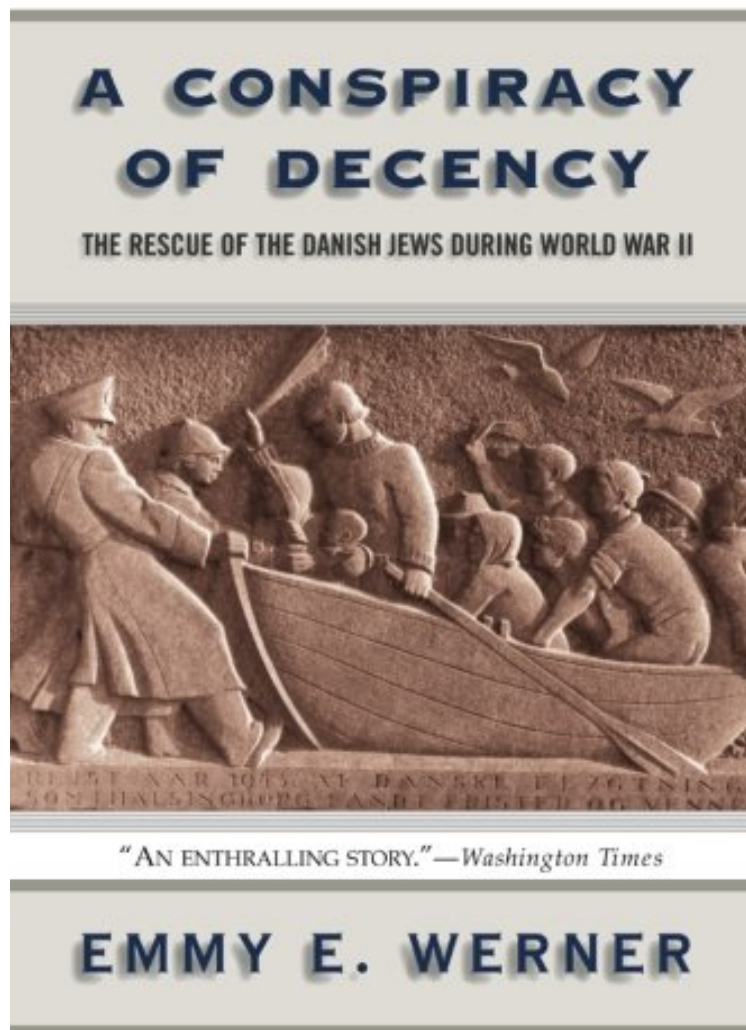


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# A Conspiracy Of Decency: The Rescue Of The Danish Jews During World War II

*Emmy E. Werner*

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**Emmy E. Werner : A Conspiracy Of Decency: The Rescue Of The Danish Jews During World War II** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Conspiracy Of Decency: The Rescue Of The Danish Jews During World War II:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Treat yourself...read this one!By Darlene T.I wanted to send this type of book to our nieces and nephews (all adults) as a Christmas gift because the action of many in Denmark and Sweden deserves to be remembered as does the need for such courage and decency. We have visited the Museum of the Resistance and seen a heavy full length coat riddled with bullet holes - the coat of a Resistance fighter. Not one bullet struck him as he ran. This book reveals the decency of the Danes, the Swedes and some of the Germans who "didn't see" the escapees and one who warned the Danes that the SS would start removing Jewish citizens of Denmark. His warning provided the time needed to accomplish the rescue.America lacks the record of helping refugees early in WW II. May we never face another failure such as the refusal to admit passengers on the liner, St. Louis, to disembark here even though many were refugees from Nazi terrors. The cause was the national fear of additional unemployment due to the Depression. Yes, times here were tough but nothing compared to the horror that Europe faced .The information regarding the author's preparatory work on this book is particularly interesting as well. As a former bookstore owner I read a fascinating study by Professor Oliner (U Cal, Davis) on altruism, particularly as regarded actions in the war. It was especially interesting to see his work referenced here. What was it, indeed, that moved people to action to help others when there would be only danger to themselves in so doing? Don't miss it.A Conspiracy of Decency will probably make you want to Thank every Dane and Swede! Bless them!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An amazing true readBy JONJORJNo one could read this and not be moved by the courage of the ordinary day to day citizens of Denmark. I have visited Denmark a few times, always had a lovely holiday, but, if I ever get to go again, I will be looking through different eyes. In a small country swallowed up by the Nazis in the War, the Danish citizens displayed courage way beyond anyone would have expected. Not only that but they openly despised the occupying Troops, to the point that even the Germans developed a grudging respect for the Danes, and developed selective eyesight or turned their backs when certain things went wrong. A must read. It illustrates just what a lot of "little" people can do, if they have the courage to do so. A must read, and I know I will read it again in the future,2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. UpliftingBy RussFinally, someone in World War 2 that retained control of their senses and didn't fall for the National Socialist lies about Jews. A very inspiring story about how Denmark reacted when the Germans announced that their friends, neighbours, and co-workers were to be rounded up and packed off to Germany. They hid them and ferried them across to neutral Sweden. The Swedes were very accommodating as well - far better in fact than the US or Canada, who summarily rejected all of the Jewish passengers on the ship The St. Louis. Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King on record as saying (about the Jews) "Even one is too many". This book recounts a little known part of World War 2 history. Well worth reading.

The people of Denmark managed to save almost their country's entire Jewish population from extinction in a spontaneous act of humanity one of the most compelling stories of moral courage in the history of World War II. Drawing on many personal accounts, Emmy Werner tells the story of the rescue of the Danish Jews from the vantage-point of living eyewitnesses- the last survivors of an extraordinary conspiracy of decency that triumphed in the midst of the horrors of the Holocaust. A Conspiracy of Decency chronicles the acts of people of good will from several nationalities. Among them were the German Georg F. Duckwitz, who warned the Jews of their impending deportation, the Danes who hid them and ferried them across the Oresund, and the Swedes who gave them asylum. Regardless of their social class, education, and religious and political persuasion, the rescuers all shared one important characteristic: they defined their humanity by their ability to act with great compassion. These people never considered themselves heroes they simply felt that they were doing the right thing.

From Publishers WeeklyAlthough it doesn't bring previously undisclosed events to light, this history of the Holocaust in Denmark offers a wealth of first-person material, placed within a factually accurate, well-crafted text. The Danes gave a famously cold shoulder to the Germans when they invaded in 1940, and secretly evacuated 7,000 Danish Jews to Sweden when the Germans ordered them deported in 1943. Werner (Reluctant Witnesses), a developmental psychologist and research professor at University of California, Davis, uses accessible concepts (such as people of "good will") to convey what happened, and gives careful accounts of the roles of the Danish Lutheran church, the universities and the large Copenhagen hospital Bispebjerg in speaking out against deportation, and mobilizing when it was imminent. Werner devotes a chapter to the refugees' actual passage northward, and a chapter to their reception in Sweden, where some found employment. More than 450 Jews were captured by the Germans and sent to Theresienstadt (the so-called "show place" concentration camp in Czechoslovakia); they were exempted from extermination as a result of tireless Danish lobbying. Werner includes their experiences, as well as those of Jews hidden in Denmark, and of members of the Danish resistance. She concludes by surveying various studies of rescuers and bystanders during the Holocaust, attempting to distill motivations for action or inaction. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistWhen the German army invaded Denmark on April 9, 1940, the Danes quickly surrendered. King Christian remained on the throne, however, and most aspects of prewar civilian life remained intact for nearly three-and-one-half years of the subsequent occupation. Then, in late September 1943, when Denmark's 6,500 Jews were threatened with deportation, Danish resistance fighters began ferrying them to Sweden,

where they were given asylum. Drawing on personal and eyewitness accounts, Werner chronicles the Danes' spontaneous outpouring of support for the Jews as well as efforts by the Swedes to provide the refugees with shelter. She also describes the plight of 461 Danish Jews sent to the Theresienstadt concentration camp (and later released) and the liberation of Denmark in 1945. Elegantly written and thoroughly researched, this is an important work in the field of Holocaust studies. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Elegantly written and thoroughly researched, this is an important work in the field of Holocaust studies."