

= Attack on Titan =

Attack on Titan (Japanese : ????? , Hepburn : Shingeki no Kyojin , lit . " Advancing Giants ") is a Japanese manga series written and illustrated by Hajime Isayama . The series began in Kodansha 's Bessatsu Shōnen Magazine on September 9 , 2009 , and has been collected into 19 tankōbon volumes as of April 2016 . It is set in a world where humanity lives in cities surrounded by enormous walls ; a defense against the Titans , gigantic humanoids that eat humans seemingly without reason . The story initially centers on Eren Yeager , his adopted sister Mikasa Ackerman and childhood friend Armin Arlert , who join the military to fight the Titans after their home town is invaded and Eren 's mother is eaten . However , as the story progresses and the truths about the Titans are slowly revealed to the reader , the narrative shifts to encompass Historia Reiss , squad leader Levi , and other supporting characters .

The spin @-@ off light novel series Before the Fall began in December 2011 and has received a manga adaptation . Two additional light novel series and four additional spin @-@ off manga series have also been created . A television anime adaptation produced by Wit Studio and Production I.G aired in Japan on MBS between April and September 2013 and a second season is confirmed to be released in April 2017 . Four video game adaptations developed by Nitroplus staffers in collaboration with Production I.G were announced to be released as bonus content for the third and sixth volumes of the Blu @-@ ray Disc release of the anime , with another game developed by Spike Chunsoft for the Nintendo 3DS . A two @-@ part live @-@ action film adaptation , Attack on Titan and Attack on Titan : End of the World , and a live @-@ action web @-@ series were released in 2015 . An anime adaptation of the Junior High spin @-@ off manga , produced by Production I.G , began airing in October 2015 . Attack on Titan and all five spin @-@ off manga are published in North America by Kodansha Comics USA , while the three novel series are published by Vertical . The anime has been licensed by Funimation Entertainment for North America , by Manga Entertainment for the UK , and by Madman Entertainment for Australasia .

Attack on Titan has become a commercial success . As of July 2015 , the manga had 52 @.@ 5 million copies in print , with 50 million copies in Japan and 2 @.@ 5 million copies overseas . The release of the anime also saw a boost in the series ' popularity , with it having received critical acclaim for its atmosphere and story . Although it also gained fame in neighboring Asian countries , the series ' themes have been a subject of controversy .

= = Overview = =

= = = Setting = = =

Over 100 years before the beginning of the story , giant humanoid creatures called Titans (?? , Kyojin) suddenly appeared and nearly wiped out humanity , devouring them without remorse or reason . What remains of humanity now resides within three enormous concentric walls : the outermost is Wall Maria (????? ? ??? , W?ru Maria) ; the middle wall is Wall Rose (????? ? ??? , W?ru R?ze , sometimes pronounced like rosé) and the innermost is Wall Sheena (????? ? ??? , W?ru Sh?na , alt . " Wall Sina ") . Inside these walls , humanity has lived in uneasy peace for one hundred years ; many people growing up without ever having seen a Titan . This all changes when one day , a giant 60 @-@ meter (200 ft) -tall Colossus Titan mysteriously appears after a strike of lightning and breaches the outer wall of the Shiganshina district , a town at Wall Maria , allowing the smaller Titans to invade the district . An Armored Titan smashes clean through Wall Maria , forcing mankind to abandon the land between Wall Maria and Wall Rose , evacuating the remaining population into the inner districts . The sudden influx of population causes turmoil and famine .

The Titans are giant humanoid figures about 3 ? 15 meters (10 ? 50 ft) tall and are usually masculine in body structure but lack reproductive organs . Although they do not appear to need food , they instinctively attack and eat humans on sight ; it is mentioned that they derive their energy from sunlight . In addition the Titans also do not have a proper digestive tract ; once they have eaten their

fill of human prey , titans will vomit their meal into large , slimy balls , derisively referred to as " hairballs " . Finally , their skin is tough and difficult to penetrate , and they regenerate quickly from injuries , save for a weak spot at the nape of their neck .

Combating the Titans is the military , which is divided into three branches . Foremost in the story is the Survey Corps (調査隊 , Chōsa Heidan) , which goes out into Titan territory to try to reclaim the land . The Survey Corps are heavily derided in society because of their high casualty rate and little sense of progress . The second and largest branch is the Garrison Regiment (守備隊 , Chōton Heidan) , which guards the walls and the civilian populace . The third branch is the Military Police Brigade (憲兵隊 , Kenpeidan) , who guards the royal family and live relatively relaxed lives , although this eventually results in fraud , corruption , and political subterfuge . The soldiers use a tethering system called Vertical Maneuvering Equipment (立体机动装置 , Rittai Kidō Sōchi) acting as a grappling system , allowing them to jump onto (and swing from) walls , trees , or nearby buildings to attack Titans . However , despite it being the soldiers ' primary line of defense against the Titans , it is useless in open and flat terrain like fields .

= = = Plot = = =

The story of Attack on Titan revolves around the adventures of Eren Yeager , his foster sister , Mikasa Ackerman , and their childhood friend Armin Arlert . After the wall which protects their hometown of Shinganshina is breached by the Colossal Titan leading the other Titans to enter , Eren watches in horror as one of them eats his mother . Vowing to kill all the Titans , Eren enlists in the military , along with his friends .

Five years later , the three cadet graduates are positioned in Trost District , one of the border towns jutting out of Wall Rose when the Titans attack again . In the ensuing battle , Eren is eaten by one of the Titans before Armin 's eyes . A Titan later appears and begins fighting the other Titans while ignoring humans ; the Titan is revealed to be Eren , who has developed the ability to transform into one . Though he is seen as a threat by some , he helps the military take back Trost District . After being placed on trial for being a danger to the humans , he is taken in by the Survey Corps ' Special Operations Squad , led by Captain Levi .

In an expedition to Shinganshina , the Scouts are attacked by a Female Titan who attempts to capture Eren . Although the Scouts are able to briefly capture the Female Titan , she breaks free and devastates Levi 's squad , forcing the expedition to retreat . Armin determines that the Female Titan is Annie , one of the cadets who taught Eren to fight , and devises a plan to capture her at Stohess . During this operation , collateral damage reveals that Titans reside in and make up the walls surrounding the human settlements .

Some of Eren 's friends are also revealed to be able to transform into Titans and had been sent as spies by an unknown party to find something called " The Coordinate " . It is later confirmed that the Coordinate is the power to control other Titans at will , and that Eren holds that power . The royal family and the Military Police track Eren and his friend Krista Lenz , who is actually Historia Reiss , the successor to the real king , Rod Reiss , as the current king is but a figurehead .

The Survey Corps , losing all will to follow the current government , stage a successful rebellion to overthrow the monarchy , culminating with the death of Rod by the hands of his own daughter , who becomes the new queen . It is then revealed that the Reiss Family was responsible for the creation of the walls 100 years ago using the Coordinate , which was stolen by Eren 's father Grisha , who then transferred it to Eren 's body by turning him into a Titan before allowing his son to devour him . Eren also obtains a new power that allows him to create massive and permanent structures that the Survey Corps intend to use in order to seal the breach in Shinganshina and reclaim Wall Maria .

= = Production = =

Hajime Isayama created a 65 @-@ page one @-@ shot version of Attack on Titan in 2006 . Originally , he also offered his work to the Weekly Shōnen Jump department at Shueisha , where he was advised to modify his style and story to be more suitable for Jump . He declined and instead

decided to take it to the Weekly Shōnen Magazine department at Kodansha . Before serialization began in 2009 , he had already thought of ideas for twists , although they are fleshed out as the series progresses . The author initially based the scenery in the manga on that of his hometown , which is surrounded by mountains . While working at an internet cafe , Isayama encountered a customer who grabbed him by the collar . It was this incident that showed him " the fear of meeting a person I can 't communicate with , " which is the feeling that he conveys through the Titans . When designing the appearances of the Titans , he uses several models such as martial artist Yushin Okami for Eren Yeager 's Titan form as well as Brock Lesnar for the Armored Titan . George Wada , the anime 's producer , stated that the " Wall of Fear " was influenced by the isolated and enclosed nature of Japanese culture . He also said that the inner feelings of every individual is one of the series ' main influences . Isayama later would confirm that Attack on Titan was inspired in part by Muv @-@ Luv Alternative , the second visual novel in the Muv @-@ Luv visual novel series .

Isayama estimated his basic monthly timeline as one week to storyboard and three weeks to actually draw the chapter . The story is planned out in advance , even marking down in which collected volumes a specific " truth " will be revealed . In September 2013 , he stated that he is aiming to end the series in 20 collected volumes . Originally , Isayama planned to give the series a tragic conclusion similar to that of the film adaptation of Stephen King 's The Mist , where every character dies . However , positive response to the manga and anime has caused the author to contemplate changing the ending due to the impact it could have on fans .

= = Media = =

= = = Manga = = =

Hajime Isayama 's original manga serial , Attack on Titan commenced publication in Kodansha 's monthly publication Bessatsu Shōnen Magazine starting with the September 2009 issue . The first tankōbon collected volume was released on March 17 , 2010 . The most recent , volume 16 , was released on April 9 , 2015 . As of November 2014 , the manga had 45 million copies in print The series ' twelfth collected volume was given a first printing of 2 @.@ 2 million copies , making Attack on Titan one of only two manga series ever to get an initial print surpassing 2 million , the other being One Piece . Volume 13 has the highest initial first print of the series so far , with 2 @,@ 750 @,@ 000 copies . It is also the first print run record for its publisher , Kodansha .

A comedic spin @-@ off of the series , titled Attack on Titan : Junior High (??? ????? , Shingeki ! Kyojin Chōgakkō) and written by Saki Nakagawa , began serialization in Bessatsu Shōnen Magazine 's May 2012 issue . It follows the main characters as they battle the Titans while in junior high school . Another manga series based on the prequel light novels Attack on Titan : Before the Fall started running in Kodansha 's Monthly Shōnen Sirius from August 2013 , drawn by Satoshi Shiki . An additional spin @-@ off based on the No Regrets visual novel was serialized in the shōjo manga magazine Aria , titled Attack on Titan : No Regrets (????? ?????? , Shingeki no Kyojin : Kuinaki Sentaku) . It is written by Gun Snark and illustrated by Hikaru Suruga . It focuses on the origins of Captain Levi , one of the most prominent characters in the main series . A yonkoma spin @-@ off , called Spoof on Titan (????? , Sungeki no Kyojin , " Titan Short Skits ") and drawn by hounori , was released on Kodansha 's Manga Box smartphone and tablet application from December 2013 to December 30 , 2014 in both Japanese and English . A manga adaptation of Hiroshi Seko 's Attack on Titan : Lost Girls novel , written and illustrated by Ryōsuke Fuji , began publication in Bessatsu Shōnen Magazine on August 9 , 2015 .

In North America , the series is published in English by Kodansha Comics USA . They published the first volume on June 19 , 2012 , . The fifteenth was released on April 7 , 2015 . By July 2015 , the manga had 2 @.@ 5 million copies in circulation in North America . The first three spin @-@ off manga have also been licensed by Kodansha Comics USA , who published the first volume of each between March and June 2014 . It announced its license to Spoof on Titan at the New York Comic Con in October 2015 , and its acquisition of Lost Girls in March 2016 .

== = Novel = = =

A light novel series titled *Attack on Titan : Before the Fall* (????? Before the fall) , written by Ry? Suzukaze and illustrated by Thores Shibamoto , began on April 1 , 2011 . Its story is set before the events of the manga and it was published by Kodansha in three volumes . While the first tells the story of Angel , the blacksmith who develops the first prototypes of the Vertical Maneuvering Equipment , the following two follow a young man who was found as a baby in the stomach of a Titan . A second light novel series called *Attack on Titan : Harsh Mistress of the City* (????? ??????? , *Shingeki no Kyojin Kakuzetsu Toshi no Jo?*) , written by Ry? Kawakami and illustrated by Range Murata , began on August 1 , 2014 . Vertical began releasing the novels in North America in the summer of 2014 . A novel titled *Attack on Titan : Lost Girls* (????? Lost Girls) , written by Hiroshi Seko , was published on December 9 , 2014 . It comprises three short stories featuring Mikasa and Annie Leonhart , titled " Lost in the cruel world " , " Wall Sina , Goodbye " , and " Lost Girls " . It was also released in English by Vertical .

== = Anime = = =

An anime television series adaptation produced by Wit Studio (a subsidiary of IG Port) aired on MBS between April 7 , 2013 and September 29 , 2013 , directed by Tetsur? Araki with Y?ki Kaji starring as Eren , Yui Ishikawa voicing Mikasa and Marina Inoue as Armin . Both Funimation and Crunchyroll simulcast the series on their respective websites , and Funimation began releasing the series on North American home video in 2014 . The anime has been licensed in the UK by Manga Entertainment . Madman Entertainment acquired the show for distribution in Australia and New Zealand . The final episode was also aired in Japanese theaters . The anime had some production issues with needing more animators with Wit Studios ' character designer , Kyoji Asano tweeting and looking for active animators to work on the anime . An OVA version of the " Ilse 's Notebook " special chapter from tank?bon volume 5 was originally scheduled to be released on August 9 , 2013 , bundled with the volume 11 limited edition , but was postponed and included with a limited edition of volume 12 , released on December 9 , 2013 , instead . The OVA was bundled on subtitled DVD with the English limited edition release of the 17th manga volume , released on December 1 , 2015 . A second OVA was released on April 9 , 2014 , bundled with the 13th volume of the series , this one focused on the members of the 104th Training Corps . Two additional OVA episodes , based on the *Attack on Titan : No Regrets* prequel manga , were bundled with the 15th and 16th volumes of the main series , released on December 9 , 2014 and April 9 , 2015 , respectively . The anime previously aired on Adult Swim 's Toonami block . In Australia , the anime currently airs on SBS 2 on Tuesdays , in Japanese with English subtitles , with the first episode having aired on September 30 .

For the first thirteen episodes , the opening theme is " Guren no Yumiya " (????? , lit . " Crimson Bow and Arrow " , styled in German as " Feuerroter Pfeil und Bogen ") by Linked Horizon , and the ending theme is " Utsukushiki Zankoku na Sekai " (????????? , lit . " This Beautiful Cruel World ") by Y?ko Hikasa . For episodes 14 ? 25 , the opening theme is " Jiy? no Tsubasa " (????? , lit . " Wings of Freedom " , styled in German as " Die Fl?gel der Freiheit ") by Linked Horizon , and the ending theme is " great escape " by Cinema Staff . Both " Guren no Yumiya " and " Jiy? no Tsubasa " were released as part of the single " Jiy? e no Shingeki " on July 10 , 2013 .

The anime was compiled into two animated theatrical films with new voice acting from the same cast . The first film *Attack on Titan ? Part 1 : Crimson Bow and Arrow* (? ????? ? ? ? ????? ? , *Shingeki no Kyojin Zenpen ~ Guren no Yumiya ~*) covers the first 13 episodes and was released on November 22 , 2014 , while the second film *Attack on Titan ? Part 2 : Wings of Freedom* (? ????? ? ? ? ????? ? , *Shingeki no Kyojin K?hen ~ Jiy? no Tsubasa ~*) adapts the remaining episodes and adds new ending footage . It was released on June 27 , 2015 . A rebroadcast of the first season will be aired during January 9 on NHK 's BS Premium channel . A second season of the anime series was announced on the opening day of the first theatrical film , set to be released in 2016 , though

the premiere date was pushed back to April 2017 .

A television anime adaptation of the Attack on Titan : Junior High manga spin @-@ off began airing in October 2015 . The series is being directed by Yoshihide Ibata at Production I.G , with series composition by Midori Gotou , character design by Yuuko Yahiro , and music by Asami Tachibana . Linked Horizon will be back to do the opening theme " Youth Like Fireworks " . The ending theme , " Ground 's Counterattack " (" Hangeki no Daichi ") , is performed by the voice actors for Eren , Mikasa , and Jean . A rebroadcast of the series will be aired during January .

= = = Video games = = =

There have been four video game adaptations of Attack on Titan developed by Nitroplus staffers in collaboration with Production I.G. Nitroplus clarified that the studio as a company is not involved in the Attack on Titan Blu @-@ ray Disc games , while individual staffers are . The games are visual novels and were included in the first copies of the third and sixth Blu @-@ ray Disc volumes of the anime . The games cover spin @-@ off stories about the characters of Attack on Titan . Isayama supervised the development of the games .

The third Blu @-@ ray volume was released on September 18 with Seko 's Lost in the Cruel World visual novel about Mikasa , and a preview of Gun Snark 's No Regrets (?????? , Kuinaki Sentaku , lit . " A Choice with No Regrets ") . The sixth Blu @-@ ray volume was released on December 18 with the full version of No Regrets about Levi and Erwin 's past , Jin Haganeya 's visual novel In the Forest of the Night , Burning Bright about Eren and Levi , and Seko 's Wall Sina , Goodbye visual novel about Annie .

An action game , titled Attack on Titan : Humanity in Chains (????? ? ???? ? , Shingeki no Kyojin ~ Hangeki no Tsubasa ~ , subtitle lit . " Wings of Counterattack ") , was developed by Spike Chunsoft for the Nintendo 3DS and released in Japan on December 5 , 2013 , North America on May 12 , 2015 and Europe on July 2 , 2015 .

A smartphone social game , titled Attack on Titan : Howl Toward Freedom (Shingeki no Kyojin ~ Jiy? e no H?k? ~) is in development by Mobage for iOS and Android platforms . In the game , players play as a character who has been exiled from Wall Rose . Players must build and fortify a town outside the wall and expand it by manufacturing items as well as using Titans and exploiting resources from other players .

Additionally , Attack on Titan gameplay and merchandise has been featured in a crossover event with Nexon MMORPG MapleStory in its Japanese and GMS versions .

Another game , Attack on Titan , for PlayStation 4 , PlayStation 3 , and PlayStation Vita , published by Koei Tecmo and developed by Omega Force , was announced at Gamescom 2015 . It was released on February 18 , 2016 in Japan . Later was confirmed to be released worldwide along with PC and Xbox One versions .

Capcom are developing an Attack on Titan arcade game named Shingeki no Kyojin : Team Battle .

= = = Live @-@ action = = =

A live @-@ action film was announced to be in production in October 2011 . In December 2012 , it was reported that Tetsuya Nakashima left his position as director . According to film distributor Toho , Nakashima had considerable creative differences on the scriptwriting and other matters . In December 2013 , Shinji Higuchi was revealed to be directing , and would also be responsible with the special effects . Writer Y?suke Watanabe and critic / subculture expert Tomohiro Machiyama was announced to be scripting the movie with series creator Isayama . In July 2014 , it was revealed that two films will be released in the summer of 2015 . A teaser trailer for the first live @-@ action film was released in March 2015 . The following month , Toho released the second trailer for the first film , and announced the second installment will be called Attack on Titan : End of the World . In June 2015 , a third trailer for the first film was released , revealing the Three @-@ Dimensional Maneuvering Gear , as well as confirming the film will be released in IMAX theaters in Japan .

A live @-@ action miniseries , titled Shingeki no Kyojin : Hangeki no Noroshi (????? ???? , "

Attack on Titan : Beacon for Counterattack ") and utilizing the same actors as the films , started streaming on NTT DoCoMo 's online @-@ video service dTV on August 15 , 2015 . The three episode series focuses on Zoë Hange and her research of the Titans , as well as how the Vertical Maneuvering Equipment was created .

= = = Other media = = =

Two guidebooks to the manga titled Inside and Outside were released on April 9 and September 9 , 2013 , featuring concept art , character profiles and interviews . They were combined into one and released in North America on September 16 , 2014 , by Kodansha USA .

A 16 @-@ minute drama CD was created with the anime 's staff and included in the January 2014 issue of Bessatsu Shōnen Magazine .

On November 3 , 2014 , American writer C. B. Cebulski revealed that a crossover between Attack on Titan and Marvel Comics was in the works . Cebulski scripts the scenario written by the original author Hajime Isayama . The one @-@ shot crossover featured Spider @-@ Man , the Avengers and the Guardians of the Galaxy facing off against several Titans , including the Colossal Titan , the Armored Titan , and the Female Titan on the streets of New York City . During Free Comic Book Day 2015 , Marvel 's Secret Wars preview included an 8 @-@ page presentation " Attack on Avengers " by creator Hajime Isayama with art by Gerardo Sandoval . It was announced at the 2015 New York Comic @-@ Con that an American comic book titled Attack on Titan Anthology will be published .

From January 23 to May 10 , 2015 , Universal Studios Japan hosted attractions based on Attack on Titan . ? The Real ? Attack on Titan Experience features a life @-@ size 15 meter tall Eren titan engaging a 14 meter tall female titan in combat . Other attractions include a ground level titan , which visitors can pose with .

= = Reception = =

Attack on Titan won the Kodansha Manga Award in the shōnen category in 2011 , was nominated for the 4th Manga Taishō Award and both the 16th and 18th annual Tezuka Osamu Cultural Prize . The 2012 edition of Kono Manga ga Sugoi ! , which surveys people in the manga and publishing industry , named Attack on Titan the eighth best manga series for male readers , while the 2014 edition named it the sixth best . Attack on Titan was the top favorite manga for Yomiuri Shimbun 's Sugoi Japan Awards in 2015 . Attack on Titan was the second highest selling manga series of 2013 , with 15 @, @ 933 @, @ 801 copies sold in a single year . In April 2014 , Oricon reported that 30 million volumes of the series have been sold . In the first half of 2014 it topped the chart , ending One Piece 's five @-@ year reign as the highest selling series in that period , with Isayama surprised about it and thanking the readers . By the end of the year , it was the second best selling manga with 11 @, @ 728 @, @ 368 copies sold . In 2015 , the series sold 8 @, @ 778 @, @ 048 copies ranking third for the year . The manga 's publisher , Kodansha , credits Attack on Titan for the company 's first revenue increase in eighteen years . The anime is noted to have helped in boosting the series ' sales while Mainichi Shimbun called it a " once @-@ in @-@ a @-@ decade hit . "

Six of the seven English volumes published in North America at the time charted on The New York Times Manga Best Seller list for the week of October 13 , 2013 , and volume one was on the list for 81 weeks straight . In June 2015 , the first volume clocked in at its 100th week on the top 10 chart . Volume one was also number one on Nielsen BookScan 's list of top 20 graphic novels in American bookstores for October 2013 , and for the month of September , the series had more volumes on the list than any other series . The Young Adult Library Services Association in the United States named the series one of its " Great Graphic Novels for Teens " in 2013 . Kodansha USA 's English release won the 2014 Harvey Award for Best American Edition of Foreign Material . Attack on Titan was the only manga to be nominated for the 2015 Goodreads Choice Award for Best Graphic Novel / Comic .

Many have analyzed Attack on Titan as representing " the hopelessness felt by young people in

today 's society . " while writer Mao Yamawaki called it a " coming @-@ of @-@ age story of the boys and girls at its core , " with a new mystery every episode . It is these mysteries that critic Tomofusa Kure says amplifies readers ' expectations . The artwork of the manga has been criticized as crude by some reviewers , with Isayama himself admitting his drawings are " amateurish . " However , those same critics stated that after years of serialization , the art has been improving , and Kure believes that had the illustrations been " refined " , it would not have conveyed the " eeriness " that is a key characteristic of the work . In a short review , Jason Thompson noted how the characters conveniently receive " power @-@ ups " to create plot twists , but concluded that these said plot twists and the manga 's post @-@ apocalyptic world are " too good to miss . "

The anime has been very successful in Japan , with average sales of 52 @,@ 052 across 9 volumes , with a total of 468 @,@ 468 as of August 2015 . It was the number one selling TV anime of 2013 in Japan . It was also the number one streaming anime from Funimation in 2014 and the number one fan favorite Funimation home video released of 2014 . The anime adaptation won multiple prizes during the 3rd Newtype Anime Awards , including Best Director , Best Script , Best Soundtrack , Best Theme Song , Top Female Character and Title of the Year . It received the award for Best TV Animation at the 2013 Animation Kobe Awards . It received the award for Animation of the Year at the 2014 Tokyo Anime Award , along with , Best Director , Best Screenplay and Best Music . It won the 2013 Digital Contents of the Year Award at Japan 's 19th annual Association of Media in Digital (AMD) Awards . Carl Kimlinger from Anime News Network was sharply critical of the first two episodes of the anime adaptation . He did praise the show for " [bringing] back the terror of the fee @-@ fi @-@ fo @-@ fum set " , but then said that it " does not a good show make " . Kimlinger criticized Araki 's direction , saying he " clearly intends it to be powerful and unsettling , but it 's just crude and unpleasant . " On the other hand , other critics from Anime News Network praised much of the series . Rebecca Silverman said it " is both gorgeous and appalling in its visuals " , and " an excellent mix of what 18th century Gothic novelist Ann Radcliffe defined as horror versus terror : the one is physical , making you want to look away , and the other is intellectual , making you want to know what 's going to happen next . " Though there are several apocalyptic action shows , Carlo Santos noted that " few get as close to perfection as Attack on Titan does " . Santos described it as " a masterpiece of death and destruction " even if he only watched the first episode . Theron Martin of Anime News Network praised the musical score and the " intense , impactful first episode " despite his feeling that it has " limited animation " . Martin also compared Attack on Titan 's vibe and visual aesthetic to Claymore .

= = Political interpretations = =

The series has gained a strong popularity in not only Japan but also throughout the world . For instance , coverage of the anime appeared on the front page of the Hong Kong free newspaper am730 on May 27 , 2013 , concerning its popularity within Hong Kong as well as in China and Taiwan . However , the series also attracted criticism : the South Korean Electronic Times magazine accused Attack on Titan of having a militaristic message that serves Japanese Prime Minister Shinz? Abe 's political leanings ; while the series also resonated with Hong Kong youths who saw the invading Titans as a metaphor for Mainland China . Hong Kong media commentator Wong Yeung @-@ tat praised Isayama 's style and the versatility of Attack on Titan 's setting , which opens itself to readers ' various interpretations . In 2013 , after media linked to a 2010 blog post by Isayama indicating that the design of the character Dot Pixis was based on the Imperial Japanese General Akiyama Yoshifuru , an Internet flame war about the general 's war record (e.g. allowing the Port Arthur massacre to occur) ensued on his blog and included death threats to the author . Because many of the threats written in Japanese had grammatical errors , it is believed that they were written by people outside of Japan .