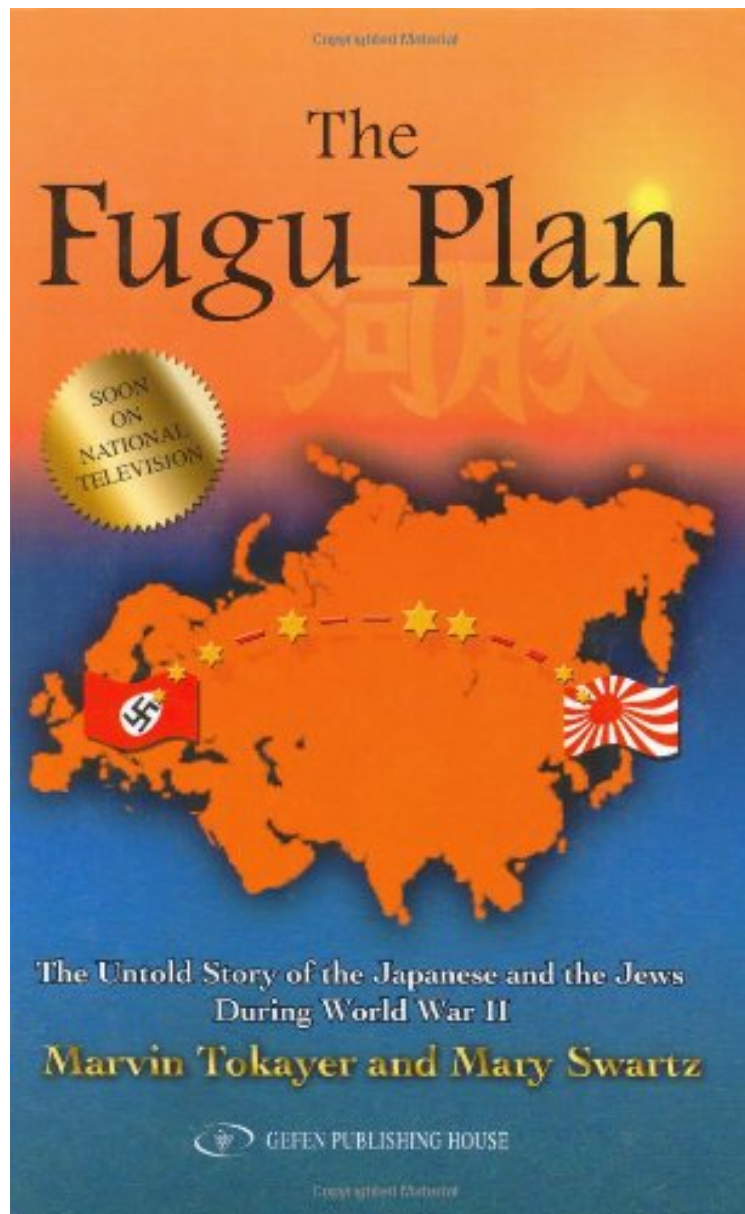


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The Fugu Plan: The Untold Story Of The Japanese And The Jews During World War II

Marvin Tokayer, Mary Swartz
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Marvin Tokayer, Mary Swartz : The Fugu Plan: The Untold Story Of The Japanese And The Jews During World War II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fugu Plan: The Untold Story Of The Japanese And The Jews During World War II:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Important StoryBy Charlottekrn BookfairThe Fugu Plan, centers on the little known historic event of Japans rescue of European Jews. During WW II, the majority of countries in the world closed their borders to Jews fleeing to escape Nazi Germany, and German occupied Europe. Jewish leaders, with the help of Japanese government officials, saved thousands of Jews.Though the Germans pursued plans of the annihilation of Jews, the Japanese allowed no harassment of Jews inside their borders. However, Tokayer also makes clear the differences in which the Japanese, government officials or police, treated foreigners inside of Japan, with respect and civility and outside of Japan, as subhuman and inferior.The book reads quickly as the author provides an interesting, informative and historically accurate work with historic figures as well as composite characters.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I had no idea this thing happened and the authors made a good job, trough the words of manyBy GonzaAn hidden historical fact that connects the Jews and the Japanese, and the plan to save as many as they could from Hitler's Germany. I had no idea this thing happened and the authors made a good job, trough the words of many, of recollecting and tell the tale.Un fatto storico che mi era sconosciuto, e scommetto anche di non essere la sola, che collega gli Ebrei con i Giapponesi, che mettono in atto un piano per salvarne il pi possibile dalle leggi razziali promulgate da Hitler. Non avevo idea che una cosa del genere fosse successa e gli autori ritengo facciano un buon lavoro nel raccontare la storia attraverso le voci di molti.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Story of Courage and CompassionBy BaronessI read this book some twenty years ago and since having lived in Tokyo for a number of years it was a subject of great interest to me.This is a heartwarming story of courage and compassion by the Japanese Consul Sugihara in Kovno, Latvia. Sugihara uses the samauri maxim "even a hunter cannot kill a bird which flies to him for refuge" as justification for his actions against the commands of his superior at the Foreign Ministry. Thus begins the journey and salvation for thousands of Jews fleeing Europe in 1939.This is a story you will not forget, it will come to haunt you again and again and one you will wish to share with friends.

If someone who is rich and powerful comes to you for a favor, you don't persecute him you help him. Having such a person indebted to you is a great insurance policy. There was one nation that did treat the Jews as if they were powerful and rich. The Japanese never had much exposure to Jews, and knew very little about them. In 1919 Japan fought alongside the anti-Semitic White Russians against the Communists. At that time the White Russians introduced the Japanese to the book, The Protocols of the Elders of Zion. The Japanese studied the book and, according to all accounts, naively believed its propaganda. Their reaction was immediate and forceful they formulated a plan to encourage Jewish settlement and investment into Manchuria. People with such wealth and power as the Jews possess, the Japanese determined, are exactly the type of people with whom we want to do business!"

In all the literature of the Holocaust and of World War II, the story of the European Jews who fled across the world to the unlikely haven of Japan has remained untold -- until now. The Fugu Plan: The Untold Story Of The Japanese And The Jews During World War Two is a powerful narrative which follows a group of these refugees throughout their journey across Stalin's Russia, their experiences in Japan, and their struggle for survival in an Asian ghetto. Interwoven with this moving saga are the details of an astounding top-secret plan to create an "Israel in Asia" under Japanese control by offering displaced European Jews a safe haven in Manchuria in return for the financial and technical skills they would bring to this outpost of the Japanese Empire. Although this so-called "Fugu Plan" would founder with Japan's entry into the Tripartite Pact with Nazi Germany and Italy in 1940, its legacy, as the Holocaust swept over Europe, was the survival of thousands of Jews issued Japanese transit visas and given wartime refuge in Asia. That they survived at all is testimony to the courage of many individuals, both Japanese and Jews, whose stories are told here -- and to the seeds planted by the unlikely vision embodied in The Fugu Plan. An important and vital addition to the Judaic studies collection about an almost unknown aspect of the holocaust experience. -- Midwest Book Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.INTRODUCTION TO THE CURRENT EDITION Twenty-five years have passed since The Fugu Plan first appeared. In 1979, so little was known of Japans plan to resettle up to a million European Jewish refugees in its puppet state of Manchukuo that the New York Times published a news story about the book. Now, the fugu plan is widely recognized as one of the few positive, if strange, twists in the tortured fate of European Jewry. Over these years, one person has come to be the human face of the fugu plan: Chiune Sugihara. From November 1939 to September 1940, Sugihara was officially the Japanese consul in Kovno (or "Kaunas"), Lithuania. In reality, Sugihara had been sent to Kovno to gather intelligence about Soviet and German troop movements in the area. Because he was there, however, and because of who he was, Sugihara became one of the crucial players in the fugu plan -- a scheme that, by the wars end, would save the lives of thousands of Jews, as well as the entire Mir Yeshiva, whose scholars would survive to inspire a new era of Jewish learning in the U.S. and Israel. Books and articles in English, Japanese, Hebrew and Chinese, running the gamut from scholarly to mass-appeal, are now being written about Sugihara "the Japanese angel". In Japan, the name Sugihara has become a symbol of one who takes care of others. His life is the subject of a secondary school English language text. A plaque at the gaimusho, the Japanese Foreign Ministry, commemorates his humanitarianism, in spite of the fact that he had disregarded orders from his superiors. In Israel, Sugihara is honored by Yad Vashem among the "Righteous of the Nations". And in the

spring of this year, PBS will air, nationwide, an award-winning documentary, "Conspiracy of Kindness" about Sugiharas life and the lives of a few of the many people he saved. Over the past 25 years, we have learned a great deal about this man. Chiune (or Senpo, he used either of two first names) Sugihara was born with the century, on January 1, 1900, and was raised in the bushido/samurai philosophy of his mothers family. Though his father in pre-war Japan, the unquestioned authority in such matters -- directed him to study law, Sugiharas own interests were in foreign languages and cultures. Circumventing his father, he applied to the gaimusho and was sent to Harbin, Manchuria, to study Russian. For the next ten years, Sugihara remained in Manchuria, marrying and later divorcing a Russian woman, and only rarely returning to Japan for brief visits. Starting with his posting to Lithuania in 1939, he spent eight years in Europe, going wherever the gaimusho saw fit to move him: Berlin, Prague, Konigsberg, and finally, at the wars end, Bucharest, Romania. There, he was arrested by the incoming Soviet forces and, with his wife and three children, interned for two years before being allowed to return to Japan. In post-war Tokyo, there was little work available for a former, low-level diplomat. Sugihara managed to keep his family together only with small jobs that made use of his language skills. He worked intermittently at the American PX; he served as an announcer for the foreign language bureau of NHK, Japans national radio; he free-lanced translation and interpreting services; and finally, in an almost unbelievable quirk of fate, he was hired by a Ginza clothing store whose owner, Anatole Ponve, had been one of the leaders of the Kobe Jewish community which had cared for the Sugihara refugees when they first arrived in Japan in 1940. But in spite of seeing Ponve virtually every day, Sugihara never mentioned his own role in the rescue of the Jewish refugees. I asked him about that a few years before he died. "I never knew what happened to the refugees," he said. "I never knew if they got past the Soviet Union, if they actually came to Japan, if they ever found safety. I didnt want to discuss it because perhaps I had only led them to their death. I was afraid to bring it up." Did he know, I wondered, about the fugu plan? "I only knew about that when you told me. If I had known, it would have been much easier for me. I wouldnt have felt the sole burden of responsibility for issuing the visas." Finally, I asked him the one crucial question: Why did he do it? To the best of anyones knowledge, before July 1940 Sugihara had never had any personal contact with Jews. Why, then, did he risk his career and possibly his life to save the lives of these refugees? He looked at me as if he didnt really understand the question. "I just did what we as human beings should do. One of my best teachers, in Harbin, once told me: You do the right thing because it is the right thing. Not for gain. Not for recognition. Just because it is the right thing. The refugees were people who needed my help. I could give help to them. It was the right thing to do. That's all." In the midst of the horror of 1940, it was the extreme good fortune of thousands of Jewish refugees, and tens of thousands of their descendants, that a rare man such as Sugihara was there when their lives depended on it. Marvin Tokayer 2004