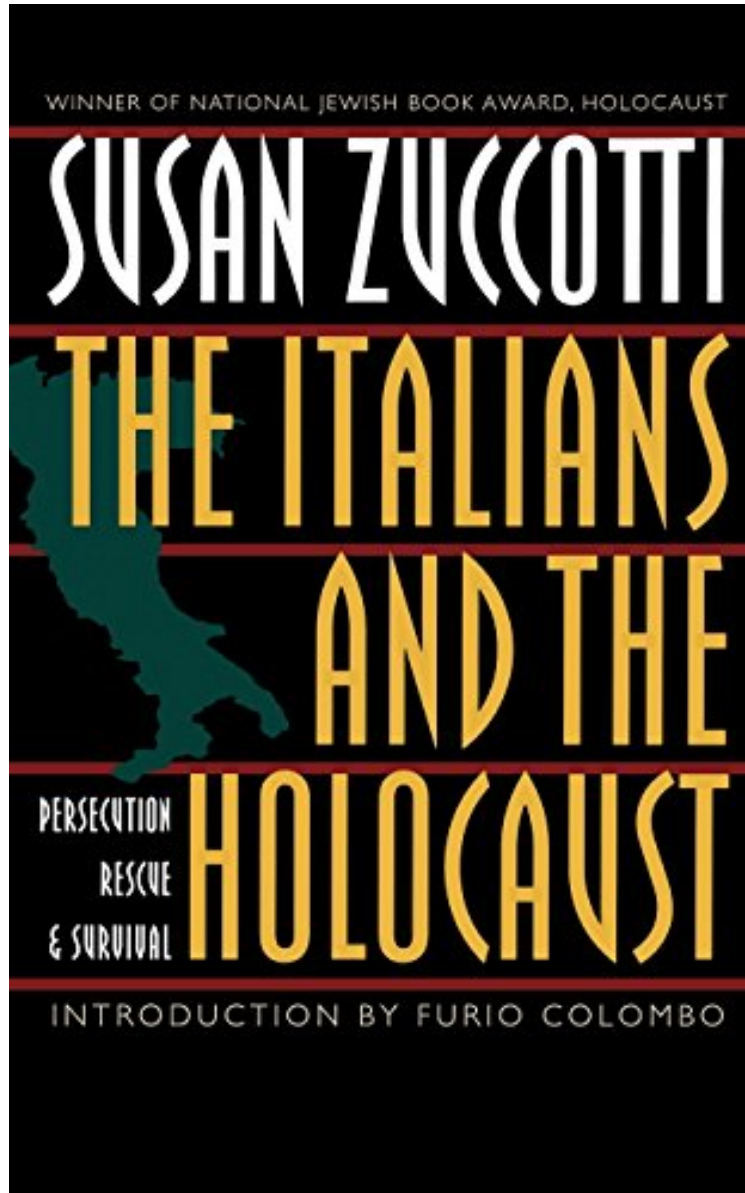


(Ebook free) The Italians and the Holocaust: Persecution, Rescue, and Survival

The Italians and the Holocaust: Persecution, Rescue, and Survival

Susan Zuccotti

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Susan Zuccotti : The Italians and the Holocaust: Persecution, Rescue, and Survival before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Italians and the Holocaust: Persecution, Rescue, and Survival:

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I explore about Holocaust in History of Italy in my fact-finding search as our U.S. History didn't reveal to me about facts in honesty. Recently, I have been able to find more about truth in new discoveries in a fact. Chassah0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Important History Lesson By Lucy M. This was a history lesson I needed to have. We all know about the horrors that were executed at the hands of the Nazis, but Italy's role is less known. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Quite thorough By Curious Limitations will easily exist for the historian who tries to reconstruct an episode of time that has such adverse implications as the Shoah. Victims may be somewhat unreliable, having perhaps repressed the worst and in some cases the worst has been taken from the historian with the deaths of the most maltreated. A few may have gilded the business a bit, while others may have put the best face on it, out of a need to 'live with circumstances' as they can best tolerate the memories. The antagonists, or persecutors, have clear reasons for either hiding from detection or avoiding cooperation in adding to the narrative. These limitations to single episodes are compounded in a collective review of such episodes. Within this framework, Zuccotti's presentation is as clear and useful as a collection of various anecdotes can be said to be. There is some statistical effort, but this is limited to data the Nazis had which was irrefutable, though limited. Those who helped Jews (or Communists or other at risk groups such as Romani) are noted episodically as well. If there is some weakness, it is in the limitation of coverage of the less-ill treated in some of the southern Italian internment facilities. While these individuals were under limited house arrest, and escaped the worst, they probably represented a small minority (perhaps only a few thousand at the most), though nonetheless some acknowledgement of their relative number and situation could have been given a few pages. It has been the case that what history was to be had is vanishing as the survivors and their immediate families have died off or have lost ability to relate history. Given this, Zuccotti's opus is likely to be the most useful source available for evaluation of the Shoah in the Italian region.

Eighty-five percent of Italy's Jews survived World War II. Nevertheless, more than six thousand Italian Jews were destroyed in the Holocaust and the lives of countless others were marked by terror. Susan Zuccotti relates hundreds of stories showing the resourcefulness of the Jews, the bravery of those who helped them, and the inhumanity and indifference of others. For Zuccotti, the Holocaust in Italy began when the first black-shirted thug poured a bottle of castor oil down the throat of his victim, or when the dignity of a single human being was violated. She writes: We might examine again how most Italians behaved from the onset of fascism. . . . Did they do as much as they could? Or should they, and the Jews as well, have recognized the danger sooner, with the first denial of liberty and free speech? We might also ask ourselves whether we, as creatures without prejudice, would act as well as most Italians did under similar pressures. Would we risk our lives for persecuted minorities? Would we be more sensitive to the first assaults upon our liberties, when the only ones really hurt in the beginning are Communists, Socialists, democratic anti-Fascists, and trade unionists? And finally, we might be more aware than we are of the horrors that a racist lunatic fringe can commit, even in the best of societies.

From Publishers Weekly Historian Zuccotti's excellently researched and vividly written study is loaded with poignant or inspiring accounts derived from interviews with Jewish-Italian survivors of the Holocaust in Italy and from unpublished sources. The book, her first, takes its place among other authentic Holocaust histories and will be praised for its evenhanded and wide-ranging analysis of Italian history and culture, and how these affected the response of masses of Italians, whether in hiding or rescuing persecuted Jewish Italians especially after Mussolini set up "racial" laws in 1938, and his alliance with Hitler led to his own downfall and Nazi occupation. An estimated 85 percent of Jewish Italians survived the Holocaust; 6000-plus perished. Zuccotti credits warm Italian humanness and the historic Italian contempt for authority along with timing with this brave showing. Photos. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Eighty-five percent of Italy's tiny and highly assimilated Jewish minority survived the Holocaust, which began in earnest with the German occupation in late 1943. The relative lack of anti-Semitism, general disgust with the war and Fascism, and the problematic role of the Vatican are among a host of complex factors for which the author provides careful and documented analysis. It is however the personal testimony of the survivors and those who aided them that actually explains the survival of most and, similarly, the murder of thousands. Human actions are recalled in their basest and most noble forms and provide this gripping narrative with a devastating sense of reality. The only general account available in English and an important contribution to Holocaust studies. Recommended for academic and public libraries. William Young, State University of New York at Albany Library Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A careful historical account linked to personal narratives." New York Times Book