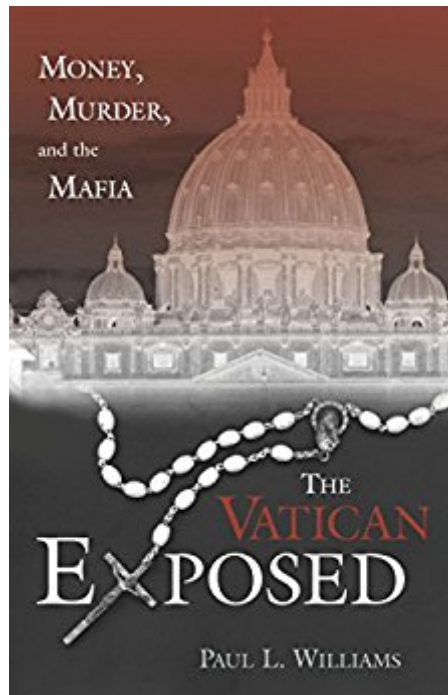




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The Vatican Exposed: Money, Murder, And The Mafia



Synopsis

Over 50 billion dollars in securities. Gold reserves that exceed those of industrialized nations. Real estate holdings that equal the total area of many countries. Opulent palaces containing the world's greatest art treasures. These are some of the riches of the Roman Catholic Church. Yet in 1929 the Vatican was destitute. Pope Pius XI, living in a damaged, leaky, pigeon-infested Lateran Palace, could hear rats scurrying through the walls, and he worried about how he would pay for even basic repairs to unclog the overburdened sewer lines and update the antiquated heating system. How did the Church manage in less than seventy-five years such an incredible reversal of fortune? The story here told by Church historian Paul L. Williams is intriguing, shocking, and outrageous. The turnaround began on February 11, 1929, with the signing of the Lateran Treaty between the Vatican and fascist leader Benito Mussolini. Through this deal Mussolini gained the support of the staunchly Catholic Italian populace, who at the time followed the lead of the Church. In return, the Church received, among other benefits, a payment of \$90 million, sovereign status for the Vatican, tax-free property rights, and guaranteed salaries for all priests throughout the country from the Italian government. With the stroke of a pen the pope had solved the Vatican's budgetary woes practically overnight, yet he also put a great religious institution in league with some of the darkest forces of the 20th century. Based on his years of experience as a consultant for the FBI, Williams produces explosive and never-before published evidence of the Church's morally questionable financial dealings with sinister organizations over seven decades through today. He examines the means by which the Vatican accrued enormous wealth during the Great Depression by investing in Mussolini's government, the connection between Nazi gold and the Vatican Bank, the vast range of Church holdings in the postwar boom period, Paul VI's appointment of Mafia chieftain Michele Sindona as the Vatican banker, a billion-dollar counterfeit stock fraud uncovered by Interpol and the FBI, the "Ambrosiano Affair" called "the greatest financial scandal of the 20th Century" by the New York Times, the mysterious death of John Paul I, profits from an international drug ring operating out of Gdansk, Poland, and revelations about current dealings. For both Catholics and non-Catholics this troubling expose of corruption in one of the most revered religious institutions in the world will serve as an urgent call for reform.

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Customer Reviews

Very good book, well researched. Nothing in it surprised me. Anyone who does not know how the vatican has been in bed with the Mafia etc, is living in a dream world. The popes were as criminal as the Nazis and the Mafia. If they ever make Pious XII a saint, then they will have reached their lowest level. Making JP II a saint showed just how much respect they have for humanity---ZIP. After you read this book, then read "The Vatican Murders-The Life and Death of John Paul I, by Lucien Gregoire. These 2 books will open a lot of eyes. There is something wrong with grown men in high places within the catholic cult who love to dress up in clothes that most women wouldn't wear in public. The vatican men are some of the richest in the world. Ever wonder how they became so wealthy???

Being a 'newbie' to the topic of corruption in the Mother Church, this book was downright mind-blowing. The short chapters are succinct and incredibly informative. Every chapter has at least one major revelation - and it gets progressively more shocking as you go. An utterly shattering look at the behind-the-scenes at activities at "the Eternal City." And it covers "just" the events of the past hundred years or so. Those who want to hang on to their illusions about the purity and holiness of the Vatican and its highest officials should probably NOT read this book. Those who desire to know

the truth, no matter how unpleasant, will find this book well worth the price.

There is no doubt that this concise presentation of the unbelievable crimes committed by the 'modern' Catholic church (presentation that does not include the Holy Inquisition, etc. and etc. and etc.) will leave most Christians profoundly humiliated. Even Protestants, guilty of their very own crimes committed throughout their own history, against others will need to take a second look at their faith. Christianity is a very strange religion: from the 3rd to the 20th century it developed and cruelly implemented a Jew hating ideology in the name of Jesus, the Jewish preacher from Nazareth who never wanted to create a new religion (Christianity) but merely 'modernize' his very own one - Judaism. It was Paul (ex Saul of Tarsus, later Saint Paul) and his side-kick Peter (the first Pope and later Saint Peter) who invented the ideology of Christianity as we know it today. In this succinct presentation, the Vatican is exposed as the Catholic equivalent of the Mafia (too often associated with the Sicilian Mafia itself in various 'projects') a place where no one is truly safe if he does not play according to the secret rules created and imposed by the Popes and their advisers - Bishops, Archbishops and Cardinals. For those that are interested in truth rather than Christian fairy tales, I highly recommend this book.

Probably more information than I needed given my total ignorance on the topic. However, I came away with a pretty good picture of how the Vatican has conducted itself with respect to its finances. Shocking. Can only hope our current Pope can get their priorities back on track!

Critical read for anyone who wants to really understand who and what the Catholic church is and does. And scarily, what it will continue to be in the future. This is not an attack on faith, but on the institution of man-made religion. I am a committed Christian, but being a Jesus-follower is not about rules, dogma nor ritual. This book displays religion in all its infamous glory. Further, the truth on how Hitler took over Germany is revealed. The adage "those who do not learn from the past are condemned to repeat it" is demonstrably portrayed here. We will see this again, and perhaps here in U.S.

I always believed that the Vatican was corrupt, but I was shocked to learn just HOW corrupt. Whether money laundering, bank fraud, ties to the mafia (including mob hits) or helping Nazi war criminals escape, its shocking just how awful these people are. The sad thing is, the law enforcement agencies know about all these things but haven't been able to prosecute because the

vatican is a sovereign state and is accountable to no one. Valuable information. I only gave it three stars because it was hard to get through, at times dry

If you are a behind the scenes Vatican inquisitor, The Vatican Exposed by Paul L. Williams opens the veil of secrecy behind the day to day operations of the Vatican just a little more than I have read in other Vatican books. A good read for the Vatican Afficionado.

Good read about Catholic church and its doings. well publicized onformation. Hard to believe people who are supposedly close with God have acted in such ways!

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