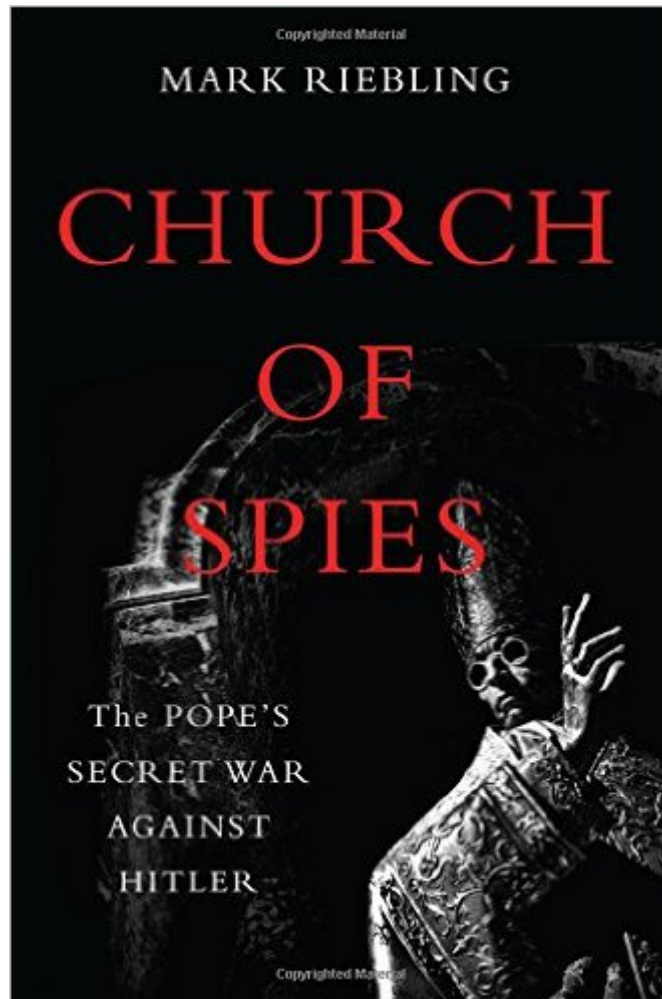


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Church Of Spies: The Pope's Secret War Against Hitler



Synopsis

Vatican silence on Nazi crimes is fiercely debated. History has accused wartime pontiff Pius the Twelfth of complicity in the Holocaust and dubbed him "Hitler's Pope." But a key part of the story has remained untold. Pius ran the world's largest church, smallest state, and oldest spy service. Sainly but secretive, he skimmed from church charities to pay covert couriers, and surreptitiously tape-recorded his meetings with top Nazis. When he learned of the Holocaust, Pius played his cards close to his chest. He sent birthday cards to Hitler--while plotting to overthrow him. Church of Spies documents this cross-and-dagger intrigue in shocking detail. Gun-toting Jesuits stole blueprints to Hitler's homes. A Catholic book publisher flew a sports plane over the Alps with secrets filched from the head of Hitler's bodyguard. The keeper of the Vatican crypt ran a spy ring that betrayed German war plans and wounded Hitler in a briefcase bombing. The plotters made history in ways they hardly expected. They inspired European unification, forged a U.S.-Vatican alliance that spanned the Cold War, and challenged Church teachings on Jews. Yet Pius's secret war muted his public response to Nazi crimes. Fearing that overt protest would impede his covert actions, he never spoke the "fiery words" he wanted. Told with heart-pounding suspense, based on secret transcripts and unsealed files, Church of Spies throws open the Vatican's doors to reveal some of the most astonishing events in the history of the papacy. "[E]xciting.... deals fairly with the pope's theological and political rationale.... thoroughly documented with primary sources... Church of Spies is the best account of the subject to date. Amen!" - CIA Studies in Intelligence (Unclassified Edition)

Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: Basic Books (September 29, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0465022294

ISBN-13: 978-0465022298

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (125 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #20,494 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Biographies > Popes & the Vatican #28 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church Leadership #50 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics &

Customer Reviews

Until fairly recently the general consensus, scholarly and otherwise, has been that Pius XII was very remiss during WWII in not opposing the Nazi genocide of Jews and others openly. Except for defensive Catholics and conservative Catholics, some of whom have poor records of regarding Jews with evangelical compassion, the general explanation included these possible reasons: Pius was pro-German, he had spent many years in Germany prior to becoming a leading Vatican official during the pontificate of Pius XI and never lost his sympathy for Germany. Pius was mostly concerned with the threat of Bolshevism and the Soviet Union to Europe, to the Church, and indeed to civilization at large, therefor preferring a Nazi victory as a lesser of evils. Pius had the normative anti-semitism of the Catholic Church and did not put the welfare of the threatened Jews anyway near the top of his concerns. In the scandalous but popular play *Der Stellvertreter* (The Deputy) by Rolf Hochhuth in the post war period every one of these explanations was fashioned together to condemn Pius XII directly and the Roman Catholic Church indirectly in the tragedies of the Second World War. The books by John Cornwell, Susan Zuccotti, and David Kertzer have also worked to find Pius XII guilty as charged. Cornwell called his book on this subject *HITLER'S POPE*. Here we have some up to date research, new research, demonstrating without much doubt that Pope Pius XII participated both directly and indirectly in the many plots for the removal and even murder of Adolf Hitler and did all he could to help those targeted by the Nazis for death, principally the Jews and also the Polish intellectual elite which included the Polish clergy.

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