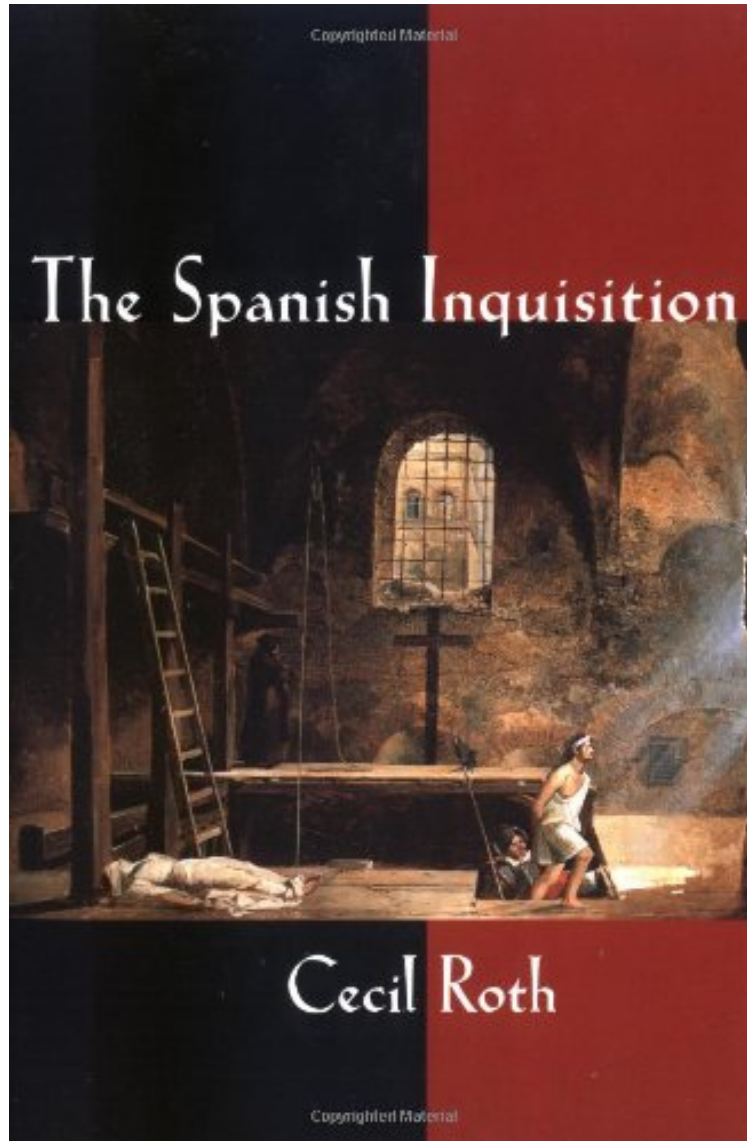


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The Spanish Inquisition

Cecil Roth

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Cecil Roth : The Spanish Inquisition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Spanish Inquisition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Douglas C. RoseVery pleased3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Vatican will hate it but will not be able to have Cecil Roth burned alive at the stake. Not any more.By JaysonrexThis book, like so many others dealing with the same topic, details what the Catholic Church is all about: a gang of shameless criminals with the Pope as its "Don Corleone" and the Roman Curia as the Mafia Main

Gang, that created a fairy tale as an excuse for its malodorous existence. The Spanish Inquisition was nothing more than an attempt by the Vatican to steal the wealth of Spanish Jews under the guise of Christian primacy as a religion. Most Christians will probably hate this book since it reveals the perversity of the Roman Church in its demented quest for dominating the World - by persecuting, torturing and murdering those that belong to the first and only truly monotheistic religion - the Jewish people. I recommend this book to all those honest people that are looking for 'truth as a guiding light'. 50 of 57 people found the following review helpful. Solid if unspectacular history of the Spanish Inquisition. By Robert Moore. If one is looking for a solid history of the Spanish Inquisition that will introduce the reader with the main events and features of that peculiar institution, one could do worse than read this book. One could also do better, by looking instead at Peter's INQUISITION or Henry Kamm's THE SPANISH INQUISITION. But since neither of those books is perfect (Peter's covers the Inquisition in all its forms, and as a result the Spanish Inquisition in less detail, while Kamm tends to minimize some of the atrocities), Roth remains an extremely viable alternative. The strongpoint of Roth's account is the clarity with which he tells the story, in particular highlighting some of the consequences that ought to have been anticipated from the manner in which the Inquisition was constructed. For instance, the Inquisition acquired the financial holdings of those whom it convicted of heresy. This, of course, provided the Inquisitors with powerful financial motivation to either find the accused guilty or to extort money from them. The weakness of Roth's book is that while he hints at other views about events of the Inquisition, he never explains what these other views are, or what the underlying issues are. I am utterly mystified by one reviewer who seems to criticize this book because it accuses the Church of anti-Semitism. Is this news? The entire initial point of the Spanish Inquisition was to ferret out Jews who had forcibly been converted to Catholicism and still retained their Jewish beliefs and ceremonies. I am not sure how this cannot be interpreted anti-Semitism, unless one is using some very unusual criteria. Moreover, scholars working in a number of areas have detected a fair degree of anti-Semitism in the history of Roman Catholicism. Does this mean that all Roman Catholics in history have been anti-Semites? Absolutely not. But it does mean that it is a phenomenon that has reappeared over and over throughout European history. What possible reason would anyone have for denying that the Spanish Inquisition was not profoundly anti-Semitic? That it would seem to be undeniable to anyone with even the most cursory acquaintance with Spanish history. Other reviewers have felt that Roth is merely out to criticize the Catholic Church. Simply because he critiques one aspect of the Catholic Church doesn't mean that he would find nothing of value within Catholicism. Roth was himself Jewish, so he was not writing from within the Catholic tradition. But I can't understand why someone writing from within the tradition couldn't arrive at an assessment very close to that of Roth's. So, while this isn't the best book on the Spanish Inquisition (indeed, no clearly best book would seem to exist currently), this is a very adequate survey of the subject.

No other organization for religious persecution ever equaled the Spanish Inquisition in intensity, scope, ruthless efficiency, and an almost fanatical devotion to the Pope. From its establishment in 1478 until its abolishment in 1834, no one expected its tribunals, which relentlessly sought to destroy everyone who was not a Roman Catholic Christian. The terrible history of the Inquisition is told here by the distinguished scholar Cecil Roth, who was Reader in Jewish Studies at Oxford University.

From the Back Cover The long series of events leading up to the establishment of the Inquisition and the following three and a half centuries of torment that spread from Spain to Portugal and even to the New World are here documented by Cecil Roth of Oxford, one of the world's great authorities on Jewish history. About the Author Roth is a noted historian, and the author of numerous Jewish historical titles. From AudioFile Beginning in 1478 with the Bull issued by Pope Sixtus IV, which empowered Spanish sovereigns to exterminate heresy in their realms, the Inquisition pursued its ruthless course for three and a half centuries. Listening to the irrational and relentless atrocities documented by Dr. Cecil Roth of Oxford is made bearable only by the clear, pleasing British accent of Nadia May. The text is further enhanced by her excellent pronunciation of names and places as the intensity and scope of the operation increase and spread from Spain to France, Italy and the New World. E.P.M. (c) AudioFile, Portland, Maine