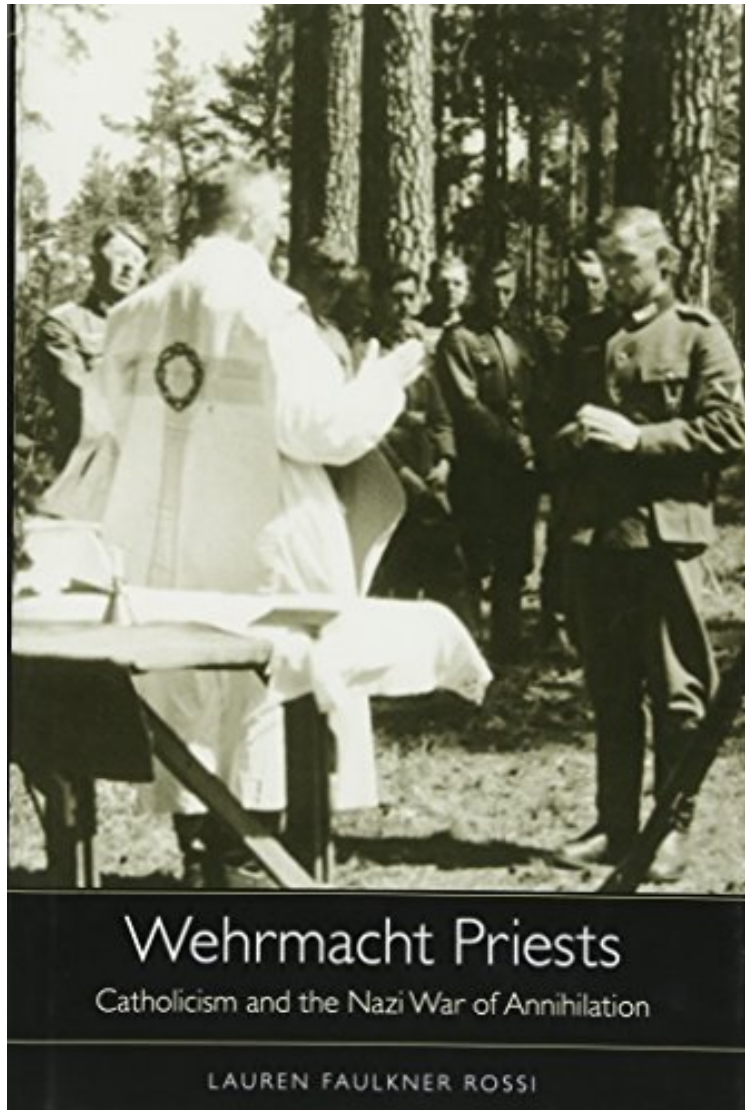


Wehrmacht Priests: Catholicism and the Nazi War of Annihilation

Lauren Faulkner Rossi

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Lauren Faulkner Rossi : Wehrmacht Priests: Catholicism and the Nazi War of Annihilation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wehrmacht Priests: Catholicism and the Nazi War of Annihilation:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This book has the hard to find story of the priests.By Thomas M. MageeThis is a very interesting book. The book offers information few other books in print will offer. It is a must for those serious students about WWII and German culture. The book offers a very detailed look at the priests from Germany which serviced the Army during the war. The book offers a very good outline of their structure, motivation,

and some of their exploits. There isn't a whole lot of inspiring stories which others would make movies out of like the story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This is a big strategic picture of their contribution. The book does present a good case that showed how the Nazis were very much anti-Christian too. This resistance to the church, Catholic or Protestant became more apparent over time. The Nazis would do a lot of nickel and dime actions to try to stop the church in the army and society. It all started with little things like taking down the crosses to "include" party emblems then putting caps on hiring new priests then actions against what they did and said. Afterwards there is a lot of talk about what if, and only if kind of statements. That is easily said nowadays, almost 80 years afterwards. At the time nationalism and fear of the communists motivated people more than the fear of the Nazis. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Judy Very interesting 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. WORLD WAR II HISTORY By Cristiano Feliciano The book is an excellent read and gives detailed information in historical events that help to understand the role of priest in the German Armed Forces during World War II.

Between 1939 and 1945 more than 17,000 Catholic German priests and seminarians were conscripted into Hitler's Wehrmacht. Men who had devoted their lives to God found themselves advancing the cause of an abhorrent regime. Lauren Faulkner Rossi draws on personal correspondence, official military reports, memoirs, and interviews to present a detailed picture of Catholic priests who served faithfully in the German armed forces in the Second World War. Most of them failed to see the bitter irony of their predicament. Wehrmacht Priests plumbs the moral justifications of men who were committed to their religious vocation as well as to the cause of German nationalism. In their wartime and postwar writings, these soldiers often stated frankly that they went to war willingly, because it was their spiritual duty to care for their countrymen in uniform. But while some priests became military chaplains, carrying out work consistent with their religious training, most served in medical roles or, in the case of seminarians, in general infantry. Their convictions about their duty only strengthened as Germany waged an increasingly desperate battle against the Soviet Union, which they believed was an existential threat to the Catholic Church and German civilization. Wehrmacht Priests unpacks the complex relationship between the Catholic Church and the Nazi regime, including the Church's fierce but futile attempts to preserve its independence under Hitler's dictatorship, its accommodations with the Nazis regarding spiritual care in the military, and the shortcomings of Catholic doctrine in the face of total war and genocide.

[Faulkner Rossi's] book should be read by all who seek an answer to the question she raises not least because of its uncomfortable parallels in our own time, when uncritical loyalty to an institution and fear of scandal allowed clerical child abuse to go unchecked. Historians will continue to sift and interpret the evidence. Nonetheless, this remains a disturbing book. (Jack Carrigan Catholic Herald 2015-09-11) The Catholic Church's role in Nazi Germany remains an important topic of study. There is much to commend in this book: its approach, evidence, and clarity of style. (J. Kleiman Choice 2015-09-01) A beautifully written and wonderfully concise book that masterfully describes the predicaments faced by German Catholic military chaplains during the Second World War. (Mark Ruff, author of *The Wayward Flock: Catholic Youth in Postwar West Germany, 1945-1965*) Faulkner Rossi presents an engaging and convincing study of Catholic priests who served as chaplains for the German Wehrmacht during the Second World War. To date, there have been few critical academic books on this topic; Faulkner Rossi is the first comprehensive study in the English language. It is an original contribution to the field, especially that of the Catholic Church in Nazi Germany, and has important implications for Holocaust studies, particularly relating to the question of complicity and perpetration. This is an important and in many ways a groundbreaking work. (Kevin P. Spicer, C.S.C., author of *Hitler's Priests: Catholic Clergy and National Socialism*) About the Author Lauren Faulkner Rossi is Assistant Professor of History at Simon Fraser University.