# = Injustice : Gods Among Us =

Injustice : Gods Among Us is a fighting video game based upon the fictional universe of DC Comics . The game was developed by NetherRealm Studios and published by Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment for the PlayStation 3 , Xbox 360 , and Wii U. It was released in April 2013 in North America , Europe , and Australia , and June 2013 in Japan . An expanded version of the game , titled Injustice : Gods Among Us Ultimate Edition , was released in November 2013 for the PlayStation 3 , PlayStation 4 , PlayStation Vita , Xbox 360 , and Microsoft Windows . A free @-@ to @-@ play mobile app based on Injustice was also released for Android and iOS devices .

Players select one of several characters from the DC Universe to engage in combat , aiming to knock out their opponent . The game is set in a 2.5D environment ; while character models and backgrounds are rendered in three @-@ dimensional graphics , the characters are restricted to fight within a two @-@ dimensional space . Injustice builds upon several aspects from NetherRealm Studios ' previous title , Mortal Kombat , including its controls , game mechanics , narrative @-@ driven campaign , and online functionality .

The storyline is set within an alternate version of the Justice League 's universe . Superman establishes a new world order after the Joker tricks him into killing Lois Lane and destroying Metropolis . In an effort to stop this , Batman summons members of the Justice League from the mainstream continuity to join his insurgency and end the totalitarian regime . The game received positive reviews from critics , who praised its story , gameplay mechanics , and use of the DC Comics license . Injustice became the highest selling game in the United States and United Kingdom during the month of its release . The game also won several awards for " Best Fighting Game " in 2013 . A sequel titled Injustice 2 was announced in June 2016 , and is expected to be released in 2017 .

## = = Gameplay = =

Injustice : Gods Among Us is a fighting game in which players control characters with different fighting styles and special attacks , engaging in one @-@ on @-@ one combat to deplete their opponent 's life gauge . The game features 2.5D graphics ; movement is restricted to a two @-@ dimensional plane , while the characters and backgrounds are rendered in a three @-@ dimensional fashion . Unlike the traditional fighting game design involving multiple rounds with regenerative life bars , Injustice uses a scheme similar to the Killer Instinct series . Each match consists of a single round with each player bearing two life bars . The game utilizes a four @-@ button control layout of light , medium , and heavy attacks , alongside a " character trait " button , which activates a unique ability or attack designed to showcase each character . For instance , Superman 's character trait provides a temporary boost in strength , while Batman 's character trait summons a swarm of robotic bats .

The stages , based on various locations from the DC Universe , such as the Batcave , Metropolis , and Fortress of Solitude , feature interactive environments and multiple areas . If an opponent is hit with a heavy attack near a corner of the arena , it launches them , triggering a transition animation and taking the fight to a new section of the stage . Each section also contains objects that characters can interact with differently depending on their class . Characters fall into two classes : " power characters " , who rely on brute strength and innate abilities , and " gadget characters " , who use weapons , items , and other external mechanisms to win . For example , a gadget character like Batman can attach a bomb to a car to cause an explosion , while a power character like Superman will pick up the same car and smash his opponents with it . Players have the option to turn off interactive elements and stage transitions .

As characters perform special moves , block oncoming attacks , or get hit by the opponent , their " super meters " will gradually fill . Portions of the super meter can be used to execute enhanced special moves or counter enemy moves . With a full meter , players can unleash their strongest special attack . Players may also expend their meter to interrupt a combo and enter a wager battle , dubbed the " clash system " , which combines individualized cutscene cinematics with the process

of betting meter . A clash may be triggered by a player only after they have lost their first life bar . During the sequence , both players commit portions of their meter in secret , with the highest bidder winning the clash .

The story mode is split into several chapters . As the narrative plays out , the player swaps between different characters . Minigames are also incorporated into the story . The outcome of minigames can impact an upcoming battle , such as giving the player a health advantage over the CPU opponent . Additional game features include Battle Mode , Versus Mode , Training Mode , and S.T.A.R. Labs , which includes 240 character @-@ specific challenges of varying difficulty . Online multiplayer modes include King of the Hill , a setup that allows up to eight players to spectate a match while waiting for their turn to fight , and Survivor , which carries over the current winner 's health bar and character selection over each match . Playing through any of the game modes , including online matches with optional goal objectives , will net the player experience points that may be used to unlock alternate costumes , music , concept art , and other rewards .

= = Synopsis = =

The campaign of Injustice : Gods Among Us was written by NetherRealm Studios in collaboration with DC Comics ' writers . Described by NetherRealm as " Story Mode 3 @.@ 0 " , the campaign was approached similarly to Mortal Kombat vs. DC Universe and the 2011 Mortal Kombat reboot through the use of a cinematic narrative versus the traditional ladder @-@ based single @-@ player experience . According to lead designer John Edwards , the plot is meant to rationalize the game 's fighting mechanics between characters that would not normally fight one another and explain how Batman can " stand toe @-@ to @-@ toe " with Superman . Writers Justin Gray and Jimmy Palmiotti served as story consultants to ensure that the comic characters kept their proper voices in Injustice .

= = = Plot = = =

In an alternate reality , Joker destroys Metropolis with a nuclear weapon , killing millions of people , after tricking Superman into killing Lois Lane and their unborn child . A grieving Superman murders Joker in retribution after Batman tries to interrogate him on where he got the weapon . In order to permanently eliminate conflict , Superman establishes a unified world government which he leads as its new High Councillor , keeping peace through any means necessary . A war ensues between the forces of Superman 's regime and Batman 's insurgency .

Five years into the war , the insurgency discovers another universe where the Joker 's plan did not succeed , and teleports Wonder Woman , Aquaman , Green Arrow , and Green Lantern into their world to help them defeat the regime . Batman and Joker are also inadvertently transported during the process , and the two are separated after an encounter with the alternate Superman 's regime .

After fighting off an alternate Sinestro and Yellow Lantern ( Hal Jordan after he joined the Sinestro Corps ) and Wonder Woman , Green Arrow , and Green Lantern meet the alternate version of Batman in Gotham City , while Aquaman heads to Atlantis to visit the city archives , learning of Superman 's descent into tyranny . After discovering that Atlantis had agreed to complete subjugation under Superman , Aquaman confronts and defeats Flash , Shazam , and his alternate counterpart before Ares sends him to rejoin the others and assist the insurgents , which includes a Lex Luthor who didn 't indulge in illegal activities . Batman explains his plan to use a kryptonite @-@ based weapon stored in the Batcave against the High Councillor , but requires DNA samples from the other four heroes to unlock it .

Batman tracks the Joker to alternate Gotham , but is injured in a fight with him and nearly killed . The alternate Green Lantern and Hawkgirl mistake Batman for theirs and apprehend him . The Joker then allies himself with the alternate reality 's Harley Quinn . Together with the Joker Clan , an underground organization founded by Quinn to honor her Joker , they fend off an attack by regime forces led by Nightwing ( Damian Wayne ) and Hawkgirl . Joker and Harley Quinn are rescued by the Insurgents , who later travel to the Batcave to recover the kryptonite weapon . Meanwhile , back

in the main universe , Superman , Flash , and Cyborg attempt to recover their comrades . However , their attempt accidentally sends Cyborg into the alternate reality , where he joins the insurgency effort .

While Cyborg and an allied Deathstroke infiltrate the Hall of Justice to take control over the Watchtower 's teleportation system , the rest of the insurgents stage a break @-@ in on Stryker 's Island to rescue the main timeline 's Batman from his planned execution . Superman , aware that the insurgents took over the Watchtower , attempts to destroy it , but fails when Deathstroke overcharges the Watchtower 's core to hold off Superman until the teleporters can be used . Luthor 's attempt to use the weapon on Superman is foiled by the interruption of Shazam , resulting in Luthor 's own death . Now aware of humanity 's determination to depose him , Superman decides to destroy Gotham City and Metropolis to demonstrate the chaos that would arise in his absence . When Shazam protests this , Superman kills him , causing Flash to defect to the insurgency and inform them of Superman 's plans .

With the weapon rendered useless , the Justice League suggest recruiting their own version of Superman to stop the High Councillor . A large @-@ scale battle between the regime and insurgency erupts . The insurgency version of Batman is initially reluctant to bring another Superman into the alternate universe , but his alternate counterpart convinces him to do so . With the help of both versions of Batman , the Superman from the main timeline is successfully teleported into the alternate universe . After defeating the alternate versions of Black Adam , Sinestro , Hal Jordan , Aquaman , and a subservient Doomsday , Superman engages in a final confrontation against his evil counterpart , and emerges victorious , ending the reign of the High Councillor .

After Superman defeats the High Councillor , the Regime is dismantled and all of the High Councillor 's generals and accomplices are rounded up or have turned themselves in . Joker is returned to his reality . Green Lantern hands his counterpart and Sinestro over to the Guardians of the Universe to stand trial . Wonder Woman dethrones her counterpart . Cyborg visits the alternate Lex Luthor 's grave . While looking at his counterpart in his red sun radiation prison , rendering him powerless , Superman admits that had he been placed in the same position as his counterpart , he might have done the same thing . The alternate Batman tells him that if something ever happens , causing him to turn evil , he will hunt him down . As the two leave , the alternate Superman 's eyes glow red , indicating that he still has some degree of his powers .

= = = Characters = = =

The roster was selected internally by NetherRealm Studios with input from DC Comics . The main goal during the selection process , which took around three to four months , was to create a cast featuring a wide variety of characters . Characters were chosen based on criteria such as size , ability , gender , popularity , and how well they fit within the Injustice storyline . The addition of each playable hero and villain required about six weeks of development . The characters were designed with the intent to make each fighter unique , and fighting styles and movesets were tailored to the lore and personality of each character . Ed Boon stated that DC Comics had given NetherRealm a large amount of freedom with their properties , allowing them to put their own spin on characters . Several other characters from the DC Universe , such as Darkseid , Scarecrow , Metallo , and Gorilla Grodd , also appear as non @-@ player characters , making cameo appearances in story cutscenes , stages , and other game modes . Outside of the DC universe , Scorpion from the Mortal Kombat series appears as a downloadable guest character .
^ a : Available as downloadable content and the Ultimate Edition . ^ b : Exclusive to the iOS and Android mobile app . ^ c : Playable as an alternate skin .

= = Development = =

Injustice : Gods Among Us was first announced on May 31 , 2012 . According to Ed Boon , the main goal heading into Injustice was to create a game outside of the Mortal Kombat series that was dramatically different within the fighting game genre . Producer Hector Sanchez stated that

NetherRealm Studios did not feel constrained by the parameters of Mortal Kombat , allowing the developers to take more design risks with Injustice , such as removing Mortal Kombat 's traditional dedicated block button . Similar to Boon 's previous DC @-@ related title , Mortal Kombat vs. DC Universe , the use of the DC Comics license implied restrictions to the amount of violence in the game ; however , Boon intended to push the " Teen " rating by replacing violence with " crazy , over @-@ the @-@ top action . " When questioned if the studio 's past experience with Mortal Kombat and its characteristic violence would influence Injustice , Boon replied that he wanted to keep the two titles as separate entities .

The online mode in Injustice was built upon the foundation laid from Mortal Kombat . Due to complaints about severe lag in the online multiplayer portion of Mortal Kombat , Boon reported that the development team had looked back upon their past mistakes and created a " new , more elaborate system " for an improved online experience . Senior Producer Adam Urbano stated NetherRealm Studios spent two years of development focusing on netplay . During development , NetherRealm shared their idea for an automated system to push Injustice downloadable content to all users ' consoles . The game would connect to the Internet during use and automatically download the information required for players who have bought DLC characters to play against others who have not . The system also allows NetherRealm to quickly send hotfixes to patch noticeable glitches .

Like Mortal Kombat vs. DC Universe and Mortal Kombat , Injustice runs on the Unreal Engine 3 , which was modified to suit fighting games . In the first Injustice development diary , NetherRealm Studios proclaimed that several technical advancements had been made since the release of Mortal Kombat in 2011 . Sanchez stated that their " KoreTech team " had pushed the boundaries on their graphics engine . Urbano added that the game features a revamped lighting solution , enabling more dynamic lighting in terms of characters and environments . A new " character material " system was created to portray characters with increased graphical detail . Injustice also utilizes a multi @-@ threaded rendering engine , allowing the game to display approximately three times the amount of objects on screen at a single time than Mortal Kombat .

= = Promotion = =

Prior to the game 's release , Warner Bros. Interactive and DC Entertainment launched a 10 @-@ week @-@ long online marketing campaign called the Injustice Battle Arena . The web series , hosted by Taryn Southern , featured weekly match @-@ ups between the playable cast in a tournament @-@ style format . Each week , the arena was updated with different versus scenarios . Fans could vote for their favorite characters , and a video , depicting the winner of each round , would be released following each voting period . Videos detailing the skills and strengths of the combatants , including vox pop and celebrity interviews , were released alongside each new pair of challengers . Voters could redeem free rewards , ranging from Xbox Live avatar accessories to a downloadable character skin based on Green Arrow 's appearance in the television series Arrow . Participating fans based in the United States were also eligible to win weekly prizes .

A demo version of the game was released as a download for the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 on April 2 , 2013 in North America , and April 3 , 2013 in Europe . The demo showcased Batman , Wonder Woman , and Lex Luthor , in the Gotham City stage , with Doomsday as an unplayable boss .

= = Release = =

Injustice : Gods Among Us was released on April 16 , 2013 in North America , April 17 in Australia , and April 19 in Europe for the PlayStation 3 , Wii U , and Xbox 360 . Certain Australian retailers , including JB Hi @-@ Fi and EB Games , broke the street date , selling copies on April 15 , 2013 . The release of the Wii U version of Injustice was delayed in the United Kingdom until April 26 , 2013 . The game was released later in Japan on June 9 , 2013 for the PlayStation 3 and Wii U.

An album featuring music from several artists including Rise Against , Depeche Mode , MSTRKRFT

, Awolnation , Minus the Bear , and Zeus , was released by WaterTower Music . Titled Injustice : Gods Among Us - The Album , the album was made available at digital retailers on April 16 , 2013 to coincide with the release of the game . The collection was later released in CD format on April 23 , 2013 .

= = = Pre @-@ order bonuses = = =

 Warner Bros. Interactive partnered with several retail outlets on a pre @-@ order incentive . Pre @-@ orders from EB Games , GameStop , and Game gave players access to the Red Son Pack , a DLC pack inspired by the Superman : Red Son comic book limited series , containing alternate Red Son skins for Superman , Wonder Woman , and Solomon Grundy , and 20 additional missions set within the Red Son storyline . Pre @-@ orders from Wal @-@ Mart carried the Arkham City Skin Pack , containing downloadable costumes for Batman , Catwoman , and the Joker , and a bonus copy of Mortal Kombat vs. DC Universe . Pre @-@ orders from Best Buy and Amazon Germany included the Blackest Night DLC Pack , which featured an alternate Batman skin , based on his Black Lantern design from the Blackest Night storyline , and an exclusive " zombie mode " , which transforms all characters into the undead .

= = = Retail editions = = =

 In addition to the standard edition , the Collector 's Edition was made available for purchase for the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 , which included a steelbook case , a collectible figurine , a digital download code for the animated film Justice League : Doom , the first issue of the Injustice comic book series , and three exclusive costumes for Superman , Batman , and Wonder Woman based on their appearances in The New 52 . The North American and European versions of the bundle offered different figurines . The North American release offers a 13 @-@ inch ( 33 cm ) statue featuring Wonder Woman fighting Batman , while the European release offers a smaller 9 @-@ inch ( 23 cm ) statue of the two . The Battle Edition , exclusive to GameStop and EB Games , included a light weight fight stick controller and the three DLC skins . In the United Kingdom and Australia , the Special Edition was available , exclusively through Game and EB Games respectively , containing the steelbook case and the Red Son Pack .

= = = Downloadable content = = =

 A Season Pass available to Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 users granted access to the Flashpoint Skin Pack , featuring alternate skins for Aquaman , Deathstroke , and Wonder Woman , along with the first four downloadable characters at an overall discounted price . To prevent conflicts between online players who purchased DLC and those who did not , free compatibility packs containing additional character skins were released alongside them . On April 17 , 2013 , Lobo was officially revealed as the first DLC character during the Injustice Battle Arena finale . Lobo was released on May 7 , 2013 . On May 3 , 2013 , Batgirl was revealed as the second DLC character , becoming available for download on May 21 , 2013 . Scorpion , a recurring character from the Mortal Kombat series , was revealed as the third DLC character on June 3 , 2013 , and became available for download on June 11 , 2013 . Scorpion 's appearance in Injustice featured a new costume design by comic book artist Jim Lee . The final character in the Season Pass , General Zod , was revealed on June 12 , 2013 on an episode of the late @-@ night talk show Conan . Zod was released on July 2 , 2013 . S.T.A.R. Labs missions for the first four DLC characters were also released as part of the Season Pass . The four DLC characters became available for Wii U owners on July 3 , 2013 .
 On June 6 , 2013 , Ed Boon announced that at least one additional DLC character would be created for the game due to fan demand . Boon had previously held a poll on his Twitter to determine which DC Comics characters Injustice fans would like to see added to the game . Martian Manhunter , who had been left off the polls due to having the strongest fan demand , was revealed as the fifth DLC character during a special Injustice presentation at the 2013 Evolution

Championship Series . Martian Manhunter was released for the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 on July 30 , 2013 , bundled together with John Stewart as an alternate skin for Green Lantern . Shortly before the release , Boon revealed on Twitter that there were further plans to develop downloadable content , with the sixth DLC character being a " big fan favorite request " . On August 5 , 2013 , the character was revealed to be Zatanna , who placed first in the Twitter poll according to Boon . She was bundled with a new skin for Superman based on Cyborg Superman , released on August 13 , 2013 .

= = = Mobile version = = =

 Prior to the game 's release , NetherRealm Studios developed a free @-@ to @-@ play mobile app of Injustice : Gods Among Us , which was released for iOS devices on April 3 , 2013 . It was ported to Android systems on November 21 , 2013 . The app utilizes a collectible card @-@ based battle system , and can be used to unlock bonuses in the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 versions of the game . The Wii U version does not support this feature . Multiplayer functionality was added to the iOS version in an update on April 24 , 2014 .

= = = Ultimate Edition = = =

 On October 7 , 2013 , Warner Bros. Interactive announced the Ultimate Edition , which includes all previously released downloadable content for Injustice : Gods Among Us . The Ultimate Edition was released on November 12 , 2013 in the United States and November 29 , 2013 in Europe for the PlayStation 3 , PlayStation 4 , PlayStation Vita , Xbox 360 , and Microsoft Windows . The American release was also bundled with the game 's official soundtrack .

= = Reception = =


= = = Critical response = = =

 Injustice : Gods Among Us received positive reviews from critics . Aggregating review websites GameRankings and Metacritic gave the Wii U version 83 % and 82 / 100 , the Xbox 360 version 82 % and 81 / 100 , and the PlayStation 3 version 81 % and 78 / 100 . The Ultimate Edition was given 83 % and 80 / 100 for the PlayStation 4 , and 80 % and 79 / 100 for Microsoft Windows . The iOS mobile app received mixed reviews , with 67 % and 69 / 100 .
 IGN 's Vince Ingenito labeled the game as " both a very good brawler and a big old sloppy love letter to fans " . Ingenito praised the story mode , unique fighting game mechanics , and the overall use of the DC license , but criticized rough cutscene graphics , stating that bland textures and poorly modeled buildings eroded their visual impact . Game Informer 's Andrew Reiner considered the game as " a finely tuned fighter " that " nails the spectacle of a superhero brawl " . Reiner praised NetherRealm Studios for delivering a " great fighting game experience " , claiming that the NetherRealm Studios ' appreciation for the DC universe blended nicely with their Mortal Kombat formula .
 Eurogamer 's Matt Edwards praised the rich amount of single @-@ player content , highlighting the S.T.A.R. Labs mode , but was concerned about the game 's online stability , writing that improvements made over Mortal Kombat to reduce latency issues " [ appeared ] to be marginal rather than game changing " . GameSpot 's Maxwell McGee felt that while Injustice provided " a complex fighter with some unique twists " , the game fell short when compared to its contemporaries . McGee was critical of the story , describing the premise as " so ridiculous it borders on parody " , and lamented the lack of instructional features for new players and replay support .
 Mikel Reparaz of Official Xbox Magazine praised Injustice for its " fast , destructive , and extremely accessible " gameplay , calling the game " one of the most enjoyable 2D fighters in years " . Electronic Gaming Monthly 's Ray Carsillo awarded the game a near @-@ perfect score , praising

the story , gameplay mechanics , and collectibles , while faulting its long and frequent load times . Brett Molina of USA Today gave the game 3 @.@ 5 stars out of 4 , stating that " NetherRealm [ had ] created an impressive video game package with Injustice , combining superheroes and villains comic book fans can appreciate with a fighting style that should appeal to players at any level . "

= = = Awards = = =

 Injustice : Gods Among Us won the award for " Best Fighting Game " of E3 2012 by the Game Critics Awards . The game also received " Fighting Game of the Year " awards in 2013 from IGN , GameTrailers , Game Informer , the VGX , and the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences ' D.I.C.E. Awards .

= = = Sales = = =

 Injustice : Gods Among Us was the highest selling game in the United States during its release month of April , 2013 . It sold 424 @,@ 000 copies as reported by industry analysts Cowen and Company , the only game released during that month to sell more than 250 @,@ 000 copies . According to the NPD group , the game would later continue to stay as the top selling game in the US charts into May and stayed within the top 10 in June . Injustice would also top the all @-@ format game charts in the UK following its week of release .

= = = Regional ban = = =

 The game was temporarily banned in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait . Originally , the title of the game was rebranded as Injustice : The Mighty Among Us for promotional uses in those areas . It is speculated that Injustice was banned because of the inclusion of the word ' Gods ' in the title , the cleavage exposed in the outfits of some female characters , and overall bloodiness . Eventually , the ban in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait was lifted .

= = Related media = =

 The Injustice : Gods Among Us comic book series was announced by Ed Boon on October 5 , 2012 , during the EB Games Expo . The series serves as a prequel detailing the events leading up to the game . The series was first written by Tom Taylor and illustrated by a number of artists , including Jheremy Raapack , Mike S. Miller , Bruno Redondo , Tom Derenick , and others . The comic was usually released digitally on a weekly schedule beginning on January 15 , 2013 . The series was later issued in regular comic book form , and eventually a collected edition . In December 2014 , Tom Taylor announced that he would be leaving the series and left after writing Injustice : Year Three # 14 , with Brian Buccellato replacing him by continuing the story into Year Four and Five .

= = Sequel = =

 On June 8 , 2016 , Injustice 2 was announced by Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment and NetherRealm Studios , set for release in 2017 for the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One . The sequel continues the story established in Injustice : Gods Among Us , with the alternate timeline Batman and his insurgents working to prevent a new threat while stopping the remnants of Superman 's regime who seek to restore his rule . Various gameplay mechanics from the first installment return , including super moves , character traits , stage transitions , and clashes . Injustice 2 will introduce a loot @-@ dropping system , known as the " Gear System " , which provides character @-@ specific costume pieces and equipment ; players will be able to customize the look of their characters and upgrade their abilities , such as increasing their speed , strength , or health . The playable cast is set to include returning heroes Superman , Batman , Flash , Aquaman , and Wonder Woman alongside newcomers such as Supergirl , Atrocitus , Gorilla Grodd , and Blue Beetle .