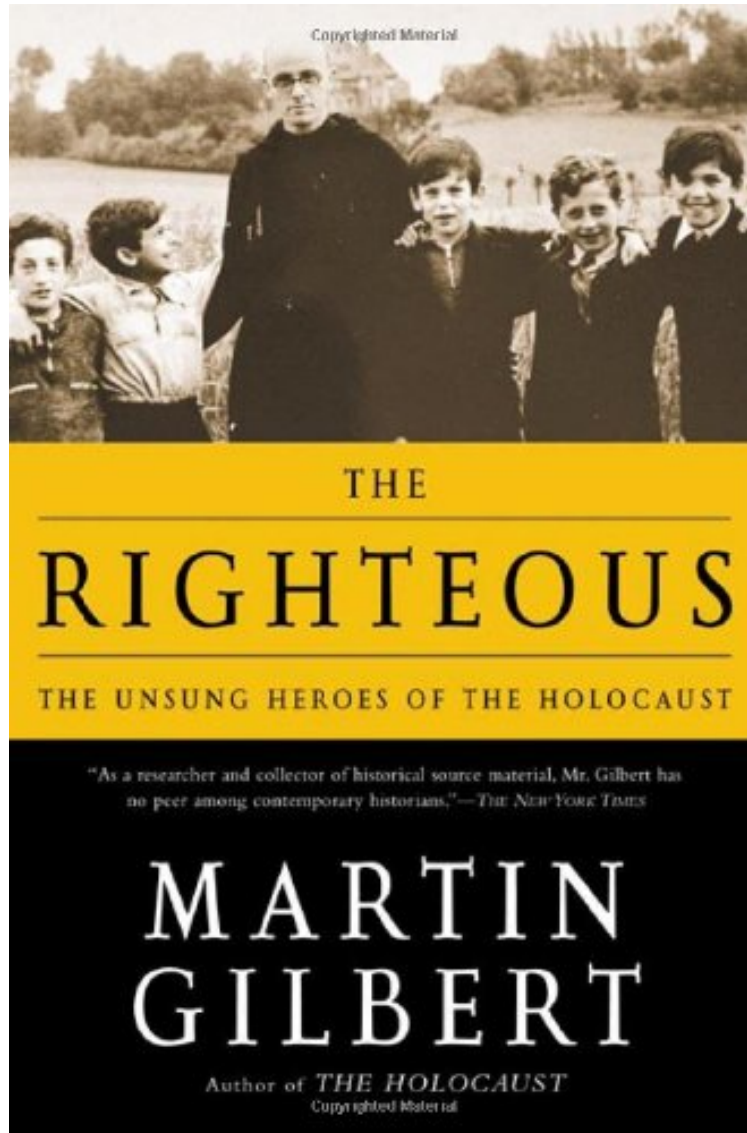


The Righteous: The Unsung Heroes of the Holocaust

Martin Gilbert

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Martin Gilbert : The Righteous: The Unsung Heroes of the Holocaust before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Righteous: The Unsung Heroes of the Holocaust:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. TimelyBy J. A. DonaghyThis is not an easy book to read. The stories, though all too short, lay bare the small, and not so small acts of rescuing, hiding, helping, and being alongside those whom the German authorities were trying to eliminate. These people tried to welcome the other, opening doors, homes, and hearts.I found myself overwhelmed at times with the style of the author who related story after story.At

times I found the author's prose a bit ponderous. That is my major problem with the book. Some longer stories would have helped give some depth to the narrative. But I'm challenged by reading this. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great book on the rescuers of The Holocaust! By Robert Kiehn Author Martin Gilbert had written yet another excellent book, this time detailing the darkest time in human history and that is The Holocaust. This book deals mainly with those who rescued Jews during The Holocaust and some stories may seem familiar because a few, maybe more, I have read in Gilbert's book The Holocaust (1986) which was another well written book on the subject. The rescuers of the Jews, their stories are told in this book. Not every story can be told of course but many are and each nation is listed in each chapter followed by the stories of those whom dared risked their life to save a Jew or perhaps hundreds of them or more. A great book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By G. M. Gore This book arrived in excellent condition. Thanks.

"As a researcher and collector of historical source material, Mr. Gilbert has no peer among contemporary historians." The New York Times According to Jewish tradition, "Whoever saves one life, it is as if he saved the entire world." In *The Righteous*, distinguished historian Sir Martin Gilbert explores the courage of those who, throughout Germany and in every occupied country, took incredible risks to help Jews whose fate would have been sealed without them. Indeed, many lost their lives for their efforts. From Greek-Orthodox Princess Alice of Greece to the Ukrainian Uniate Archbishop of Lvov, from priests and soldiers to employees and neighbors, many risked, and sacrificed, everything to help their fellow man. Drawing from twenty-five years of original research, Gilbert re-creates the remarkable stories of the non-Jews who have received formal recognition by the State of Israel as Righteous Among the Nations.

From Publishers Weekly Books have been written about individuals who risked their own safety to aid Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe. Yet this comprehensive examination by noted historian Gilbert (*The First World War*, etc.), recounted largely through first-person accounts by the Jews they rescued, is an important contribution. These thumbnail sketches of rescuers, their methods and, in some cases, the horrors they endured as a result of their courageous choices haven't previously been gathered in one volume. The result of 25 years of research sparked by witnessing Oskar Schindler's 1974 funeral procession in Jerusalem, Gilbert's country-by-country examination reveals as much about quiet dissent in Nazi-occupied Europe as it does about the human spirit. "For anyone who is honoured today for saving Jewish lives, there were ten or more who did the same," says one rescuer. In Vilna, a German officer, Maj. Karl Plagge, protected Jews from 1939 until 1944, by employing them in his Motor Vehicle Repair Park. In Germany, a young slave laborer, her feet frozen from working outdoors in the snow, was given a pair of shoes by an elderly couple in a remote wooded area; she never learned their names. The number of accounts is overwhelming, and fitting them all in one volume requires that each, to a degree, be given short shrift. But the very fact that there were so many tales of courage is reason to take heed of this heartening aspect of one of history's darkest moments. 32 pages of bw photos, 20 maps. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Mining the extensive archives of Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial Authority, along with memoirs and personal reminiscences, Gilbert (Univ. of London; *The First World War*) narrates the story of those gentiles acknowledged by Vashem as "Righteous Among the Nations." Why some people chose to perform heroic deeds during the Holocaust often varied according to local circumstances. One of the book's virtues is Gilbert's ability to set the local context briefly before recounting the personal stories, thus keeping the human dimension paramount. A major criticism of "rescue studies" is that rescuers were in the minority; clearly, had there been more righteous, there would have been more survivors. Although Gilbert acknowledges that the sheer weight of Nazi power, along with the depth of local collaboration, certainly ensured that the number of rescuers would remain small, he justly claims that this makes their acts all the more worthy of study. Interestingly, in the chapter on Italy, Gilbert avoids delving into the intense controversy about the role of the papacy. Although Gilbert provides some analysis of the rescuers' motivations, the book is more descriptive than analytical. Still, it is recommended for all libraries.--Frederic Krome, Jacob Rader Marcus Ctr. of the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The Holocaust was a dreary commentary on the human condition for more than just the obvious reason. While the horrifying savagery of those who carried out mass murder comes immediately to mind, the passive acquiescence of millions who stood by as their fellow citizens were abused and slaughtered is equally depressing. There were, however, "righteous Gentiles" (to use the Jewish term) who risked their lives to hide Jews or smuggle them to safety. Gilbert, best known for his biography of Churchill, shows that these courageous people came from all European social classes and ethnic groups. They included Catholic priests and nuns, Greek aristocrats, Polish villagers, and Bosnian Muslims. Many of them braved social ostracism, and some were betrayed and imprisoned for their efforts. On one level, this work is an uplifting tribute to the power of individuals willing to stand for common decency. Unfortunately, it also makes one acutely aware that most people, even those with humane instincts, did not take that stand. This emotionally stirring book is an essential addition to Holocaust collections. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved