They mostly consider this to be madness, but this trait of Wolverine is essential. His valuing of his friends, his mentorship, and his strive for protection of the people he cares for stays consistent through the years, but how he expresses it changes.

Cyclops and Wolverine, although they are teammates, are consistent foils of each other in the 70's. When the X-Men are attacked by Arcade and released soon afterwards, Cyclops claims the fight is over, while Wolverine wants revenge (*Essential X-Men* Vol 2 #124, 18). When Cyclops argues the team doesn't function like a team, but as individuals, Wolverine argues he was just fine on his own (*Essential X-Men* Vol 2 #125, 7). One of the most important moments, although, is after the X-Men's first battle with Proteus. Because of his super-animal senses, when reality is being played with by Proteus, Wolverine's senses turn him inside out (*Essential X-Men* Vol 2 #126, 16). While Wolverine is still shaken up, Cyclops attacks him, using it as a drill to get him back on his feet (*Essential X-Men* Vol 2 #127, 7). While Cyclops continues to be strategic in his thinking, Wolverine is instinctive and aggressive in his, directly foiling each other throughout their history. Both of the characters changes actually begin to influence each other. Though

time, Wolverine fights to protect the people he cares for, while Cyclops strives to accomplish Xavier's dream and be a leader. Both characters take traits from each other, yet they still remain as foils.

The 70's really give Wolverine an introduction to the world as well as introduce us to his personality. His relation to the Vietnam War and his rogue militant personality are consistently spelled out along with his bestial side of rage. Women are constantly being shown as people he protects and his romance with Mariko begins to show his kinder side. In a decade full of war, protests, and resigns, no other character had an opinion like Wolverine. His gruff and macho attitude paired with his mentorship give us a feeling of who Wolverine is.

#### 1980s: Asian Influence

The 80's had a big effect on Wolverine and that's not including his big hair back then. He returns back to Japan for his first solo series in '82, remembers how he was nursed back to health by the Hudsons in 1986, teams up with anyone from Kitty Pryde in '84, Spider-Man in a solo series in '87, and Punisher in '89. Most importantly towards Wolverine's history is that he first remembers Sabretooth (1989) and begins to use the codename "Patch" (1988). Wolverine has a completely different style and this decade shows it.

In the beginning of the 80's, Wolverine had the opportunity to star in a limited solo series. In this series, Wolverine returns to Japan, searching for Mariko, only to find she's married to another man. Adding fuel to the fire, Mariko was given away by her father who mysteriously returned from the dead, and her husband beats her. Of course Wolverine challenges her father to the right to marry, but after being poisoned, he loses. "The 'man' you profess to love. Except that he is **no** man at all, but an **animal** cast in a semblance of human form" (*Wolverine* #1, 21).

The stark contrast between the Japanese culture that Mariko's family has and Wolverine is more than a foil, is a complete polar opposite. Her culture requires men to be chosen or proven as worthy while Wolverine's idea of worthiness is based off of attraction. Mariko is required to bring honor to her family by protecting the values and taking her place. Wolverine only follows his own rules, which are easily broken.

Also we meet Yukio in this series, a dangerous girl who wants to be with Logan and seems to fit his personality. In complete contrast to Mariko, Yukio is dangerous, violent, and sensuous in ways that fit Logan. She was only hired to kill Logan, yet seems to want more than that. She sets up a play for Mariko to watch as an assassination attempt is made on her, knowing Wolverine will kill anyone who tries. Mariko witnesses the killing and is horrified by it.

Wolverine in the end finds out Yukio was working against him, reclaims his humanity, and proves himself worthy Mariko. This is a major event for Wolverine because up until he met Mariko, we've seen a very gruff and harsh side of Wolverine, yet a loyal and loving side of him is brought out by her.

This relationship appearing between Wolverine and Mariko is more or less a relationship between Wolverine and Japan. Both Japanese and American cultures are very distinct, yet in the late 70's early 80's we begin to see hints toward Japanese pop cultural influence within our borders, only to become mainstream in the 90's. This cultural difference is the foundation of which Wolverine is able to find his humanity again. "For Americans, Japan's cultural norms can seem not only alien, but virtually opposite to our own. The Japanese value restraint, conformity, and consent. We prize self-assertion, individuality, and iconoclasm" (Kelts 22-23). Wolverine's cultural emersion in Japanese culture was something America was feeling as pop culture from Japan started coming over here.



Within the Uncanny X-Men series, Wolverine's engagement to Mariko plays out. He's finally happy and excited to pursue his marriage. Wolverine during this time dons the traditional Japanese garments in order to appease Mariko, and also showing his assimilation to the culture. This assimilation doesn't just symbolize his acceptance of Mariko and her family, but also it shuns the feral side of him, striving to be a man. The 80's heavily rely on the pendulum between Wolverine's feral side and the man he claims to be. At this moment, we see how Wolverine can really transform into a doting fiancé.

Things have also changed with the X-Men. Rogue, the girl who can absorb powers by touch, joins the X-Men after being a prior villain. Wolverine disapproves at first but when they get attacked by Viper and the Silver Samurai, he gives her a chance to redeem herself. This chance Rogue doesn't waste, which is the beginning of a friendship between the two. Rogue also had absorbed the powers of Carol Danvers, also known as Ms. Marvel, and sent her into a coma. She was left with her powers and because of Wolverine's close relationship with Carol, he is offended even more by her presence. Wolverine gives her a chance which is something new for him. The Wolverine of the 70's wouldn't have trusted her to even help him, but here Wolverine uses her to help bring down Viper and Silver Samurai. This opportunity that Wolverine gives Rogue isn't forgiveness necessarily, but it's a chance to prove herself as a team player like he has through the years.

Wolverine has a brief exchange with Yukio, who remains jealous, but things move forward until the day of the wedding where Mariko calls off the wedding at the altar. She is being mind-controlled without Wolverine's knowledge, but this very much devastates Wolverine. This event in Wolverine's history does very much shape his relationships with women in the future. Wolverine doesn't ever have as serious of a relationship even to this day. Wolverine takes this as

another blow to his humanity, but continues to remain strong and humane. Mariko continues to seek retribution and bring honor upon herself for what she has done, even though Wolverine doesn't ask of it. This also is a contrast between the two characters, showing how different their worlds are. Wolverine gives Mariko forgiveness, yet by her culture, she can't accept it until she has brought him something more honorable to make up for it.

Relating it back to the decade, according to *census.gov*, the United States had the highest marriage and divorce rates in 1980 compared to the 1990, 2000, and 2008. Logan's almost marriage is an issue that the average American had mirrored in their lives at some point. Marriages were up, which meant that most relationships felt secure enough to take the next step, but also divorces were up, making it a very hard time for a lot of romances as well.

Wolverine in 1984 also had one of the most unlikely yet most influential team-ups with Kitty Pryde, the girl who can phase through walls and a new X-Men recruit. Initially it doesn't start off that way; Wolverine comes back to Japan after finding out Kitty was in trouble. She's brainwashed to be a ninja by Ogun and becomes his assassin. Through this process she attacks Wolverine and fatally wounds him. After recovering, Wolverine teaches Kitty how to have discipline. When Ogun strikes again, aiming for Mariko and Akiko, Wolverine and Mariko's adopted child, Kitty and Wolverine fight back.

As Kitty's coming of age story, being called Shadowcat after, this series is wrapped up in Wolverine's Japanese roots. Wolverine was not only trained in Japan, but he was trained by the same man that brainwashed Kitty. Wolverine's roots in Japan become prevalent after his meeting with Mariko, but it's important that we note that Wolverine doesn't reveal this until now. As Japanese pop culture is becoming more popular, Wolverine's past becomes wrapped up in it, directly tying him to the country.

Another thing to remember is that this is the first mentorship that Wolverine has with anyone. Also it's the first relationship with a female recurring teammate that hasn't turned romantic. Kitty Pryde will always have a very important relationship with Wolverine, and subsequently his relationships with young girls are shadowed by his relationship with her. This mentorship also helps Kitty to become a leader. Up until now, Kitty had just been reacting to situations, typically phasing as a defense reflex. After Wolverine trains her, she becomes comfortable with herself and fights the brainwashing that has come over her.

In this series, Wolverine pulls out his bestial side to defeat Ogun. Up until now Logan had remained in control of himself, but in this circumstance he has to revert in order to save Kitty. In this decade, Wolverine tries hard to contain his berserker rage, in some aspects for Mariko. Here we see him howling when he grieves Storm's loss of powers and James Hudson's death as well as him giving in to his rage and killing Ogun. Seeing himself in the demon Ogun was, he realizes what he has done, but Kitty refuses to give up hope.



Above (Kitty Pryde and Wolverine #6, 22), Kitty consoles Wolverine after he kills Ogun to save her.

Kitty's trust of Wolverine becomes important because of all of the X-Men, he trusts her the most. This mentorship at this point changes to become a friendship. Kitty, now helping Logan with his struggles, is now speaking to him as a friend. She understands what he's gone through just to save her and the sanity he could have possibly lost, and she thanks him for it. Kitty and Wolverine maintain this relationship, aside their differences, and they become each other's most reliable friend.

The late 80's launched the first regular Wolverine solo series. After the popularity of the first one, Wolverine's series started coming out monthly. Logan goes off to Madripoor following a lead about Mariko's secretary, but going by the alias of Patch (Claremont #1, 7). He ends up paired with the lovely Jessica Drew and Lindsay McCabe, both detectives and Drew being the Spider-Woman in secret. The only one who knows that Patch is Wolverine would be Tyger Tiger, another lover of his.

Wolverine also has a history with Madripoor, which is slowly revealed with his knowledge of local bars and people. This relationship with the area reveals much about Logan himself. The town has stark contrast of rich and poor, drug lords like Tyger Tiger run the city, and there are enough bars for any person to get kicked out of at least one. This city reflects Wolverine's contrast of character. He could easily fit in with the finest of the city, but his dark allies are full of horrible things.

Wolverine doesn't actually reappear as "Wolverine" until 14 issues after he began his solo adventures. Parading around as Patch, he rarely pops his claws unless he needed to. This also reflects the control aspect of this decade that Wolverine takes on. To disguise himself, he dresses up as Patch and masking his berserker rage and claws. Even after he reappears, he uses Patch as a Clark Kent of sorts, changing in times when need be.

When the masked Wolverine reappears, he finds that most people already knew, branching from Jessica Drew. She even went on to say “**Wolverine!** It’s about time you ditched the Patch nonsense!” (*Essential Wolverine* Vol 1 #14, 11). He continues to use the Patch alias, but more freely changes into his costume, and even sometimes in costume without his mask (*Essential Wolverine* Vol 1 #18, 4). This was something that would be new for the 80’s, this idea of Wolverine, in costume, mask-less, and not caring.



Left:  
(*Essential Wolverine* Volume 1, #16, 24).  
Wolverine discusses the current events over drinks with Jessica Drew and Archie. Drew insinuates that Wolverine could be the descendant of the Hand of God.

Wolverine wouldn't normally be considered a Christ figure. He's murdered several people, has a berserker rage, and doesn't really show any of the values that Christianity shows. Although this is true, authors have used Wolverine to contrast and develop themes of Christianity and even Jesus Christ himself. One of the villains that Wolverine fights towards the end of the 80's was Ba'al, a villain that used his powers to influence vampires. Ba'al was a descendent of a monster that fought a man by the name of Hand of God. Hand of God defeated this monster, and his soul turned into the Gehenna Stone, which Ba'al sought after. Wolverine fought Ba'al and during the fight, there were shadows of the monster and Hand of God fighting. Jessica Drew even mentions the similarity in Wolverine #16.

This decade begins a metaphorical pairing of themes within Wolverine that leaves remnants throughout the other decades. These direct correlations to him and elements of Christ are bold and also very unique to Wolverine himself. If Wolverine was a descendent of the Hand of God, he would literally be the son of the Hand of God, which we can make reference to him potentially having Christ-like plays on his character, but his personality doesn't follow the suit. This could also represent the inner battle within Wolverine, the Christ within him doing good works and the Satan behind his berserker side.

The last thing that happens to Logan during the 80's is that he's crucified by the Reavers. He originally takes a leave of absence and Storm, the now leader of the X-Men, is concerned, yet has to let him go. When he comes back to the X-Men, he finds his Australian base to be taken over by the Reavers with the X-Men nowhere in sight. The Reavers mount him on a cross in the shape of an X and leave him there.

This crucifixion is another direct correlation between the life of Christ and Wolverine. Both were crucified, but Wolverine was crucified on an X while Jesus on a cross. The Reavers

nail him there, but they also cut him with spikes repetitively. If Jesus was crucified for the sins of humanity, Wolverine was crucified for the errors of his ways. His abandonment of his team led to their demise and now he has to pay the price for his foolishness. The cross in Christianity represents the burden of which Christ had to bear, while the X that Wolverine is nailed to represents the X-Men. Not only is he the only one left, but the X also represents him bearing the weight of his fellow X-Men.

Wolverine bakes in the sun, while Jubilee, a stowaway from the mall begins to realize that the X-Men are under attack. Wolverine hallucinates and watches helplessly as he sees the pain the X-Men have suffered without him. “Hard time for heroes ‘bub.’ Rogue’s gone, Longshot quit, Storm... got killed. Only four of us were left when the Reavers came. We needed a leader, Wolverine! Why weren’t you here to help?!” (*Essential X-Men* Vol. 9 #251, 9). He eventually sees Psylocke leading his friends through the Seige Perilous, a powerful portal that judges the souls who venture through them.

Wolverine also hallucinates about his friends, but also about the powerful female figures in his life: Storm, Jean Grey, Carol Danvers (Ms. Marvel, and one of Wolverine’s operative friends), Mariko, and Kitty Pryde. They give him the hope he needs to fight to get off the cross, just as Jubilee is coming by to help. Wolverine continues to be slightly crazy; his hallucinations of Carol and now Nick Cage continue to stick with him after he got off of the X.

Jubilee and Wolverine’s mental health are themes that persist into the 90s, but Wolverine in general has very unique themes in the 80s then in the 70s. Wolverine’s Asian influence comes out within this decade and we get a chance to see him much more restrained with his rage until Mariko breaks his engagement off with him. Even then, because of his cover as Patch, Wolverine restrains himself from using his claws and tearing people apart. Wolverine is much more sly and



secretive compared to his boastful nature last decade, which all gets flipped upside down in the 90s.

### 1990s: The Monster Within

The 90's had a major effect on a lot of things and Wolverine was one of them. He managed to remember his past in fighting alongside Captain America (1990), was a temporary member of the "new" Fantastic Four (1990-91), sought the truth behind the Weapon X project and the experiments done to him (1991-1992), gave Mariko a quick death (1992), was stripped of his Adamantium (1993) only for it to be given back when he became the Apocalypse horseman of Death (1999), and was forced to marry Viper (1998). The 90's really played with who Wolverine was in a unique way then before, especially with his feral side.

The first thing that starts off the 90's for Wolverine is his interactions with the Mandarin, an underground crime organization in China. After Jubilee helps him recover, he goes over to China and fights the crime organization with her. Finding that Psylocke has been brainwashed into working for them, she attempts to take control of his soul. When Wolverine fights back the figments in his mind, Carol Danvers and Nick Fury, become real to Psylocke and fight her as well. Psylocke comes to her senses and she fights alongside Wolverine and Jubilee.

Wolverine's mental state is something that does play out through the 90s. Carol Danvers and Nick Fury were both real people, but in this case they were only figments of Wolverine's mind ever since his crucifixion. When Psylocke uses her powers to break into his mind, she opens hers to these figments, and they fight her physically.





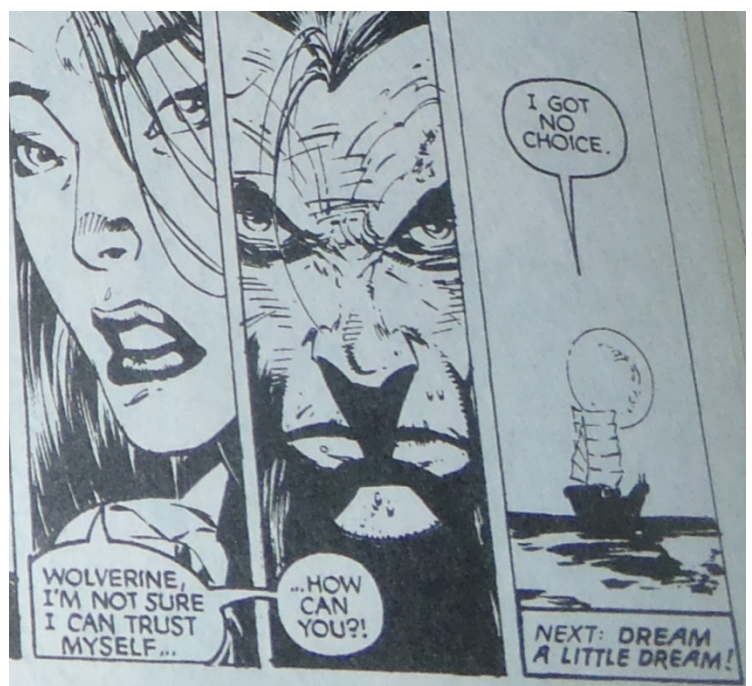
Left: (Essential X-Men Vol 9 #258, 16). Psylocke fights Carol Danvers and Nick Fury physically after diving into Wolverine's mind.

Wolverine may or may not be completely sane, but the figments in his mind don't harm him but help him. These people represent Wolverine's mental defenses and conscious that help him after his traumatic experience. Wolverine may

not always act completely sane after this event, but those two remain until they feel he's ready to continue without him.

Psylocke joins his small team, but with reservations. After the brainwashing, Psylocke barely knows if she's still being controlled and her appearance doesn't change back. Wolverine doesn't really give her an option of leaving and figuring things out, though Jubilee was in favor.

Right: (Essential X-Men Vol 9 #258, 24). Psylocke expresses her concerns over the reliability of herself after she was brainwashed.



If Wolverine didn't need Psylocke, he probably could have let her just find herself again, but he didn't really have much of an option when the only other person he had to back him up was Jubilee. Wolverine's faith in Psylocke shows how much he has confidence in his friends, even when they don't believe in themselves. This trust eventually reverses when Wolverine needs people to trust him.

Jubilee is also another important part of Wolverine in the 90s. After she helps him after his crucifixion, she sticks by his side for a good part of the decade. Wolverine provides a large mentorship role for Jubilee, though she's just a young child. One major difference between Jubilee and Kitty is that Kitty was very mature for her age, even being able to lead the X-Men at a point. Jubilee is very childish, loud-mouthed, and bratty kid, which proves to be difficult for Wolverine at times. She's also very smart and powerful, which is why Wolverine keeps her along, but she's a whole different girl, just like the decade.

Wolverine gets captured by a group called the Harriers and Jubilee and Psylocke have to rescue him, working together and pushing aside their differences. What they didn't know is that Wolverine set it up so they would work together, testing their unity as a team. Jessica Drew, Rosie, and Lindsay McCabe come to the rescue as well, but by then the cat was out of the bag. Wolverine in the 90s does often have strategies that are unknown to us, being much slyer than in the 70s. This espionage that fits into Wolverine's personality is revealed in this decade to be more elaborate than was known in the past.

Wolverine is also seen in a different light in the 90s. Marvel gives him another one of his own special under *Marvel Comics Presents: Wolverine*. Within this context we see Wolverine being wild, hunting naked out in the woods and looking for sex more often from Tyger Tiger, even going on to say "And why do I have the feeling that I'm going to be seeing some **action**

tonight, and it's **not** the sort I had in **mind**" (David #85, 5). Wolverine's drive for sex has to do wilder side coming out. According to *American Popular Culture Through History: The 1990s*, 80 percent of Americans in 1995 lost their virginity while they were a teenager, with ages averaging at 16 for young males and 17 for young girls (Oxoby 34). Not only does Wolverine take it from any who offer, mostly Yukio and Tyger Tiger, but he has very little commitment to most of the women. Wolverine's image as a tough guy being paired with promiscuity was something the decade easily welcomed, especially because they were immersed in it.

This is where we are first introduced to Cyber, a super-villain from Logan's past. He's lased with adamantium skin, the same stuff on Wolverine's bones, and has mini-claws that are coated in highly hallucinogenic drugs. Of course Wolverine is hit by them and has a dream about himself and Cyber. One thing that we see from Wolverine for the first time is that he's actually afraid of Cyber, and he's not sure why. "When I saw him, I **tried** to attack. But my guts were screaming to run" (David #90, 6). Cyber, we find out later, is responsible for training Wolverine militarily and also unleashing his savage killer. Wolverine, at this time, doesn't remember all of it, but something within him tells him to run away. Up until now, Wolverine has never shied away from a fight without a really good reason, and here we see him actually afraid of his opponent. The idea of someone being bigger and stronger than Wolverine wasn't a new idea, but a subconscious fear makes him relatable to a wider audience than if he's never afraid. He does overcome this fear and does defeat Cyber (David #92, 6), but this fear is something that is new for Logan in the 90's.

In this decade, Wolverine has his adamantium extracted from his body and had to cope with how it affected him. As a result, he becomes feral, learning that his mutation would go wild without the adamantium. The X-Men of course remain concerned for him as the mutation takes

effect, but to a point there's not much they can do. Wolverine's regression from his more human version is in direct contrast of the 80s. Now Wolverine exposes his bestial side, often with its berserker rage, while the 80s focused on his struggle to hold on to humanity. Wolverine's reversal has much to do with the decade. The 90s rejected much of the norms of the 80s, whether politically, culturally, or even fashionably. This complete divide changes everything for Wolverine, especially how he's seen in the future.

Wolverine also makes a new friend in Cannonball, a new X-Man, taking him out for his first beer. The two of them often get in fights together and when Wolverine continues to go feral, Cannonball tries to protect him. If Wolverine's relationship with Jubilee is like that of Kitty Pryde, the same goes with Cannonball and Wolverine's relationship with Colossus in the 70s and 80s. Unlike Colossus, Cannonball has a hotter temper, though he is as innocent as Colossus was. Wolverine's influence on young males also is important because he continues to mentor students no matter what situation he finds himself in.

Wolverine often goes back to Madripoor, but one occasion, Wolverine wakes up there with no clue what happened and finds Archie and O'Donnell shredded to death by claws, and Rose holding onto dear life. At first he assumes it was himself, but after being arrested and running into a couple hired goons with claw-weapons he realizes he was set up. Wolverine at the time was experiencing worse and worse black outs from his berserker rage, and his feral side was taking more of an effect. Previously, Wolverine would have probably tried to stop himself from even causing something like those blackouts, but Wolverine in this decade doesn't want to hold back anymore. This personal decision changed who Wolverine was as a person during this period, not because he hasn't ever been wild, but because nothing held him from losing control.



The most impactful event that happened to Wolverine in the 90s was when Genesis attempted to graft adamantium back into his body. Genesis was working to bring back Apocalypse, the mutant that was destined to end the world as they knew it. Genesis wanted to give Wolverine his adamantium back in order to turn him into Apocalypse's horseman of death. Wolverine was forced into the process, but it failed and he regressed even further, turning into a feral monster that could barely speak. Elektra took on the task of bringing out the man within the beast and trains him.



Left:  
(Hama  
#103, 22).  
Feral  
Wolverine  
and Elektra  
battle it out;  
Wolverine  
proving his  
humanity.

This moment is probably the peak of which Wolverine is pushed in his feral powers. He becomes an animal in every sense, but he still has to fight to bring out the humanity within him. Although Wolverine continues with his adamantium and feral side, Elektra helps him to remember the Wolverine he once was. The 90s brought out a side of Wolverine that was expected but taken to another level. This struggle of humanity that reoccurs within Wolverine, but the major change is that this time Wolverine isn't trying to control his feral side. This control idea of the 80s has changed to more of an acceptance in the 90s, along with a fight to be human.

Another thing that happens to Wolverine is that his daughter, Akiko, goes missing. After Wolverine granted Mariko a quick death, Akiko as a small child went to live with Yukio as her guardian. Yukio and Akiko are kidnapped and they attempt to brainwash her into killing Wolverine. Although Akiko resists what they tell her, they don't tell her anything false about him. Wolverine killed her mother, although she begged him, and he was turning into a monster. Wolverine, although he was wilder with his berserker rage, he still had the responsibilities that he gained in the past. How he continued to take care of his daughter showed his dedication towards his family.

#### 2000s: Memories

The 2000s were very busy for Wolverine. His history is finally revealed throughout the decade; He divorces Viper in 2001, he finds out Weapon X had cloned him and created X-23 in 2004 (and joins the X-Men on his 30th anniversary), gains his memories and joins the Avengers in 2005, and then leads the recreated killing team X-Force in 2008. This decade is full of surprises for Logan, and that's only the beginning of it.

Something that had never been done until now for Wolverine in Marvel history was a recollection of Wolverine's history. Until 2001, we had never known where, when, or even how

Logan grew up. Origin recalls the early years of Wolverine's past, foreshadowing some of the most important moments in his history. We find ourselves in the late 1800's and the story begins following a young Rose, as she embarks to live at the Howlett Estate, in Alberta, Canada. She becomes a friend to sickly, innocent James Howlett, as well as Dog, the son to Thomas Logan, who works on the farm. The three begin to become friends but distance occurs when Dog begins to become more mischievous and his father, being alcoholic, beats him frequently for hanging with the two.

At this point, it hasn't been revealed who Wolverine is in this story, but Dog, the son of Thomas Logan, looks strikingly close to Wolverine. We learn that James's oldest brother died when he was young, for reasons the family doesn't like to mention and we learn that James's mother, a very private woman, has claw marks on her body. After Dog and his father get thrown out of the land because of Dog's treatment of James, they break in forcing Rose to help them kill James's father and take their money. Thomas Logan approaches Elisabeth claiming "We're getting out of here, an' I'm takin' you **with** me, tonight" (Jemas #2, 17). This relationship leads us to believe that the two know each other much more personally than they let on, giving us a clue that Thomas has had affairs with her, if not fathered both her children.

Thomas and James's father get into an argument, leading Thomas to kill him as James is walking in. James slaps Dog for trying to shoot him and pushes Thomas across the room before Thomas hits him with his gun. Thomas starts to bleed out and we learn that James has claws, meaning James Howlett is the boy who grows up to become Wolverine.

The most interesting thing about this is that Wolverine was never tough before his powers manifested. He was shy and childish while Dog was the violent and cruel one. If the events of his

life hadn't passed, he could have easily been the same as his dad, a responsible businessman, instead of having to flee.

James's mother completely rejects him, stating "...ohh...Not **again**. Not **you**, James..." (Jemas #3, 3). Rose runs to James's aid as Elizabeth commits suicide. After they find a barn to stay in, we find that James has lost his memory of the events that past. They wander looking for a place to stay, eventually coming back to the Estate where James's grandfather gives them money to run away, claiming that he's not his grandson anymore. They board a train to British Colombia and stay in a labor town, where Rose claims James's name is Logan. These events directly foreshadow Wolverine's past throughout the decades: his memories being erased or forgotten, his name being Logan, and his nonexistent family ties.

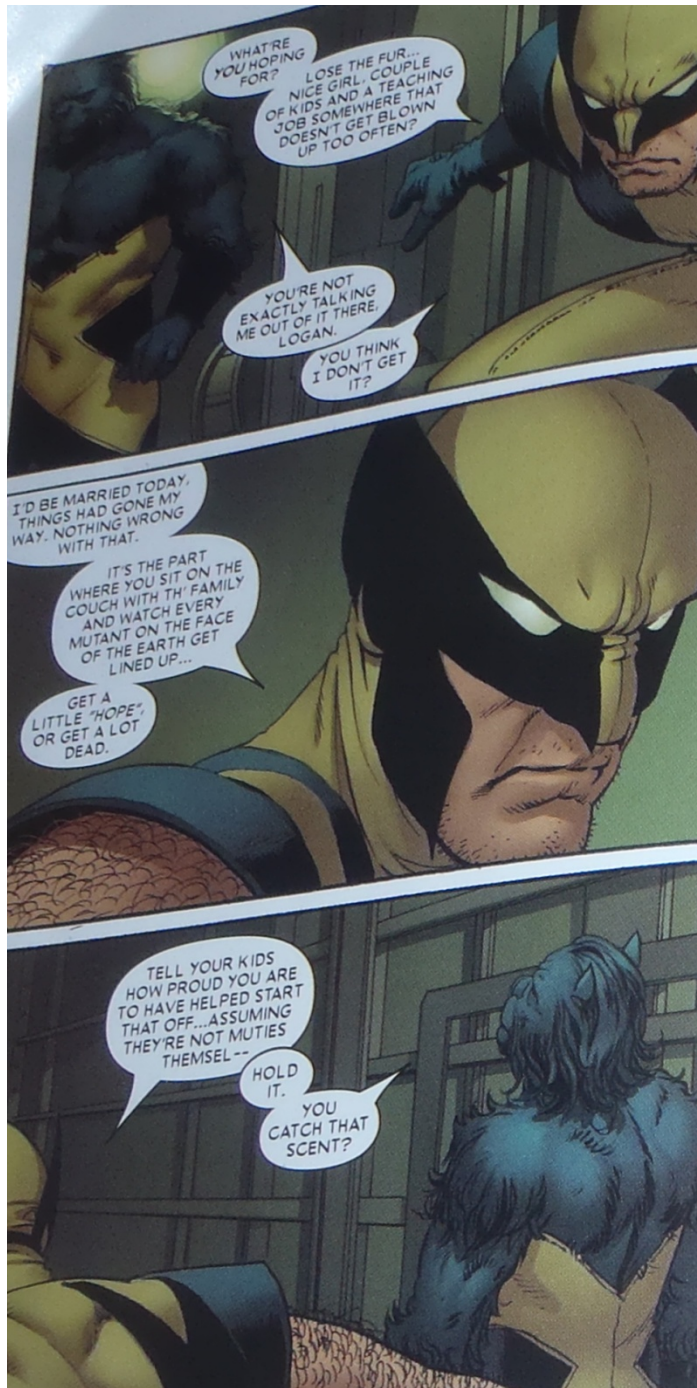
Logan begins working, but is constantly being picked on. He is often defended by Smitty, the owner of the labor mines. He becomes more and more secluded to himself, as well as hunting as he and Rose grow up. He models himself after Smitty, drinking and smoking. He one night is beat again and runs into the woods, he finds a wolf, and extends his claws, and passes out. He begins to hunt with the wolves, as well as getting promoted to using dynamite. Wolverine's nickname comes in here as the miners call him a Wolverine for his digging ability.

A rockslide occurs and somehow Logan survives, holding a child he saved. Smitty becomes suspicious, but also gives him a book about Japanese Samurai. He finds out that Rose and Smitty are becoming romantically involved, get angry, and finds a fight with the head wolf of the pack. After a battle, the wolf wines, and gives up his authority to Logan.

Logan, angry at Rose, rejects her and gets in a caged fight with Smitty. He realizes what he's doing and takes a dive, letting Smitty take the reward of the title. After the fight, Dog



returns, looking for revenge, and right before Logan kills him, Rose is accidentally stabbed. Logan runs into the forest with the wolves, not to be seen again.



Above: (*Gifted* #4, 10). Wolverine gives his opinion as to why Beast shouldn't try to take the cure.

This whole series explains so many things from Wolverine's name, to his interest in Japan, to his smoking and drinking habits, to his seclusion with wolves. This story couldn't be made until this decade because of how much they revealed. If Wolverine's back story was revealed in the 70s, this story might have been completely different. This story plays into this decade for the most part because this decade reveals the most about Wolverine than we'd ever get and this is just the beginning of it.

After Jean Grey's death and Xavier leaves the X-Men, we find the team in an interesting position. Cyclops and Emma Frost are leading the team and school as well as continue their romantic affair that ruined Jean and Cyclops's marriage. Clearly Wolverine, loving Jean himself, was very upset by

this. Scott and Emma wake up to Wolverine crouching on their bed frame over them. "...Which stage of grieving is this? Denial?" (*Gifted*, #1, 13-14). Wolverine and Jean always had a lust for each other, and when Jean died and Scott just went on to the next girl, it was not only a slap in the face to Jean, but to Logan as well. Logan may have had many girls in his life, but when he was committed to someone, nothing changed that. Wolverine found disrespect in Cyclops not because he couldn't keep his hands off another woman, but because he barely honored her death like Logan honored Mariko.

Logan also confronts Beast for wanting to cure his mutation. Beast had progressed more and more into a blue monster and was considering stopping it and having a normal life. Logan of course had something to say to that.

Wolverine clearly had sacrificed a lot in order to protect mutants. Beast's reaction to a "cure" that came out insulted him because it was as if no one considered Wolverine a monster himself. Beast's desire for a cure would just for physical purposes more or less which would be the equivalent of asking Wolverine for advice on plastic surgery or something along those lines.

During this era we also find Wolverine cursing much more than in previous comics. Before most comics didn't use profanity, but now they more or less used symbols to represent what was meant to be said. For instance, the X-Men are defending the town from a bank robbery and the alien that they are fighting is declared to have diplomatic immunity according to S.H.I.E.L.D.



Above (*Gifted* #6, 4), Wolverine shows his frustration with a colorful array of words.

Profanity became very main-stream in the media in the 2000's, especially in music. According to Benjamin Smith's thesis *What Are We Listening To? : A study of uses of profanity and references to sex, drug use, and violence in popular music*, we find that profanity in song usage has risen in mainstream music. Pulling a selection from common mainstream music from 1976, 1986, 1996, and 2006, we find that there were 9 total uses of profanity in the songs from 2006, whereas all of the other years have none (Smith 11). Profanity usage with Wolverine is directly reflective of how our culture is becoming much more exposed to profanity on a daily basis than in the previous decades.

We also see the return of Kitty Pryde in this series as well as her new role as the youngest teacher on the team. Wolverine still continues that special relationship with Kitty here as well. After fighting Cyclops about Jean and Beast about the cure, Kitty wonders if she's next. Wolverine comforts her saying, "Nah, you'd go ninja on me--I can't take that kind of hurt" (*Gifted* #3, 24). Wolverine very much remembers his days in the 80's with Kitty and didn't want to pick a fight where one isn't needed. The fact that Kitty is the only one that Wolverine isn't even slightly apprehensive towards says a lot about their relationship.

Also we begin to see Kitty shadowing Wolverine in her situations. Back when Jean was brainwashed by the Hellfire Club, Wolverine came back from a sewer to save the day, and the

last panel before the issue of his fight in the club was of Wolverine standing in water with a shadow of bars over his body, in a fighting stance (*Essential X-Men* Vol 2 #132, 18). This same panel is mimicked when the Hellfire Club strikes against the X-Men now and Kitty is sent phasing unto the earth, only to land in a cave (*Torn* #15, 24). In a way, Kitty Pryde is Wolverine's biggest ally and his apprentice who, as it shows, has learned the most from him.

By far the biggest thing that changes Wolverine for the future would have to be the aftermath of the House of M. When the Scarlet Witch starts losing her marbles, the X-Men and the Avengers had to decide what to do with her. Unfortunately they didn't decide fast enough, because she changes the entire universe with her powers to where mutants are now the dominant race, led by Magneto, unlike before where humans were dominant.

The only ones who remember everything were Logan and a young girl named Layla Miller. Logan realizes that having his memories had to do with his greatest wish. "It's all I... ever wanted" (Bendis #4, 16). Scarlet Witch gave everyone what they desired to make them happy. His whole life he has lost memories of events, brain-washings, and missing periods of life. Now after the Scarlet Witch gave him his memories, not only does he remember everything that he's lived through, but also his memories are the key in order to change the world back to the way it was. Unfortunately, the Scarlet Witch changes the world dissolving the powers of majority of the mutant population, but Wolverine not only keeps his powers but his memories as well. This event changes everything for Wolverine because after he had been brainwashed and had his memories wiped so many times, there was only so much he could remember. Not only does he now remember what has happened in his past but also who has hurt him the most.

House of M changed every facet of the X-Men, Wolverine, and the Marvel world, much like the disaster 9/11 caused. Both events caused the loss of hundreds of lives and changed the

outlook of those around them. Both events caused major ripples affecting relations between two groups of people, Americans and Middle-Easterners for 9/11 and the Mutant/Human relationship for House of M. Aftermath from 9/11 changed everything like the airport security, war on terrorism, and the way New York is seen. The same affect happened after House of M. Both even have their own name to signify the day, from 9/11 to M-Day. Made three years after 9/11, this comic book event particularly relates to the 2000's because it shows how tragedy affects everyone and the days, months, and even years afterwards, in both cases, show how people can rebuild.

Wolverine, after remembering all of his past, soon decided to go off on a mission: to bring revenge to those who harmed him. He begins to, also coming to terms with the killings he's done while brainwashed, but when he finds out that the same people that brainwashed him were now going to use his son, taking him from the pregnant Itsu, he realizes what he truly needs to do is fight to give his son a life better than his own.

Up until this point, Wolverine had no knowledge of his son, let alone that his unborn son had survived the attack Sabretooth had on his mother. Wolverine, without knowing, gave his son the same kind of parent-relation that he was given when he was a child. Just like Logan's family was torn from him and he had to fend for himself, so did his son right from the womb. This resentment that his son holds towards him is the same that Logan held towards his true father. In many ways, his son is just like his father.



Wolverine's son, Daken is revealed, and is seemingly much more willing to kill than Wolverine is. He's also has a large ego, constantly claiming control over fighting Wolverine and denying Logan's help in fighting Cyber (*Swift and Terrible* #14, 8). Daken is Logan's actual son, yet he can't have a positive influence on Daken like he could so many other people. The people who made Daken who he is are the same people who brainwashed Wolverine time and time again. Daken's hate of his father and training make it easy for Daken to turn into the very monster that Wolverine fought so hard not to become.



Above (*Swift and Terrible* #15, 13). Cyber gets his orders on how he should treat Wolverine.

Wolverine ultimately has to use Cyber, the very man that trained both Daken and himself, in order to find out who is using his son. Wolverine, while talking to Cyber, starts to fill in the blanks in his head. So many of the women that he had loved were killed, so many times he had been brainwashed, and so many people had used him to kill. It all boiled down to how the people in charge were using him to do these things.

Cyber explains that the only reason why they gave him these women was to kill them and that the reason they killed them was in order to shut him up or set him off (*Swift and Terrible* #15, 14). This realization of his past is a terrible one. Up until this point, Wolverine hadn't ever remembered all of the things that had happened to him in full context, only bits and pieces. Now that he had his memories and knew the back story, he could see how he had been manipulated time and time again.

One of Wolverine's other major influences on students of the X-Men would have to be on Armor, a teenage girl with the power to create a psionic exoskeleton that acts as her armor. With all of the chaos going on between the X-Men, from being mind-controlled subconsciously by Emma Frost, to fighting the danger room's conscious Danger, to being sucked up into space to Breakworld where Colossus is predestined to destroy the planet, Hisako Ichiki hasn't had much time to really be a kid. "I'm not an X-Man, I shouldn't...I mean I can't-- I have a chemistry test" (*Unstoppable* #20, 20). Wolverine of course has something to say to that.

Wolverine's faith and teamwork with Armor really sets up the same kind of relationship he has had with Kitty Pryde and many other students of Xavier's. This mentorship is vital for each decade because each one brings in a new crop of students, and inevitably Wolverine finds the ones that he feels are strong and could use mentoring. Armor even goes so far as to spar with Wolverine, with her own set of armor claws, to help him grieve after Kitty is stuck in a giant

bullet riding out into space (*Unstoppable* #1, 39). Armor also soon becomes one of the most reliable heavy-hitter X-Students during this time.



Left:  
(*Unstoppable*  
#20, 21)  
Wolverine  
gives tough  
love to Hisako  
while he  
recovers,  
choosing her  
codename in  
the process.

Wolverine during this period of time is sent out to kill the notorious villain Mystique, who can change her shape into whatever she wished. Wolverine, now having his memories, recalls his past with Mystique. Both of them had been sentenced to be executed by the Mexican



army, they decided to team up after he saved her. They both lead a life of crime and Mystique eventually seduced Wolverine. Although when we join Wolverine in the comic, he has been asked to kill Mystique because of her betrayal to the X-Men.

Wolverine has had many women of which he has had relations with, but Mystique was one of the most conniving. She's betrayed him, manipulated him, and been a villain of his team, and when Logan fights her, he doesn't hold anything back. He stabs her and leaves her for dead, with her screaming. "I'll see you in Hell, Logan!" (*Get Mystique* #65, 24). This is directly foreshadowing his experience in Hell next decade, as one of major events revolving around the two of them. Mystique has an interesting relationship with Wolverine, mostly because when the House of M takes place, she finds herself in a faithful relationship with Logan, which partially exposes to us that her deepest desire was to love someone like Wolverine, and without it, she's turned bitter.

What makes Wolverine who he is in the 2000s isn't that much has changed about him physically, but it's that Wolverine now has memories of what he could not remember previously remember that changes for him. Now that he remembers his past, Wolverine has a vendetta to bring revenge upon those who had given him such pains. Wolverine's back to the guy we know and love, but his memories bring many more obstacles as well as revelations than he thought may happen. This decade, just like being a new millennium, was a new dawn for Wolverine because of how his memories change everything in his life holistically. Now that he knows the truth behind the events in his life, his choices on how to live impact him into the next decade.

### 2010s: Consequences

The 2010's have already started off with a bang with Wolverine finally going to Hell (2010-11), reunited with a previously dead Captain America (2010), mourns the loss of his best

friend (2010), fights Cyclops and divides the team (2011), but most importantly gets in his first serious relationship since Mariko with a reporter named Melita (2010) and restarts the school at the X-Mansion, renaming it the Jean Grey School for Higher Learning and becoming its Headmaster (2011-12). Some major changes occur during the last few years that effect not only Wolverine, but the future of the X-Men as well.

As a person, Logan hasn't had a serious relationship since Mariko. He's loved many women, but he hasn't been exclusive with any but Mariko. Surprisingly though, Wolverine finds himself attracted to a news reporter named Melita Garner. She has no powers, no influence, no major connections, just a reporters' hunch and a confident attitude. She first meets Logan when he saves her on a subway, and she helps him dig up dirt on stolen files from Weapon X. But when Logan loses his memories and lands himself in a mental hospital with a warped secret, the first person he goes to subconsciously is her.

Up until now, Wolverine has only been involved with girls that have brought a whole new level of power to them. They were ninjas, mutants, aliens, or powerful women who could defend themselves easily. The fact that Wolverine would even consider a relationship with someone who he might have to rescue says a lot about who he is this decade.

One of the biggest events in the 10's for Wolverine is the restart of his solo title, *Wolverine*. Wolverine starts off falling into the deep pits of Hell, yet his body is terrorizing everyone he knows. Before Wolverine goes to Hell, he has a conversation with John Wraith, one of his old friends turned pastor. They discuss what has changed through the years. Wolverine is used to dealing with hard situations, but when he looks success and prosperity in the eye, part of him wants to believe it might stay that way but his logic tells him he'll never be able to have hope for a better future, because in all his life, it's never come. This depression that Wolverine

seems to have also relates to the current decade where failure, war, and corruption are circling around, it's hard for people to have faith.



Left:  
(*Wolverine:  
Goes To Hell*  
#1, 4).  
Wolverine  
discusses  
how hard it is  
to live with  
hope.

Wolverine has to deal with the fact that his soul is in Hell and his body on Earth, terrorizing his family and friends. Wolverine fights all of the people he had killed in Hell: a hoard of ninjas from the Hand, Ogun, Omega Red, Cyber, Strikeforce X, Sabretooth, and even Satan himself. He also reunites with Mariko, who whips him at the demand of the Devil, and Puck, who helps him escape. Meanwhile on Earth Wolverine's demon possessed body goes on a rampage with the help of the Red Right Hand attacking friends like John Wraith, Melita, Akiko and Yukio, Colossus and Kitty, the X-Men, Mystique, The Silver Samuri, and Tyger Tiger.

Wolverine had never dealt with the repercussions of his actions until now. Wolverine has been abused and controlled by other people, but no form of penance had been made relating to the deaths he had caused, especially regarding those he fought and cared less about. The torture and beatings that he had while in Hell may not have been the nicest, but they were punishment due from his actions. The people who fought him were all people of whom Logan had killed himself, waiting to dish back what he gave to them.

One person that Logan didn't expect to see in Hell was Logan's biological father, Thomas Logan. Logan rejects him, but is speechless when he finds that his father is proud of him and how many people he's killed, telling him "Don't say anything, son. Just go be the man you were born to be" (*Goes to Hell* #5, 9). After having defeated Satan, he mutilates Sabretooth with the soulcutter sword, as its wounds can't be repaired. The wielder of the sword becomes king of Hell, and when Wolverine has it, all of Hell bows down to him. His father prods him to keep it, claiming they'd rule Hell together, but he throws it back.

Wolverine at this moment could have easily become the king of Hell, ruling the world beneath. His birth father would have been proud and he would have had more power than anyone down there. Wolverine, by not taking the sword, chooses to be better than his father and the demons in Hell. He chooses to live. There are Biblical undertones strolling through this, but the most important about Wolverine descending to Hell is that he doesn't choose power over humanity. Wolverine's choice to fight back to Earth is what makes him different than those stuck in Hell.

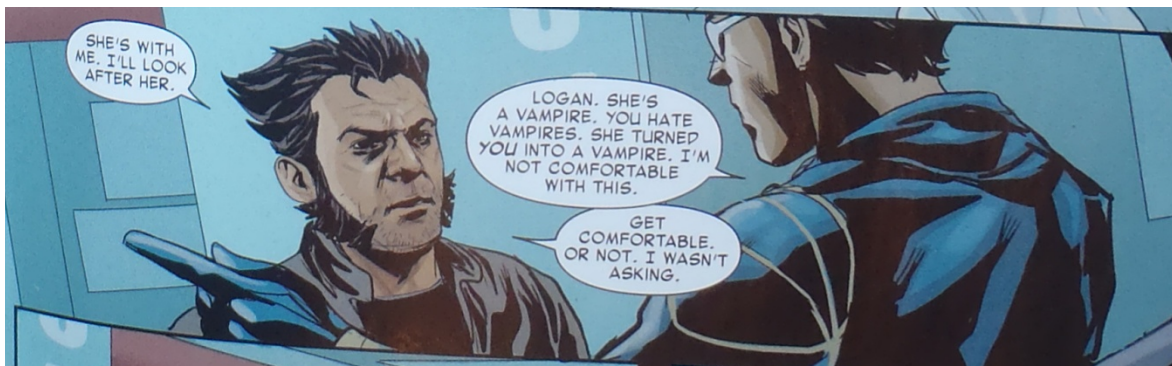
Wolverine also has one last moment with Mariko before he leaves. She tells him to go, claiming that she had her time, but his isn't over yet. "And if you should remember me, all I ask is that you remember me as I was, not as I am now. Please, just do me that honor" (*Goes to Hell*

#5, 18). Mariko and Logan's finest moments were in the 70s and 80s. Now she's in Hell for her actions and Logan has to move on with his life. Logan's memories of her were wonderful, but at this moment, she is at her lowest. If Wolverine ever wants to move on and potentially become engaged again, Mariko had to let him leave without her. This really closes the door for Mariko and who she was in her decade, opening the door for Melita and all she represents in this decade.

Wolverine seems to be able to accept the fact that he might be coming back to Hell when he dies. He is completely fine with that as long as he gets one thing before he goes: revenge. "I deserve Hell 'cause all I ever been good at is killing folks. And that's what I'm coming back to do. You hear me, you buncha cowards? I'm coming for you. Whoever the hell you are... I'm coming" (*Goes to Hell* #5, 21). This attitude of revenge really drives Wolverine into this decade, after being sent to Hell and back. Wolverine's revenge though is only part of the plan at large aiming to torture Wolverine.

Wolverine in this decade had his own comic title with Jubilee after years of mentoring her, and this time with good reason. Jubilee had been bitten by the son of Dracula and turned into a vampire during his attack. Jubilee later bit Wolverine and turned him into a vampire, but he was turned back eventually. Unfortunately, Jubilee was permanently changed into a vampire and now she had to deal with the side effects of becoming a teenage vampire.

Jubilee was kept in captivity under observation of the X-Club science team and had a catheter of Wolverine's blood pumping into her. Although she is completely stable physically, her emotional status is far from it. She's hostile, angry, and mean towards everyone. Knowing this, Wolverine doesn't think she should stay captive.



Above: (Immonen #1, 5). Wolverine devalues Cyclops's authority based on his knowledge of Jubilee.

Jubilee of course is released, but has a hard time bonding with the other students, with Armor giving her a hard time. This is important because Armor is Wolverine's new mentee while Jubilee was his older one. Armor is a smart, hard working student, while Jubilee is a sassy, carefree individual. Armor and Jubilee clash on personality levels, but also through decades. Jubilee represents the 90s and Armor represents the 2000s. Now that Jubilee has come back, Logan has to deal with hostility between the girls who know him well.

Jubilee runs off to a bar and gets framed for a merciless killing, so Logan takes her, keeping her full of his blood, to Siberia to hunt down whoever is toying with her. Another vampire is using her to get to Wolverine. Jubilee finds refuge in other vampires, but Wolverine doesn't see things her way. "Logan, I'm not human. I'm not mutant. I'm vampire, like her. I am! I am exactly the same!" (Immonen #3, 5). Jubilee had previously been depowered after the events in House of M and now she finally felt like she belonged to something, not being human really and no longer having mutant powers. Jubilee coming back also plays a large roll into the decade because in the 90s she was growing up with firework powers, the 2000s she was depowered, and now she's a vampire. Her identity has shifted and changed, but Wolverine has always been there for her.



Jubilee eventually comes to terms with her powers and escapes the hands of the vampire's trap, with the help of Wolverine and Rockslide, a mutant with a rock-hard body. She comes to terms with herself as a vampire and stays with the X-Men, figuring out things for herself. She also finds a new friend in Rockslide, who thinks Wolverine is Jubilee's father.

This arch comes in at a time where vampires are gaining a lot of popularity, from the *Twilight* series, *True Blood* and *The Vampire Diaries* TV shows, and many more. The idea of Wolverine going vampire, even for a second, is a major component of relating to pop culture. Even more than that, Jubilee now is a vampire and continues her role in the X-Men as one. Tom Alderman in 2009 quoted vampire popularity to being an effect from the war on terror and financial instability.

"Times are always part of the pop culture recipe," says Robert Thompson, professor of television and pop culture at the *University of Syracuse's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications*, but it's more about the modern media's creative skill to broaden the genre. "There's much more narrative opportunities if vampires can be evil monsters as well as romantic heroes," he continues (Alderman).

This decade was beginning with a vampire frenzy and Wolverine was one of its many victims. The readers of course were concerned for their favorite hero conforming to vampire hysteria, but also that he was doing too much all at the same time.

"...[Wolverine is] getting killed off so that his soul can go and get into a few fights in Hell in a new series launching in September, but it now looks like he'll also be turning into a vampire as a result

of the newly-launched “Curse of The Mutants” storyline at the same time. Oh, and in a third series, he’ll also be fighting immortals and a guy whose blood is some kind of killer virus... and that’s before you get around to any alternate universe Wolverines...” (McMillan).

McMillan continues in his article “How Did Marvel Lose Control Of Wolverine” how Wolverine is at least doing something fresh, but he’s overexerting himself in multiple series that revolve around or involve him. Of course he does have a point, having two solo series, influence in the Avengers arch, X-Men arches, and X-Force arch, but one of the reasons why this is happening is because of his popularity. In this decade, Wolverine’s popularity ranks at #3 on Marvel.com, under Spider-Man and Hulk, out of all other characters in the database. His success as a character has grown as well as his popularity. His interactions with vampires are ways for him to relate to the current generation and its obsession with vampires.

After being sent to Hell, Wolverine’s main priority was to hunt down and kill the people who attacked him. Wolverine goes after the Red Right Hand and fights every member of the Mongrels in order to get to where the Red Right Hand is operating. He finds where they are located by hunting down Mystique, who had betrayed him to them, and killing her.

One major thing that Wolverine does that shows different than normal is how he asks for anyone who would like to be spared from his vengeance to come forward and he’ll let them leave. This act of mercy shows how far Logan has come from when he was first introduced. Although he’s still going on a killing spree, he’s not doing it out of impulse. This is something that he has premeditated and thought out before he acted upon it.

Below (*Wolverine's Revenge* #10, 3). Wolverine offers his one last chance for any who wish to be spared.



Although Wolverine is going after the people who sent him to Hell, he still gives them one chance before he goes to kill them all. The idea of mercy in a character like Wolverine isn't something that has come up too often, especially before he goes on a slaughter. Wolverine may or may not spare people, but his asking is something that is new for the decade. Surprisingly, no one takes him up on his offer.

Wolverine fights each of the Mongrels before getting to the back room where the Red Right Hand resides. During this time there are multiple flashbacks of the members and how Wolverine has ruined their lives or killed their loved ones. This goes back to the penitence that Wolverine has had to pay for his actions. Even though he may have saved the day in some cases, Wolverine's actions caused deaths that he probably never intended, but was still blamed for.

When Wolverine finally gets to the people who sent him to Hell, they are all sprawled across the floor, having taken their lives. They left him a video message and a book full of pictures of their loved ones. “I don’t need nothin’ from **you** to remember these faces” (*Wolverine’s Revenge* #14, 15). Wolverine clearly had held himself accountable for the lives he has taken, whether accidental or purposefully, but to the Red Right Hand, that wasn’t good enough to suffer, he needed to feel how they felt. He also learns from the video and documents that all of the Mongrels were actually children Wolverine fathered, and they welcome him into their cult seeing how Wolverine has killed his family, just like he killed theirs.

This moment of realization for Wolverine is devastating mostly because he literally has paid the price of their family’s lives with his children’s blood. Wolverine didn’t even know that he had children or that they existed, which goes back to his promiscuity, and now he slaughtered them mercilessly and he can’t bring them back. His revenge that he sought for actually turned out to be the more horrible than being sent to Hell, which was their plan all along.

Another thing that was used for this plot was Wolverine’s son, Daken. He actually helped to plan the events that led up to the reveal moment. “I’ve given you people all the tools you need. They’re standing **right outside** that door. The only question is... .. do you have the guts to use them?” (*Wolverine’s Revenge* #14, 11). Daken brought them Wolverine’s children and gave them the idea to make him slaughter them. He, although he was Wolverine’s son, wanted him to suffer just as much as anyone else. This relates back to Wolverine’s father and how warped he was. Wolverine killed him accidentally, but he had to suffer from it, and now Wolverine has to suffer from his son’s plan.

Wolverine later goes back into the wild and tried to commit suicide repetitively with his healing factor heals him every time. He was taking one of the Mongrels to bury next to their

mother and afterwards got drunk. He got sober enough to tell Melita not to keep looking for him and let him go. Wolverine has reached the lowest point that he has ever reached and it's not because he lost control or that someone controlled him and he has to come to terms with it. Wolverine voluntarily went on a killing spree to bring revenge on those who hurt him, but actually brought it upon himself.

Wolverine goes back into the wilderness, deeming



Left: (*Wolverine's Revenge* #16, 16) Wolverine tries to put meaning behind the events of his recent past, struggling with God.

himself unworthy of living around his friends because he might kill them. Meanwhile, Melita interviews each of Wolverine's friends and teammates to get a definition of him in their own



words; Storm, Cyclops, and Kitty having the most to say. He does end up killing a group of poachers, but he saves a group of children in the mix. Wolverine contemplates this, thinking that if he hadn't of killed his children, they wouldn't be alive.

Melita finally finds him, bringing along his friends, showing how much they care for him. Along with Melita, the crowd contains: Nick Fury, Black Widow, Iron Man, Psylocke, Phantomex, Storm, Jubilee, Iron Fist, Professor X, Thor, Captain America, The Thing, Cyclops, Colossus, Magneto, Iceman, Hope Summers, Beast, Spider-Woman/Jessica Drew, Emma Frost, Rogue, Gambit, Kitty Pryde, Nicholas Cage, and Dr. Strange.

Left: (*Wolverine's Revenge* #16, 20)  
Wolverine tries to define himself in light of the current events.

This crowd's mere presence convinces Wolverine to go back to civilization. This crowd



is a combination of people who care about Wolverine throughout the years. Each struggle or memory he has often brings him back to one of these people, or even someone else who wasn't there. This decade for Wolverine is really defined by the support that his friends give him.



When Melita asks for Wolverine to define himself, he can't really give a direct response. Wolverine puts it best when he says, "So in other damn words... to be #@%&\* continued" (*Wolverine's Revenge* #16, 20-21). This step in Wolverine's history is very important because previously he would define himself as the best at what he does, and what he does wasn't very nice. At this moment, he has chosen to redefine who he was and allow himself the time to figure it out. This is what inevitably will make the 2010's completely different from any decade for Wolverine, because he's allowing his roles to change as a person.

The most recent thing that has happened to Wolverine is that he and Cyclops divided the X-Men based on a rift of opinions between the two. Cyclops sees the team as one large army and requires them to unite to fight, even with the children being sent out into the battlefield. Wolverine's viewpoint is that children should be allowed to be children until they are old enough to make that decision for themselves, learning how to handle their powers along the way. This division between the two characters is fundamental because it has been the basis of their relationship for a long time. Cyclops has lead the team, but he always sends others out to do his dirty work, like Wolverine. Wolverine believes that he should fight and kill so that way the children and weaker individuals don't have to. This is important because Wolverine's opinions haven't changed but Cyclops has changed the game for the X-Men, making him react.

Wolverine goes back to the X-Mansion, renaming it the Jean Grey School for Higher Learning and takes with him all of the people that wish to come and lead the school. With Wolverine as Headmaster, Kitty Pryde becomes the Headmistress, along with Beast, Rogue, Iceman, Gambit, Rachel Grey, Cannonball, and many more staff members, plus students like Armor, Rockslide, Genesis, the clone of Apocalypse, Oya, and the rebel child Kid Omega. Wolverine's choice in leadership shows who he truly trusts to have his back, especially people

like Iceman who haven't been put in serious roles all that often. Wolverine's new role as a Headmaster is not only something completely new for Wolverine, but also it's out of his typical roles of leadership. He has to balance not only his teaching life with his superhero life to make sure the students don't have to.



Above: (*Wolverine and the X-Men* #4, 2) Wolverine gives us a visual example of what his dual role life involves and how they overlap.

This role for Wolverine will shape the upcoming X-Men in a whole new way, but it also takes a lot of the students back to their days of being kids and not soldiers. Wolverine's decision to give the students an opportunity to have a childhood also puts him in a role that gives him an opportunity to be a reliable adult. This role reflects the decade because of how desperate times force people into taking leadership roles that they might not be comfortable with, especially in an

economic recession. Wolverine finding himself a headmaster is a situation that people of this decade understand.

This decade has just started off and Wolverine has been challenged in every aspect of his personality. From who he is as a person to how he functions on the team, and even what he's done in the past, the 2010s have changed the role of Wolverine within so many different aspects. In the future, Wolverine's role as a headmaster will be challenged as with his relationship with Melita, but until then Wolverine's start in this decade has already changed everything.

In conclusion, Wolverine can be seen in multiple different aspects. He's seen as a tough vigilante trying to fit into a team in the 70s, a samurai in the Japanese culture battling his inner demons in the 80s, a feral monster trying to find humanity in the 90s, a remembering man with a vendetta in the 2000s, and a renewed Headmaster who's been to Hell and back in the 2010s. As we journey with Wolverine, he will continue to strive to be himself in each decade, yet he will always change to fit the current decade. Wolverine's ability to adapt and change while still standing for the same things is what makes him out to be a character that America continues to be interested in. He may change on the outside, or even on the inside, but what makes Logan who he is will not change as long as Logan still remains the Wolverine.

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