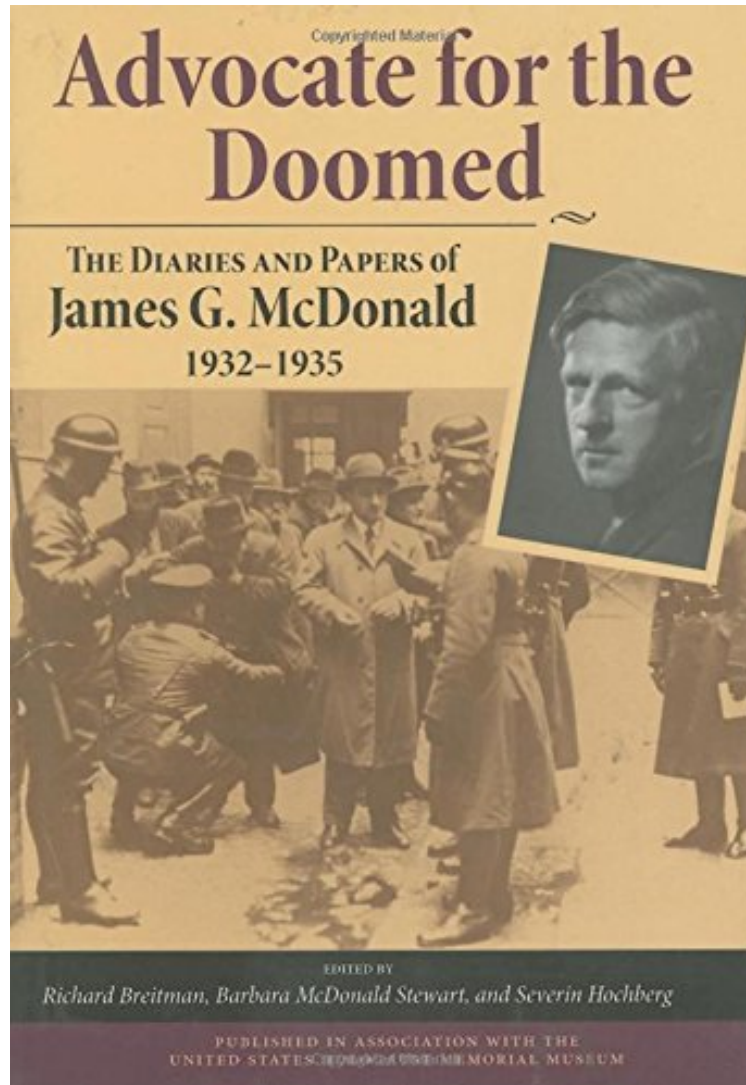


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Advocate for the Doomed: The Diaries and Papers of James G. McDonald, 1932-1935

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From Indiana University Press : Advocate for the Doomed: The Diaries and Papers of James G. McDonald, 1932-1935 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Advocate for the Doomed: The Diaries and Papers of James G. McDonald, 1932-1935:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. pre WWII behind the scenes By K. Neilson This book puts you in the middle of the action along with James McDonald in the events leading up to WWII. As you read, knowing the rest of the story, you have the opportunity of looking at the attitudes and positions of the people who were shaping history,

and one man's efforts to warn and/or save as many people as he could, as recorded day by day. I haven't finished the book. It is not a quick read. As a matter of fact, I had intended to skim it, but soon realized I couldn't miss a word of the diary entries or the bridge material (including the footnotes). The quality of the paper, the binding, and the print is outstanding. This makes a reader friendly presentation of sometimes difficult subject matter. Believe it or not, that does make a difference. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. For those who are interested in the inner workings of ... By Tea Kettle For those who are interested in the inner workings of international affairs, the U.S. State Department or the establishment of the State of Israel "Advocate for the Doomed" diaries by insider, James G. McDonald and his companion diaries are a must read! Tana Markoe 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A rare privilege By E. Kanter To be privy to a set of diaries such as these is indeed a rare opportunity. I was loathe to read the last chapters, because I felt as if I was bidding farewell to a man, not only of great courage and determination, but a loyal and devoted friend as well. His travels and experiences are there, open to all who care to share thoughts and frustrations with a man bent on saving human beings, no matter what the cost. The world would be a different place if his words had been heeded. I eagerly look forward to the next volume of his diaries.

The private diary of James G. McDonald (1886-1964) offers a unique and hitherto unknown source on the early history of the Nazi regime and the Roosevelt administrations reactions to Nazi persecution of German Jews. Considered for the post of U.S. ambassador to Germany at the start of FDR's presidency, McDonald traveled to Germany in 1932 and met with Hitler soon after the Nazis came to power. Fearing Nazi intentions to remove or destroy Jews in Germany, in 1933 he became League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and sought aid from the international community to resettle outside the Reich Jews and others persecuted there. In late 1935 he resigned in protest at the lack of support for his work. This is the eagerly awaited first of a projected three-volume work that will significantly revise the ways that scholars and the world view the antecedents of the Holocaust, the Shoah itself, and its aftermath.

... this collection is an invaluable document in understanding the period that witnessed the Nazi 'seizure of power.' ... Highly recommended. (Choice) [Chronicles] the efforts of this principled and persistent man to save Jews and others from the horrors of Nazism. Honor Role July / August 2007 (Foreign Affairs) When it comes to the history of the Third Reich, particularly in its early years, James G. McDonald had unparalleled access to decision makers and critics, persecutors and victims, and both German and American political leaders. His diary is not only filled with important information but it gives a unique and utterly fascinating insight into diplomatic life in Germany. McDonald, unlike so many of his contemporaries, tried to make a difference in what would become a unique story of doom and destruction. Advocate for the Doomed is the gripping story of his tireless efforts. (Providence Phoenix) ... Advocate for the Doomed: The Diaries and Papers of James G. McDonald 1932-35 is a compelling look at one man's efforts to do something about a looming catastrophe. At times the book is inspiring McDonald's prescience and energy are simply amazing. But because we know what is soon to happen to Europe's Jews, we share his frustration that no one seems to be listening. We feel what it was to be an advocate for the doomed. (The Wall Street Journal) James G. McDonald ... knew every major public figure in the 1930s as Europe and later the rest of the world rushed to war. He was also ... a dedicated and precise diarist, recording his meetings with Hitler, Mussolini, and President Roosevelt and detailing his own impressions of Nazi intentions. ... The diaries show that McDonald believed as early as 1933 that the Nazis were considering the mass killing of Europe's Jew (Neil A. Lewis The New York Times) McDonald's diaries shed important new light on efforts to assist Jews fleeing Germany in the years 1933-1935 from the perspective of an individual deeply involved in those efforts and one who did not revise whatever he wrote at the time. ... The volume, with its extensive new information, will appeal to a substantial audience, not only in the academic world but among a wider readership likely to extend well beyond U.S. borders. (Gerhard L. Weinberg William Rand Kenan Jr., Professor of History Emeritus, University of North Carolina) It was not only for the sake of Jews but for the larger cause of freedom, justice, and equal treatment for all human beings everywhere, whatever their race, religion or nationality, that a blond Aryan, offspring of Scotch Canadian and Midwest American stock, a teacher and student by profession and inclination became a champion for Jewish aspirations and equal human rights. (James G. McDonald 1951) Very few individuals interact with such a stunning array of historical figures Hitler, Mussolini, FDR, Cardinal Pacelli (the future Pius XII), and Chaim Weizmann. McDonald was present at the creation of so many of the formative events that shape our world. Yet McDonald's diaries are much more than historic; they are filled with candor and eloquence as well as insight and emotion. Sara J. Bloomfield, Director, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Publication of James McDonald's diaries is a much anticipated event. The diaries enhance our understanding of the life and work of one of the last century's most dedicated and interesting public servants. They show what one man altruistic, high minded, and intent on doing what is right can achieve. (Daniel C. Kurtzer former U.S. Ambassador to Israel and Egypt) From the Publisher Sara J. Bloomfield, Director, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum "Very few individuals interact with such a stunning array of historical figures--Hitler, Mussolini, FDR, Cardinal Pacelli (the future Pius XII), and Chaim Weizmann. McDonald was 'present at the creation' of so many of the formative events that shape our world. Yet McDonald's diaries are much more than historic; they are filled with candor and eloquence as well as insight and

emotion." Daniel C. Kurtzer, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel and Egypt "Publication of James McDonald's diaries is a much-anticipated event. The diaries enhance our understanding of the life and work of one of the last century's most dedicated and interesting public servants. They show what one man--altruistic, high-minded, and intent on doing what is right--can achieve." Gerhard L. Weinberg, William Rand Kenan, Jr., Professor of History Emeritus, University of North Carolina "McDonald's diaries shed important new light on efforts to assist Jews fleeing Germany in the years 1933-1935 from the perspective of an individual deeply involved in those efforts--and one who did not revise whatever he wrote at the time. . . . The volume, with its extensive new information, will appeal to a substantial audience, not only in the academic world but among a wider readership likely to extend well beyond U.S. borders." Deborah E. Lipstadt, author of *History on Trial* "...James G. McDonald had unparalleled access to decision makers and critics, persecutors and victims, and both German and American political leaders. His diary is not only filled with important information but it gives a unique and utterly fascinating insight into diplomatic life in Germany. McDonald, unlike so many of his contemporaries, tried to make a difference in what would become a unique story of doom and destruction. Advocate for the Doomed is the gripping story of his tireless efforts."