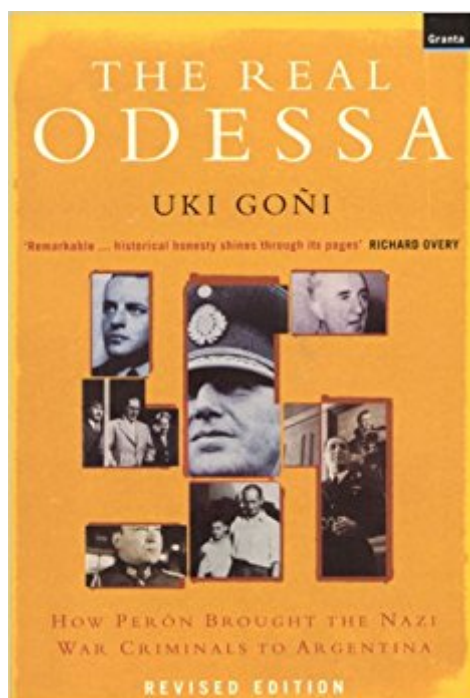


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The Real Odessa: How Peron Brought The Nazi War Criminals To Argentina



Synopsis

Drawing on American and European intelligence documents, Uki Goni shows how from 1946 onward a Nazi escape operation was based at the presidential palace in Buenos Aires, harboring such war criminals as Adolf Eichmann and Josef Mengele. Goni uncovers an elaborate network that relied on the complicity of the Vatican, the Argentine Catholic Church, and the Swiss authorities. The discoveries made in this meticulously researched book reveal the entangled web of the Nazi regime and its sympathizers and has prompted Argentine officials to demand closed files on the Nazi era from their current government.

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Customer Reviews

THE NEW YORK TIMES: "Documents for the first time how Juan Perón clandestinely maneuvered to bring Nazi war criminals to Argentina after World War II." THE OBSERVER: "Fascinating ... frightening." TIME: "A courageous book." LE MONDE: "Goni reveals that Argentina's best-kept state secret is a secret directive ... prohibiting the entry of Jewish refugees fleeing from Nazi Germany." "A chilling, detailed story of one of Argentina's most shameful secrets."

Author Uki Goni has appeared in countless documentaries by the BBC, NatGeo, Discovery Channel, History Channel, PBS, and many other channels in the US and Europe. He is principally known for his work documenting the escape of Nazi criminals in his book "The Real Odessa," which proves the role of the Vatican, Swiss authorities and Argentina organizing 'ratline' escape routes

from Europe. In his previous book "Perón y los Alemanes" (available in Spanish only for the time being) he uncovered the secret wartime complicity between Germany's Nazi regime and Argentina. Uki Goñi has also written for major media such as The New York Times and Time magazine in the US, as well as for The Guardian and The Sunday Times in the UK. Uki Goñi was born in Washington DC and was raised in the US, Argentina, Mexico and Ireland. He interrupted his studies at Trinity College, Dublin, at the age of 21, to settle in Buenos Aires, the native city of his parents.

This deserves much wider attention than it has. Peronistas were unable to shred or burn the documents of foreign intelligence agencies; thus, leaving the way open for Uki Goni to piece the story back together. Most surprising is the revelation that Peron was a complete adherent of National Socialism. Bringing the Nazi's in to Argentina was more of a ego trip as it served to prop up his own romantic illusions. Highly readable and recommended

A solidly researched, well-written piece of work on the Argentine side of the ratlines smuggling Nazi war criminals out of Europe after WWII. After reading Uki Goni's book, you'll never look quite the same way at the Vatican, the Red Cross, the Perons, or British and U.S. intelligence for that matter. Goni, an Argentine journalist and son of a diplomat, was able to write this book despite government displeasure at his work, probably because he was too high profile to "disappear." This review is kind of a twofer. I bought The Real Odessa after reading Phillip Kerr's A Quiet Flame. The Real Odessa was his source material. Like all great writers, Kerr bases his Bernie Guenther novels -- fiction -- on well-researched facts and intelligent speculation.

This book contains very compelling evidence of the collaboration between the Vatican, Argentinian Embassy and the America Red Cross to harness, protect and legally export the Top Nazi officials/leadership to build/run Argentinian government controlled business (CAPRIS) under Peron's Dictatorship. An excellent read...for time management, if you read the chapter on Adolph Eichner the pattern is the same throughout.

It is getting dark in the Alps. A night trip begins. The journey starts from the local Church in the town of Vinaders close to Innsbruck in Austria. The path is exhausting and steep going through the Alps. First you reach the Italian border, and then descend to Brennerbad and reach the local Church there. This might sound like the kind of adventurous hike organized by a local tourist agency today.

In 1945 as the Second World War came to an end, this night hike was undertaken many times by travelers who were in fact Nazi war criminals. They were guided by members of a secret agency soon to be known as the ODESSA. Their aim was to escape from justice and head for freedom in Latin America. Hardcore Nazis, Ustashi, Belgian Fascists and Slovaks were among the many fugitives who, as Uki Goni reveals in his book "The Real ODESSA", escaped from war-torn Europe for a new life and a new identity in Argentina and, later on, countries such as Paraguay and Uruguay. Since the end of the war, the subject of how Nazi war criminals were smuggled into South America has been speculated over by journalists, historians and even fictional writers, notably Frederick Forsyth in his novel "The ODESSA File". "The Real ODESSA" is one of the first books to describe in detail the inner workings of this secret organization, the existence of which has been denied for many years. The night trip mentioned above is one such detail revealed by the Argentine-born author who describes other similar escape routes or "ratlines." Perhaps the most revealing aspects of Goni's book are to do with the collaboration of the Argentinian government, led by President Juan Peron, and the fleeing Nazis, who found a safe haven in Argentina and some of the surrounding countries. Goni did an incredible amount of research in the Argentinian national archives, particularly immigration records. He manages to identify about three hundred war criminals who were provided with a safe haven in Argentina, among them Erik Priebke, Gerhard Bohne, Jozef Schwammberger as well as the cream of the crop, Jozef Mengele and Adolf Eichman. After doing six years of research and conducting hundreds of interviews, Goni expertly highlights the complicity of Juan Peron's government, as well as the involvement of Vatican priests, in allowing these mass murderers to escape justice. The ease with which the war criminals were able to emigrate to Argentina contrasts with the difficulties faced by Jews who, when trying to escape persecution in Nazi Germany, were denied entry to Argentina. Goni devotes an entire chapter, titled "War Games", which describes how Juan Peron and Hitler deliberately made it impossible for Jews to find a safe haven in Argentina by branding them as undesirable. The revelations in Goni's excellent book are explosive and embarrassing, even damaging. In 1996, when officials within the Argentine government became aware of Goni's research, they panicked and tried to burn all the documents in the archives. However, fortunately for historians, researchers and the public, Goni had already discovered much of the truth about Peron's close association with the Nazis and the involvement of anti-communist Vatican officials like Bishop Hudal. Goni reveals that it was Peron's intention, with Hudal's support, to get as many Nazis into Argentina, believing them to be "freedom fighters" against communism. Compared to the number of war criminals who successfully escaped justice, very few were brought to trial and punished. This book, whilst a work

of non-fiction by a journalist, sometimes reads like a novel, proving the old adage that truth is sometimes stranger than fiction. Goni has revealed an incredible amount of detail in his book though there remains much more in the archives. However, whilst it is not always possible to highlight everything it is important, according to Goni in an interview with the History Channel, that "we need to get as close to the truth as possible".

I bought the book while in Argentina. It turns out that a lot of Argentine's are not aware of the behavior of their government shortly before and during the war. The book is very readable, interesting and gives one a good understanding of what makes Argentina tick the way it does.

QUITE REVEALING.

Excellent, in-depth, explanation of the complex political intrigues that took place in processing, smuggling, and relocating Nazi SS to South America, and particularly Argentina, after WWII.

Makes me rethink my interest and love for Argentina.

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