



The Holocaust, the Church, and the Law of Unintended Consequences: How Christian Anti-Judaism Spawned Nazi Anti-Semitism, A Judge's Verdict

By Anthony J. Sciolino

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I admire greatly the way in which Deacon Sciolino has been able to absorb a vast amount of material and weave it into a coherent account of the R. C. Church vis-à-vis the Holocaust Telling the story 'from the inside' has an especial relevance and importance -Rev. Hubert G. Locke, cofounder of the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches The image of Jews as "God-killers" and their refusal to convert to Christianity has fueled a long tradition of Christian intolerance, hatred, and violence. It is no surprise, then, that when Adolf Hitler advocated the elimination of Jews, he found willing allies within the Catholic Church and Christianity itself. In this study, author Anthony J. Sciolino, himself a Catholic, cuts into the heart of why the Catholic Church and Christianity as a whole failed to stop the Holocaust. He demonstrates that Nazism's racial anti-Semitism was rooted in Christian anti-Judaism. While tens of thousands of Christians risked their lives to save Jews, many more-including some members of the hierarchy-aided Hitler's campaign with their silence or their participation. Sciolino's solid research and comprehensive interpretation provide a cogent and powerful analysis of Christian doctrine and church history to help answer the question of what went wrong. He suggests that Christian tradition and teaching systematically excluded Jews from "the circle of Christian concern" and thus led to the tragedy of the Holocaust. From the origins of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism and the controversial position of Pope Pius XII to the Catholic Church's current endeavors to hold itself accountable for their role, The Holocaust, the Church, and the Law of Unintended Consequences offers a vital examination of one of history's most disturbing issues.

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Review

Clarion ForeWord Review FIVE STARS

Reviewed by Michelle Anne Schingler

June 9, 2014

In a haunting yet readable history, Sciolino shows how Christian anti-Semitism contributed to the church's silent complicity.

Judge and deacon Anthony J. Sciolino's debut history is a nuanced and multifaceted exploration of centuries of Christian doctrines concerning Judaism, as well as of the consequences of their cultural embeddedness. His book poses tough moral questions while also proving to be a haunting, compulsively readable project...

About the Author

Anthony J. Sciolino is a retired New York State Family Court judge and a graduate of Columbia University and Cornell Law School. He holds a master's degree in theology from St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry and is an ordained Roman Catholic permanent deacon. Sciolino and his wife, Gloria, live in the Rochester suburb of Pittsford, New York. They are the parents of an adult daughter, Kate. Winner of the 2013 Independent Publisher Book Award, Silver Medal in World History

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