

Hitler, Mussolini and the Vatican: Pope Pius XI and the Speech That was Never Made

Emma Fattorini

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Emma Fattorini : Hitler, Mussolini and the Vatican: Pope Pius XI and the Speech That was Never Made before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hitler, Mussolini and the Vatican: Pope Pius XI and the Speech That was Never Made:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Norjon Was a fabulous lesson in WWII era history. 0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Hitler, Mussolini and pope Pius XI By Mary Doley This book could much

more be improved by including some pictures, especially for the younger readers who have no idea what the headlines look like. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Embarrassing that this fiction was written by an Italian, who could have easily checked facts in the the Vatican archives. By Green Mountain Mama This book deliberately leaves out all the facts that would damage its thesis. The thesis is that Pope Pius XI was vocally anti-fascist and anti-Nazi and his successor, Pius XII was not. Only the first half of that sentence is factual. Pius XII was born Eugenio Pacelli and because he was nuncio in Germany for a dozen years he was the Vatican's resident Nazi expert during the reign of Pius XI. As such he singlehandedly or with others WROTE all the encyclicals that were anti-fascist and anti-Nazi that Pius XI gave that were so justly applauded. Including the most famous of those, "Mit brennender Sorge" (English: With Burning Anxiety) On the Church and the German Reich. Which Pius XI issued during the Nazi era on 10 March 1937. One fact in this book that is correct is that before the election of the new Pope, Pacelli destroyed Pius XI last unpublished encyclical which he, Pacelli, had also helped write. Instead of publish that work as the new pope, Pacelli now Pius XII, wrote and published his first encyclical Summi Pontificatus." As the first encyclical of his pontificate, issued October 20, 1939, it of course held the attention of the press and set the tone for his papacy. Summi Pontificatus was as strongly worded as the destroyed work, if not more so. It vehemently attacked the doctrines of totalitarianism, racism, and materialism, "The first of these pernicious errors, today so widespread, is the disregard for that law of human solidarity and charity dictated and imposed . . . by the common origin and equality in their rational nature of all men, regardless of the people to which they belong. Summi Pontificatus" is concerned with the oneness of all human beings. In paragraph 48, dealing with the Church's openness to all, it describes St. Paul's vision of "the new man who is renewed unto knowledge, according to the image of Him that created him. Where there is neither Gentile nor Jew." The exact same language Pius XI used, because it was also written by Pacelli/Pius XII. The Nazis were furious and howled loudly in their press that Pius XII was continuing the policies of his predecessor and was "the Jew lover in the Vatican." The French however were thrilled and printed 70,000 copies and had them dropped over Germany.

The Vatican against Nazism and Fascism on the eve of the Second World War. A tired pope watching the crisis unfold and considering what action to take against the new enemies of Christianity. Pius XI died on February 10th, 1939, just after finishing the address he hoped to deliver to the Italian bishops on the tenth anniversary of the Lateran Pact. That text dealt harshly with Nazism and Fascism and was written in solitude. It was a discourse that Mussolini feared and that the pope did not survive to deliver. This moment captures the spirit of Emma Fattorini's book, a work that employs newly available and unpublished documentation from the Vatican Secret Archive to rewrite a fundamental page of 20th history. Pius XI came to view the 1930s as a conflict of civilizations, 'a crisis which could only be resolved by a return to the Christian roots of the West. He was a pope who strongly defended the Jews because, in contrast to other elements in the Catholic hierarchy, he held the theological conviction that Jews and Christians shared a common origin: spiritually we are all Semites.' So wrote Pius XI in the last years of his life as he contemplated the direction in which the world was headed and came to the conclusion that Nazi and Fascist totalitarianism could be stopped by the Vatican.

"Simply put, this is the most thorough and best documented study yet to appear on Pius XI." America Magazine "This excellent new book unearths and magisterially exposes new evidence - a key document for those interested in Europe's turbulent pre-war history." Hugh O'Shaughnessy, 31 "A first-rate study." American Historical "Now the most comprehensive work on the Vatican's relations with states and national churches in western and central Europe in the 1930s." European History Quarterly "Insightful, provocative and original. Fattorini's examination of Pius XI's evolving attitudes toward totalitarian states is complex and convincing." The Journal of Modern History "A revealing insight into European politics in the 1930s, and the first scholarly attempt to look at the Church's relationship with Fascism and the Nazis during that period." Birmingham Jewish Recorder "A crucial new perspective on the relationship between the Vatican, Mussolini's Fascism, and National Socialism. The tendency to focus exclusively on Eugenio Pacelli, the future wartime pope Pius XII, has obscured the troubled papacy of Pius XI between 1922 and 1939. Professor Fattorini's narrative, in the light of the recent release of Vatican documents of the period, is sure to breathe new life into this controversial era of Church-state relations on the brink of world war." John Cornwell, University of Cambridge "Emma Fattorini's remarkable work extends our understanding of how the leadership of the Catholic Church grappled with fascism and Nazism. She does so by drawing on riveting documentation recently released from the Vatican Secret Archive and by focusing on the relatively overlooked pontificate of Pius XI." Michael R. Marrus, University of Toronto "Fattorini's objective and scholarly volume helps to demolish the long-prevailing belief that Pius XI and his secretary of state Eugenio Pacelli - later his successor as Pius XII - concurred in the policy to pursue towards fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. She demonstrates, on the basis of solid documentation, that, while Pius XI increasingly perceived the need for confrontation with these regimes after 1936, Pacelli preferred conciliation and impartiality - policies he pursued during World War II and the Holocaust." Frank Coppa, St John's University "Emma Fattorini has produced an important work on the activities of the Vatican in the years leading up to World War II. She

portrays a pope whose spirituality, rather than political views, led him increasingly to speak out against Nazism. Her book adds to a slowly increasing body of literature which illustrates that, while the Vatican may have been slow in speaking out about the persecution of the Jews, no one in the secretariat of state harbored any sympathy for Hitler." Gerald Fogarty, University of Virginia