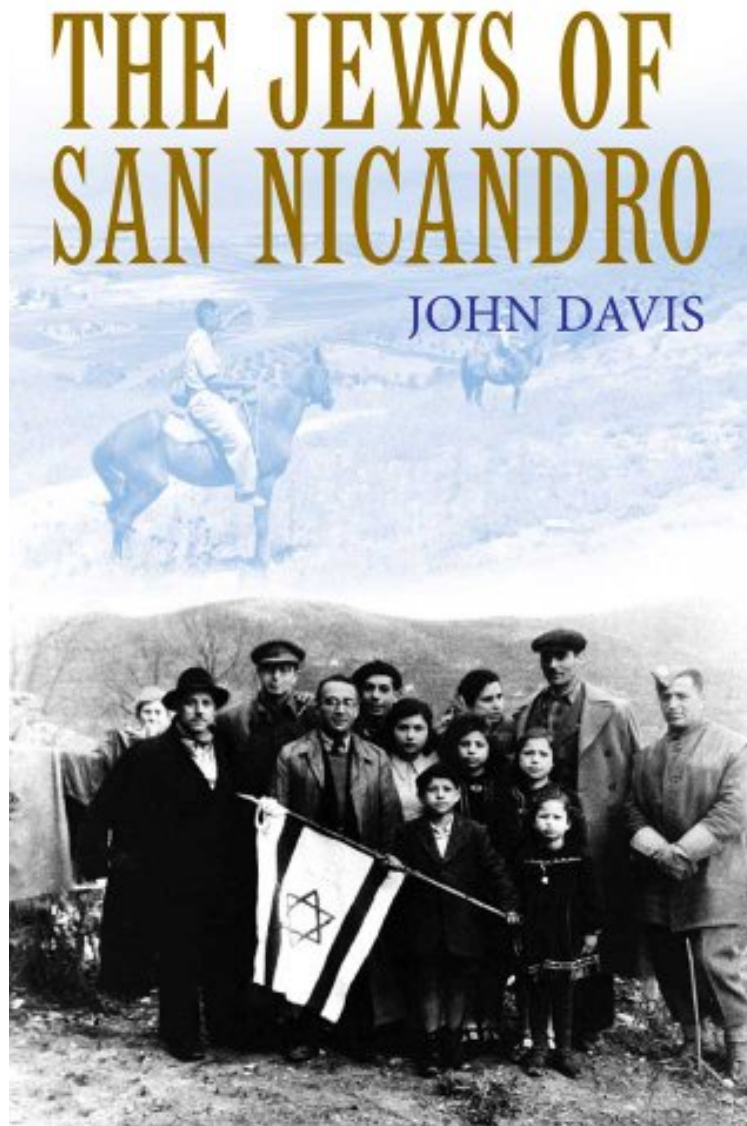


(Get free) The Jews of San Nicandro

The Jews of San Nicandro

John Davis

*ePub / *DOC / audiobook / ebooks / Download PDF*



 Download

 Read Online

#2192223 in Books 2010-10-26Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.62 x .97 x 5.821, .99 #File Name: 0300114257252 pages | File size: 66.Mb

John Davis : The Jews of San Nicandro before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Jews of San Nicandro:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book was very good and interestingBy Marian AtkinsonI purchased this book having seen a documentary on CBC about the San Nicandro Jews. The book was very good and interesting. It provided me with some information that differed from that documentary. I think putting the two together

provides a broader view of the 'story' but then, one has to keep in mind that the book sparked further research which was included in the documentary. Would recommend this book to anyone interested in Jewish history. The whole subject is indeed fascinating. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Customer It's an interesting story, but a bit repetitive and a rather dry read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Inspiring Story about an unlikely group who swam against the tide during a horrid period in Jewish history. By Hilel B. Salomon The author presents an incredible story and does so in a scholarly and convincing but readable manner. These were incredibly poor Italian peasants who demonstrated their commitment by learning to read and write at a time and in an area where literacy was uncommon. They could easily have dropped this drive to become Jews when Mussolini decided to go along with Hitler and the Papacy, and had turned on Italian Jews. They could have dropped their efforts when there was little support from the Italian Jews themselves, and the would be converts of San Nicandro had to constantly plea for books, ritual guidance and even circumcision for the men and boys. They probably didn't even know that there were some wealthy Jews in America, and didn't ask for financial support. They did receive some occasional help--mostly in the form of advice-- and they were eventually aided by British and Palestinian Jews who were fighting for the Allies, but too many times, their letters went unanswered. They persisted and, even knowing that going to Israel would put them and their children in danger because of the Israeli Arab conflict, most of them did emigrate to the new Jewish State. The European War was over, but they chose to fight for their religion. The author doesn't try to cover up their often querulous nature, their petty rivalries and their blemishes. In fact, this convinced me that they had really already become Jews in all their virtues as well as flaws. Einstein is reported to have said that Jews have persisted because of their stubborn determination to remain Jewish despite all the hardships that this entailed. The San Nicandro Jews offer an excellent example of this. Another feature of these people is how often the women took it upon themselves to lead. This book offers an inspiring story of courage and determination. It is told well.

Not many people know of the utterly extraordinary events that took place in a humble southern Italian town in the first half of the twentieth century and those who do have struggled to explain them. In the late 1920s, a crippled shoemaker had a vision where God called upon him to bring the Jewish faith to this dark corner in the Catholic heartlands, despite his having had no prior contact with Judaism itself. By 1938, about a dozen families had converted at one of the most troubled times for Italy's Jews. The peasant community came under the watchful eyes of Mussolini's regime and the Catholic Church, but persisted in their new belief, eventually securing approval of their conversion from the rabbinical authorities, and emigrating to the newly founded State of Israel, where a community still exists today. In this first fully documented examination of the San Nicandro story, John A. Davis explains how and why these incredible events unfolded as they did. Using the converts' own accounts and a wide range of hitherto unknown sources, Davis uncovers the everyday trials and tribulations within this community, and shows how they intersected with many key contemporary issues, including national identity and popular devotional cults, Fascist and Catholic persecution, Zionist networks and postwar Jewish refugees, and the mass exodus that would bring the Mediterranean peasant world to an end. Vivid and poignant, this book draws fresh and intriguing links between the astonishing San Nicandro affair and the wider transformation of twentieth-century Europe.

"Davis has infused this historical episode--as well as the question 'Who is a Jew?'--with larger meaning. . ."--Forward