



SECRET VATICAN FILES

UNCOVERING THE TRUE STORY OF PIUS XII

BIG
MEDIA

4 x 60'

OVERVIEW

This series takes us on an unprecedented journey into the darkest part of the history of the Holy See, **World War II**. Pre-war Europe is riven by division, old alliances have crumbled, institutions that were once immovable are buckling under the assault of fascism. The **Catholic Church** and **Pope Pius XII** have long been accused of standing idle; unable, unwilling, and perhaps unconcerned by the systematic murder of Europe's Jews - a stain that has cast a long shadow along the corridors of the Vatican for the last **75 years**.

In this limited series, exclusive access to recently declassified documents, identified and analyzed by our team of experts, show how **Pope Pius XII** and his closest collaborators worked tirelessly to save over **700,000 Jews** during World War II. We will discover how Pius XII put a plan in place to obstruct Hitler by any means and cooperated fully with the German Anti-Nazi resistance.



EXPERT LIST:



ANDREA TORNIELLI - ITALIAN JOURNALIST AND WRITER

Director of the Holy See's Dicastery for Communication.



JOHAN ICKX - WRITER AND EXPERT ON THE PONTIFICATE OF PIUS XII

Director of the historical archive of the Section for Relations with States of the Holy See's Secretariat of State.



JACOB SHMUEL - RABBI, AUTHOR, AND TV HOST

The Washington Post referred to him as "the most famous rabbi in America," Newsweek named him one of the 10 most influential rabbis in the United States, and The Jerusalem Post named him one of the 50 most influential Jews in the world.



MONSIGNOR SERGIO PAGANO - ITALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOP

Prefect of the Vatican Apostolic Archives. Scholar and writer with numerous publications on the Vatican Apostolic Archives.

EXPERT LIST:

(Continued)



JAMES OWEN - BRITISH HISTORIAN AND JOURNALIST

He specializes in the figure of Hitler and the history of the Second World War, about which he is the author of numerous books.



GUY WALTERS - BRITISH AUTHOR, HISTORIAN, JOURNALIST AND TV HOST

He is the author and editor of nine books on the Nazism, Second World War and ratlines.



HUBERT WOLF - GERMAN CHURCH HISTORIAN AND PROFESSOR

His books include Pope and Devil: The Vatican's Archives and the Third Reich, a study of the relationship between the Vatican and Adolf Hitler's administration in Germany.



BARBARA FRALE - ITALIAN ARCHIVIST AT THE VATICAN SECRET ARCHIVES

Frale is a writer and she has written numerous historical books based on the sources of the Vatican Apostolic Archive. One of them 'The Prince and the Fisherman' is about Pius XII and his links with the German anti-Nazi resistance.

EXPERT LIST:

(Continued)



FRANK MCDONOUGH - BRITISH HISTORIAN

One of the world's leading experts on German history and the Third Reich. He is a university professor at John Moore university in Liverpool.



MATTEO LUIGI NAPOLITANO - ITALIAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Head of the Chairs of History of International Relations and International Relations and Diplomacy at the Vatican Secretariat of State, specialising in international relations from the pontificate of Pius XII.



FLAVIA MARCELLO - AUSTRALIAN SCHOLAR AND RESEARCHER

Flavia is a professor at Swinburne University. Her studies focus on Fascist Italy and the Nazi occupation of Rome.



EPISODE 1

THE JEWISH QUESTION

In the first episode we will investigate the truth about the Vatican and the so called “Jewish question” before the war. What role did the Pope and Church play as the Nazis came to power and began enforcing their racist policies?

EPISODE 2

REVENGE OF EVIL

The second episode will examine Pius XII's secret alliance with the German resistance, in particular with Admiral Canaris, through the mysterious German lawyer Joseph Muller. What was Hitler's extraordinary plan to kidnap Pope Pius XII inside the Vatican? How much did the Vatican know?



EPISODE 3

THE STRATEGY OF SILENCE

In the third episode we explore Pius XII's strategy of silence in the face of the Holocaust. We will examine how the Vatican was used to hide Jewish refugees, as were the schools, convents, hospitals and colleges and catacombs of Rome. What was the secret plan to save as many Jews as possible? Was it effective?

EPISODE 4

RATLINES

In the fourth episode we investigate the controversial involvement of the Church in the infamous Ratlines. Was Pius XII really involved in this? Was he aware of it? What did he do about it? Will the truth finally reveal itself as we delve into the Vatican's secrets hidden deep within the archives?



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