



Title: [The Evil Empire Of Everything](#)

Artist: [Public Enemy](#)

Label: Eastlink / Enemy Records Earth

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Following the summer 2012 debut of [Most of My Heroes Still Don't Appear On No Stamp](#), immortal rap act [Public Enemy](#) released their 12th studio album entitled *The Evil Empire of Everything*. Self-dubbed by Chuck D as the fraternal twin brother to *Most of My Heroes*, the two albums would likely have wound up as a double-LP concept album back in the day, since each part represents a different side of the same coin.

Rather than continuing the rolling boom-bap from *Most of My Heroes*, part two begins with a somber turn in the form of an epitaph to Trayvon Martin on the opening track "The Evil Empire Of...", which remixes the initial report from George Zimmerman while Chuck D delivers a sermon-like homage to the young man. Right off the bat, it's clear that Public Enemy stands firmly behind Martin and has dutifully spread their respect throughout the album to ensure his memory lives on. While tastefully expressing their concerns with the racial implications behind the case, Chuck D and Flavor Flav are supported by an army of featured artists including NME Sun, Ziggy Marley, Tom Morello, Davy DMX, and Rampage.

Don't assume for one second that because of the delicate subject matter, this album doesn't bring the same PE thump you've come to expect. Like all Public Enemy albums to date, the issues are preached in a lively call to arms by Chuck D, who ferociously brings the noise from start to finish. The beat makers behind *The Evil Empire of Everything* also seem to be heavily influenced by the tried-and-true beat formula of the original masterminds behind early Public Enemy, enabling a retro-inspired feel behind the instrumentals.

Some individual track highlights include ["31 Flavors"](#) where acclaimed hype-man Flavor Flav is given plenty of room to show the world he can still bring the house down as he injects pure energy in his still lightning-quick verses, giving the album an uplifting bump midway through. [2 \(resPEct\)](#) also brings back the scratching and high-caliber production you've been craving courtesy of Davy DMX in one of the album's most banging tracks. On ["Beyond Trayvon"](#) NME Sun joins in to throw the facts of Trayvon/Zimmerman back in your face in a smooth and rhetorically playful proclamation that race-based violence and prejudice cannot continue beyond Trayvon and that as human beings we need to stand together against injustice. But as long as this tragic injustice exists, Public Enemy is given more ammunition to fight for their causes. *The Evil Empire of Everything* does as such, and the powerful messages PE delivers here are definitely not lessons to miss.

Reviewed by Patrick Brown

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