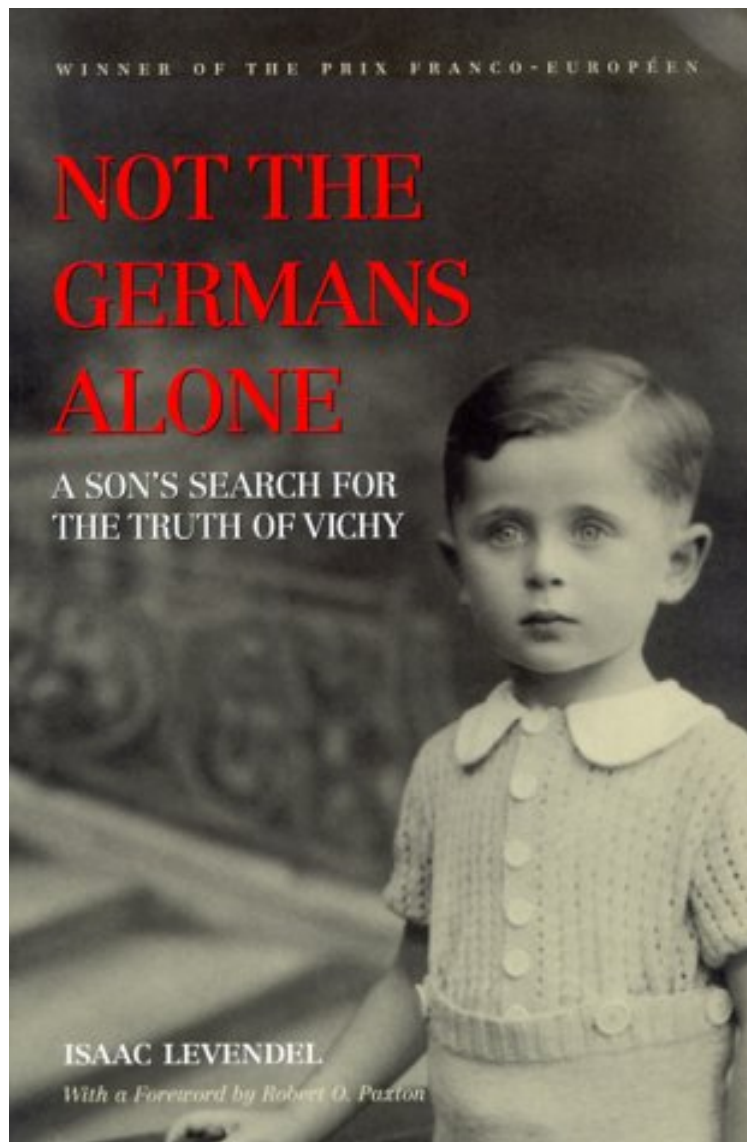


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Not the Germans Alone: A Son's Search for the Truth of Vichy (Memoir Holocaust Studies)

Isaac Levendel

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Isaac Levendel : Not the Germans Alone: A Son's Search for the Truth of Vichy (Memoir Holocaust Studies) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Not the Germans Alone: A Son's Search for the Truth of Vichy (Memoir Holocaust Studies):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An eye opener of a story
By Arnold Howard
This is the story of Paxton's years of research into the death of his mother, who died at the hands of the Nazis. The book reads somewhat like a detective story. I won't give away the ending. I'll just add that the book is an eye opener about life in France under Nazi rule.
44 of 47 people found the following review helpful. Not the French alone...
By B. Maier
Like so many other stories during WWII and the holocaust, this one is heartbreaking. It is hard to imagine those two innocent persons, a beautiful woman and her adorable little boy (as portrayed on the cover photos), being harassed and hunted down not because of any particular actions on their part, but just because "they are". I am a fifty years old French woman married to an American man and now living in the USA since thirty years. My grandfather was not only a member of the French communist party (nothing like in Russia believe me!), but he also joined the French resistance with a few of his friends at the beginning of the war. All of them were caught early on and sent to varied places. None of them came back. My granddad was sent to the camp of Royaleu in Compiègne, a town above Paris and past the camp of Drancy. He was then sent to the concentration camp of Sachsenhausen next to Berlin, where he stayed for three years, and died of starvation and pneumonia at the liberation of the camp by the Russians. He was too weak to get better and make it home, so my grandma and mom never saw him again. My grandma continued some of his activities after he left, but alone with a little girl it became too scary and she stopped.
Nothing surprises me in Isaac Leventel's book, I already know all that. My grandma explained to me many times, that people, Jews, resisters, communists, homosexuals, gypsies and others, were mostly arrested by French men, called "la Milice". She knew all along who had denounced my grandfather and she recognized one of the men who arrested him. He was the husband of the woman cashier for the local movie theater where she would go with my mom sometimes. The country was shared between the people who agreed with the Vichy government and the others. Among the ones who agreed were people who were just scared and wanted to survive the war without trouble, others were racist and could not wait to get rid of their Jewish neighbors, and some who were rather pathetic and small before the war, jumped at the chance to become "big and powerful", by giving their services to the Vichy government. Wars are always ugly and unfair no matter when or where they are. I have done a lot of research about the Holocaust and the occupation of France by the Germans, because of what happened to my grandfather. I have discovered that anti Semites were everywhere. There were Nazis in England and America as well. There were also Germans who were against Hitler and who risked or lost their lives for their beliefs. I recommend the following books to understand more about those complicated times. "Bad Faith" by Carmen Callhill, "The Holocaust chronicles", "Leap into darkness" by Leo Bretholz, "Choice in Vichy France" by John F. Sweets, "The Politics of everyday life in Vichy France" by Shannon L. Fogg, " The Choice of the Jews under Vichy" by Adam Rayski. Sincerely. Brigitte Maier.
28 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Very revealing about the French collaboration
By A Customer
This is a very beautiful and honest book about what happened to the Jews in France during WWII. It gives rare details about the French quiet acceptance of the deportation of Jews. It also reveals how difficult it is to get basic information from the French archives 50 years after the facts. A must read for everybody who desires to know.

Winner of the Prix Franco-Européen
On the eve of D-Day, Isaac Leventel's mother left her hiding place on a farm in southern France and never returned. After 40 years of silence and torment, he returned to France in 1990 determined to find out what had happened. This is the story of how, with perseverance, luck, and official help, he gained access to secret wartime documents laying bare the details of French collaboration-and the truth about his mother's fate.