

Benevolence and Betrayal: Five Italian Jewish Families Under Fascism

Alexander Stille

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*

 Download

 Read Online

#398084 in Books Summit Books 1991-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.52 x 6.41 x 1.26l, #File Name: 0671671529365 pages | File size: 30.Mb

Alexander Stille : Benevolence and Betrayal: Five Italian Jewish Families Under Fascism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Benevolence and Betrayal: Five Italian Jewish Families Under Fascism:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A little known story as so little has been written ...By arlene alpertA little known story as so little has been written about attitudes of Italian Jews during Mussolini's rule... We learn of the colorful and dramatic lives and fate of several Jewish families. Just as had happened in Germany, Italian Jews thought they would be exempt from discrimination and persecution due to their longstanding loyalty to the Italian nation and participation in World War I...They tried to be exemplary fascists only to be murdered. when the Nazis took over. ..1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. a moving story of courage, survival and death at a time of evilBy John E. DruryIndividual Holocaust stories of death or survival unsettle and jar if told by a fine writer. It is the minutiae of daily life, the details of courage and the machinations of betrayal which impress in Alexander Stilles 1991 book describing the varied fates of five Italian Jewish families (from Turin, Genoa, Rome and Ferrara) under Mussolinis Fascism, under its perverse racial laws of the late thirties and in 1943 when the Nazis and SS took over the country.The authors attention to detail, his depth of research, his structure and organization and his ability to tellingly present just the right anecdote which makes this superb history so compelling and so moving despite the obvious need to balance, and personalize, at least twenty names of victims, heroes and villains. Each family is localized, then

described, then their lives are explained in the atmosphere of pre War fascist Italy. And, then their lives were destroyed; some survived, some escaped, some went underground (sheltered by the courage of the priests of Catholic Church), some hid in plain sight, most died. It is these finely crafted stories which make this book so special and which force the reader to identify with each story. Stilles deftly places at the end of the book the Schnheits, father and son, bound together for survival in the concentration camp at Buchenwald, near Weimar, Germany. The horrors of the camp and the pairs fight for survival is realistic and frightening. One anecdote merits repeating. In June, 1945, as they leave Buchenwald, Carlo, his father, a cantor, disappears only to be found by his son, Franco, at the crematorium reciting a special prayer for the dead, the Kaddish, saying to his son I had to say at least one prayer for them before leaving. One gasps at this coda. Stilles superb epilogue on who few lived and who among the many died concludes the book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Exceptional History of the Period By Harvey Rosenwasser This book gives one a sense of Italy under Fascism just before and after Italy made their agreement with the Germans. Most history books tell of the exceptional events that shape events. This book relates the effect of Fascism on Jewish people who initially viewed Mussolini differently, but all ended up suffering the same fate. The writer is wonderful.

A profoundly moving history of Italys Jews under the shadow of the Holocaust, told through the lives of five Jewish Italian families: the Ovazzas of Turin, who prospered under Mussolini and whose patriarch became a prominent fascist; the Foas of Turin, whose children included both an antifascist activist and a Fascist Party member; the Di Verolis of Rome, who struggled for survival in the ghetto; the Teglios of Genoa, one of whom worked with the Catholic church to save hundreds of Jews; and the Schonheits of Ferrara, who were sent to Buchenwald and Ravensbruck. An extraordinary montage that resurrects a forgotten and tragic era.

From Library Journal The complex experience of Italy's Jews under fascism is personified in the experiences of five families whose socioeconomic and geographic background and response to fascism varied, but who all were overtaken by the tragedy of the Italian holocaust. From fervent belief in fascism, through courageous resistance to the horrors of Buchenwald and back, the story is told in the words of the families themselves, interwoven with the author's clear and dispassionate historical narrative. This book is thoroughly researched and documented, but it is the distinctive and surprisingly calm voices of the families that provide a harrowing and deeply moving oral history. A worthy companion to such classics of the Italian holocaust as Giorgio Bassani's *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* (HBJ, 1983) and Primo Levi's *The Periodic Table* (LJ 1/85), this should be in all libraries with collections in European history or Jewish studies. For another book about Italian fascism, see Victoria de Grazia's *How Fascism Ruled Women: Italy 1922-1945*, reviewed in this issue, p. 93.--Ed.- Barbara Walden, Univ. of Minnesota Libs., Minneapolis Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. An achievement that deserves to stand next to the most insightful fiction about life and death under fascism. The New York Times Alexander Stilles stunning achievement in *Benevolence and Betrayal* the result of meticulous research and comprehensive understanding is to give faces and personalities to people who might otherwise have been consigned to anonymity. The New York Times Book A beautifully written and moving book which I am sure will in time come to rank with the works of Primo Levi. Times Literary Supplement (UK) *Benevolence and Betrayal*, like all first-rate journalism, reshapes dusty history in the form of lifemessy, tentative, poignant, and unforgettable. The Philadelphia Inquirer These stories are filled with courage and tragedy, spies and counterspies, escape and destruction. They are true, spellbinding, and sometimes almost unbelievable. Star Tribune (Minneapolis)