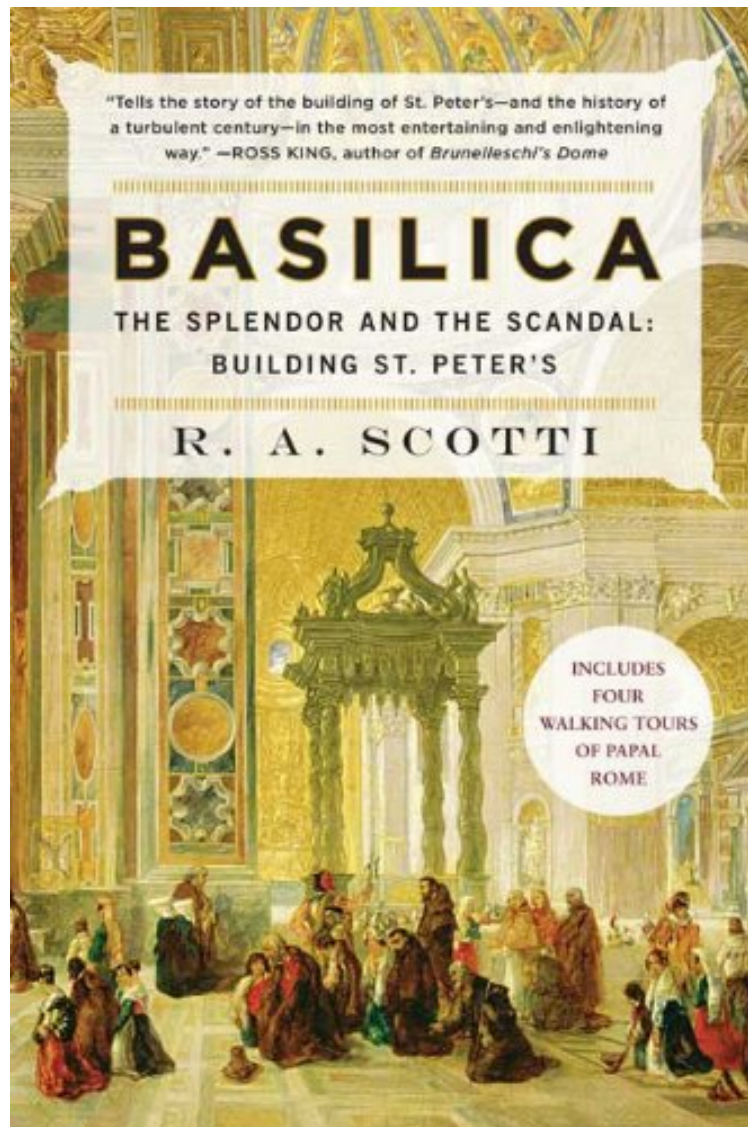


[Ebook pdf] Basilica: The Splendor and the Scandal: Building St. Peter's

## Basilica: The Splendor and the Scandal: Building St. Peter's

R. A. Scotti

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**R. A. Scotti : Basilica: The Splendor and the Scandal: Building St. Peter's** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Basilica: The Splendor and the Scandal: Building St. Peter's:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Buy this book if you are a Rome buff.By Retired NurseI am about half way through this book right now. I love it. My husband and I are planning a Rome trip one of these days along with another couple. This book will be required reading before we go. The writing is pleasant. Ofttimes, it is difficult to turn non-fiction and history into an engaging story. This book does it. The author talks about each Pope as if he was that Pope's confidant. I enthusiastically recommend this book for anyone who is traveling to Rome and wants

background information, history buffs, or ones who are interested in how a city evolves over time. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This Story of the Most Beautiful Building By Slugo When I visited St Peter's its beauty and grandeur captivated me. I left needing to understand the origins of this most beautiful of buildings and reading this book was the start of that journey. As I read of Bramante, Pope Julius, Raphael and Michelangelo and all the others I came to understand this building as the embodiment of man's search for epic greatness. This book discusses the builders in human terms as men of strengths and weaknesses, talents and ambitions, foibles and frailties, and focuses on how they brought their talents to produce this remarkable work of art. This book is a great read and a remarkable history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a very good history on St Peter's By Gmac This is a very good history on St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. I will be reading this one several times.

In this dramatic journey through religious and artistic history, R. A. Scotti traces the defining event of a glorious epoch: the building of St. Peter's Basilica. Begun by the ferociously ambitious Pope Julius II in 1506, the endeavor would span two tumultuous centuries, challenge the greatest Renaissance masters—Michelangelo, Raphael, and Bramante—and enrage Martin Luther. By the time it was completed, Shakespeare had written all of his plays, the Mayflower had reached Plymouth—and Rome had risen with its astounding basilica to become Europe's holy metropolis. A dazzling portrait of human achievement and excess, *Basilica* is a triumph of historical writing.

From Publishers Weekly In this absorbing story of the construction of the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome the grandest architectural undertaking of the High Renaissance Scotti (*Sudden Sea: The Great Hurricane of 1938*) shows how the construction fed the ambitions of 30 popes, including the indomitable Julius II, who laid the first stone in 1506; Leo X, the Medici pope whose extravagant spending fueled the resentment toward the papacy that culminated in the Protestant Reformation; Clement VII, on whose watch Rome was sacked by Emperor Charles V; and Sixtus V, who restored the ravaged city and pushed, against all odds, to have the great dome completed during his lifetime. In 1506, the great architect Donato Bramante envisioned a gigantic central crossing topped by a dome of such daring design that many believed it could not be built. Throughout the 100 years of construction, numerous architects, most of them consumed with pride, lofty ambition and professional jealousy, followed. Among them were Raphael, who died at age 37; Michelangelo, who accepted the job reluctantly at the age of 71; and Giacomo della Porta, who, in 1590, succeeded in raising the grand cupola. All are brought to life in this fascinating tale of genius, power and money. Bw photos not seen by PW. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Just half a millennium ago, Pope Julius II laid the cornerstone for a new basilica of St. Peter. This event not only set to work an extraordinary group of architects and artists but it also led directly to revolution in Western civilization. The pope's need to finance the ambitious project ignited northern Europe's Reformation. In this engaging if uncritical history, Scotti is much less interested in the larger effect of the church's construction than in how successive artists shaped and reshaped the building, how new popes confronted the legacies of their predecessors and left their own imprints on the basilica. Bramante, Michelangelo, and Bernini had major control over one or another aspect of the vast, century-long project, and the building well illustrates the passage from a pure Renaissance aesthetic to the florid, excessive decorative impulses of the baroque. Scotti's recounting of the popular reaction to the destruction of the ancient Constantinian basilica that antedated the present building offers insight into the clash between ancient tradition and contemporary artistic expression. Mark Knoblauch Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved [Scotti] . . . appreciates the epic quest and querulousness and leaves us wondering how anything of any merit ever gets designed, built, consecrated and celebrated. (The Providence Journal-Bulletin)