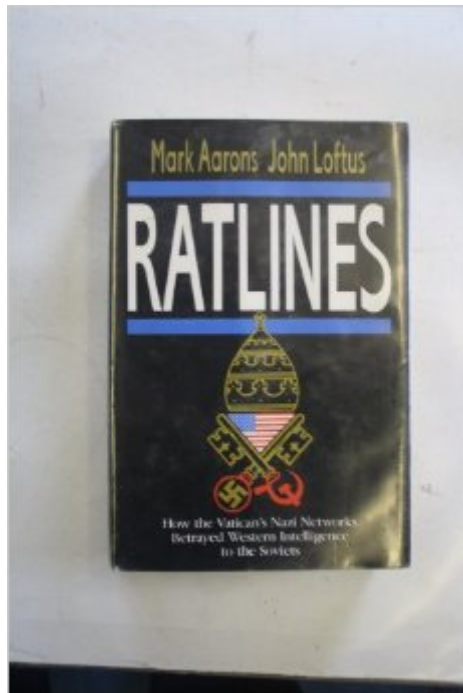# Ratlines: How The Vatican's Nazi Networks Betrayed Western Intelligence To The Soviets

Synopsis

Implicating the intelligence services of the UK, Australia and Canada, this is the story of the disastrous intelligence operations of the Roman Catholic Church - operations which contributed to Soviet mastery in the Cold War.

Book Information

Hardcover: 372 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,002,965 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #731 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Ideologies & Doctrines > Fascism   #1310 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Biographies > Popes & the Vatican   #2269 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Intelligence & Espionage

Customer Reviews

The book has much promise but is consistent in failing to deliver. The ratlines of the title refers to escape routes organized by the Church of Rome for nazis, including many who had committed the worst crimes, after the Second World War. This book has three principal weaknesses. Chiefly, it contains a mass of detail without a clear and convincing overall story. Secondly, to the extent it does have an overall story, it often seems somewhat self-contradictory; for example, while the book is about the ratlines and goes into details of good reasons why the West wanted the Vatical to run ratlines, i.e. as part of the Westâ ™s plans to counter communism, it concludes that the Vatican did not assist Hitler but did help war criminals, yet is blameworthy for running ratlines. There is no clear message. Thirdly, the book is often sensationalist, and some passages are written in a way that makes the reader feel that the political affiliations of the authors have got in the way of their ability to gather and marshall the facts into a clear argument. A search on Wikipedia shows, it seems, that one of the authors is a veteran of the anti-Vietnam war movement and the son of an ardent communist, and that the other is closely involved in the Jewish lobby in the US. Neither of these backgrounds are any barrier to writing great books, but, coupled with the writing style in this book,

they do nothing to allay the suspicion that the book is more prone to conspiracy theories or an overly-narrow view of its subject. For example, the book states that King Edward VIII of England was not only sympathetic to nazi Germany but actively working for it, and that his mistress Wallace Simpson was a nazi agent who was controlling him. This is sensationalâ"we want to know more!

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