

= Endgame ( Megadeth album ) =

Endgame is the twelfth studio album by American thrash metal band Megadeth . It was released on September 15 , 2009 through Roadrunner Records and was produced by Dave Mustaine and Andy Sneap . Endgame was the first album to feature guitarist Chris Broderick , following Glen Drover 's departure in 2008 , and was the band 's last studio album with bassist James LoMenzo ; original bassist David Ellefson rejoined the band several months after the album 's release .

There are eleven tracks on the album , with lyrics inspired by subjects ranging from The Lord of the Rings and the financial crisis of 2007 ? 08 , to insanity , torture and crime . Two singles were released from the album : " Head Crusher " and " The Right to Go Insane " ; the former was nominated for " Best Metal Performance " at the 2010 Grammy Awards . Endgame entered the Billboard 200 at number nine , and reached number one on the U.S. Top Hard Rock Albums chart . As of April 2011 it has sold about 150 @, @ 000 copies in the U.S. The album received generally positive reviews from music critics , and was thought to continue the success of the band 's previous album , United Abominations ( 2007 ) .

= = Writing and recording = =

On May 27 , 2009 , Megadeth frontman and guitarist Dave Mustaine confirmed twelve songs were complete and the group was currently mixing and mastering the record . The first preview from Endgame was a six @-@ minute video featuring Sneap describing the process of mixing " Head Crusher " at his studio in Derbyshire , England . In the video , he called the upcoming album " old @-@ school " . Endgame was recorded at the band 's studio , " Vic 's Garage " , in San Marcos , California . The track listing was initially revealed on July 2 , 2009 , although several track titles were later shortened for the final release . The album was produced by Andy Sneap , who also produced Megadeth 's previous album , United Abominations .

Mustaine said of the album : " It is fast , it is heavy , there is singing , yelling , speaking , and guest voices ( maybe not singing ? more like in " Captive Honour " ) , the soloing is insane . " He described it as a riff @-@ oriented album , less melodic than the band 's mid @-@ to @-@ late 90s material . Mustaine had saved a number of old rehearsal tapes , which were used as the album 's starting point . The band members had online chats with fans on their website while recording , which according to Mustaine , helped lift the band 's enthusiasm .

= = = Title = = =

On the September 10 , 2009 edition of the Alex Jones Show , Jones suggested the title and cover of Endgame was inspired by the film Endgame , which he wrote and directed . Jones stated he had sent Mustaine a copy of the film after Mustaine made an appearance on the Alex Jones Show in 2008 . This was later confirmed by Mustaine in a subsequent appearance on Jones ' show .

= = Release and promotion = =

Megadeth finished recording the album on May 19 , and on June 18 , the album title was announced to be Endgame . The cover artwork was released online on July 27 , 2009 . John Lorenzi , who designed the cover for United Abominations , returned for the album cover for Endgame The release date for Endgame was announced on the Megadeth official website as September 15 , 2009 , and Metal Hammer was the first to review the album track by track . A week after its release , the album had sold 45 @, @ 000 copies in the United States and 8 @, @ 200 copies in Canada , debuting at number nine on the Billboard 200 , one place lower than the debut of United Abominations in 2007 . The album placed first on the Hard Rock Albums chart and second on the Rock Albums chart .

On May 10 , 2009 , Mustaine announced on TheLiveLine that some music from Megadeth would appear in the film Land of the Lost to help promote Endgame . Whether the music was to be from

the album was not clear . During the message Mustaine left on TheLiveLine , it was stated there was new music playing in the background of the message . Ultimately , parts of the song " The Right To Go Insane " , can be heard near the end of the film . Another song from the album , " This Day We Fight ! " , was used as a playable song on Guitar Hero : Warriors of Rock . As promotion for Endgame , Megadeth performed " Head Crusher " on the September 17 , 2009 , edition of Late Night with Jimmy Fallon .

Megadeth toured in support of the album , beginning in Grand Rapids , Michigan , in November 2009 and ending on December 13 , in Las Vegas , Nevada . The tour featured Machine Head , Suicide Silence , Warbringer , and Arcanium . Megadeth , Slayer , and Testament were set to embark on the American Carnage tour on January 18 , but it was postponed until summer due to Slayer frontman Tom Araya 's undergoing back surgery .

= = Songs = =

Endgame 's lyrical themes are diverse . " This Day We Fight ! " drew inspiration by Aragorn 's plea to his fighters from the Lord of the Rings trilogy . " 44 Minutes " is about the North Hollywood shootout of 1997 and the title is derived from the film 44 Minutes : The North Hollywood Shoot @-@ Out based on the event . " 1 @, @ 320 " was written about nitro fuel funny cars . Mustaine said " Bite the Hand " was written " about the greed of the fiduciary leaders of the financial world and how they just didn 't care about the responsibility they had to the public . " The title track was written " about a bill that ex @-@ President George W. Bush signed into law that gave him the power to put American citizens in detention centers here in the United States " .

" The Hardest Part of Letting Go ? Sealed With a Kiss " is a two @-@ part song which Mustaine wrote for his wife . PopMatters reviewer Adrien Begrand called it a " twisted love song " . " Head Crusher " , describes the medieval torture device of the same name . Mustaine said " How The Story Ends " was inspired by the teachings of Sun Tzu . Begrand describes " The Right to Go Insane " as " [ Mustaine 's ] usual ' I ? m slowly going nuts ' shtick " ; however , Mustaine stated the song was " about having been wiped out , like so many Americans , from the recession and potential depression years of 2000 [ sic ] " .

= = = Singles = = =

The album 's lead single was " Head Crusher " . According to Roadrunner Records ' website , a download of " Head Crusher " was available for 24 hours on July 7 , starting at 11 : 00 AM Eastern Time Zone . The availability of the download ended the morning of July 8 . The track was previously available for listening by calling Dave Mustaine 's number through the TheLiveLine.com , a service he launched that enables musicians to connect to their audience over the phone . The song was nominated for " Best Metal Performance " at the 52nd annual Grammy Awards ? the band 's first Grammy nomination since the 1997 song " Trust " ? and received a music video directed by Bill Fishman .

The second single , " The Right to Go Insane " , was released eight months later . A music video for it was released in April 2010 and featured then @-@ recently @-@ returned bass player David Ellefson . The video 's plot is roughly based on the story of Shawn Nelson , an unemployed plumber who rampaged through San Diego in a stolen M60 Patton tank . The video premiered at a show in Austin , Texas on March 26 during the anniversary tour for Rust in Peace . The song hit position 34 on the Hot Mainstream Rock Tracks .

= = Critical reception = =

Endgame received generally positive reviews from critics . Stephanie Burkett from BBC Music said the album is " their most reliable and proficient album since Rust in Peace . " She also noted that Megadeth " are once again asserting their right to be considered one of the best and most consistent heavy metal groups on the planet . " Chad Bowar of About.com awarded four and a half

stars saying , " Megadeth is still at the top of their game . Endgame has some old @-@ school moments , but also modern ones . 2007 ? s United Abominations garnered a lot of critical praise and was on many year @-@ end best of lists that year ... Endgame is even better . " AllMusic 's Eduardo Rivadavia said " Megadeth 's second release for Roadrunner , Endgame , whose title apparently refers to " coming full circle " rather than any sort of goodbye , and finds the latest iteration of Megadeth ? debuting new guitarist Chris Broderick ( ex @-@ Nevermore , Jag Panzer ) ? working primarily within their technical thrash comfort zone ( think Peace Sells through Rust in Peace ) , with only a few latter @-@ day elements and rare experimental diversions . "

Adrien Begrand of Popmatters noted " not a moment is wasted on Endgame " and said " it 's all due to Mustaine sticking to his strengths , and with the extraordinarily talented Broderick as his new wingman , the record positively scorches with an intensity we haven ? t heard since Rust in Peace . With its furious back @-@ and @-@ forth solos , opening instrumental ' Dialectic Chaos ' wastes no time in showcasing that dynamic between Mustaine and Broderick , and combined with the pure speed of ' This Day We Fight ! ' , longtime fans will be instantly reminded of the bracing ' Into the Lungs of Hell ' / ' Set the World Afire ' one @-@ two punch that kicks off 1988 's great So Far , So Good ... So What ! . " Mark Eglinton of The Quietus described the album as " a return to form " for Megadeth . Rock guitarist Slash gave a favorable review to Endgame via Twitter . Also , Q gave the album three stars out of five and said : " Endgame starts with an instrumental before hitting the kind of rhythms that once earned Megadeth the tag ' state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art speed @-@ metal @-@ band ' . "

Endgame has since been regarded as a high point of the band 's later career . It follows upon two well @-@ received predecessors , while the band started to change its musical direction on the following two albums . In 2013 , WhatCulture included Endgame as number five on its " Top 5 Megadeth albums " list , behind Killing is My Business ... and Business is Good ! .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Dave Mustaine except where noted .

= = Personnel = =

Production and performance credits are adapted from the album liner notes .

= = Chart performance = =