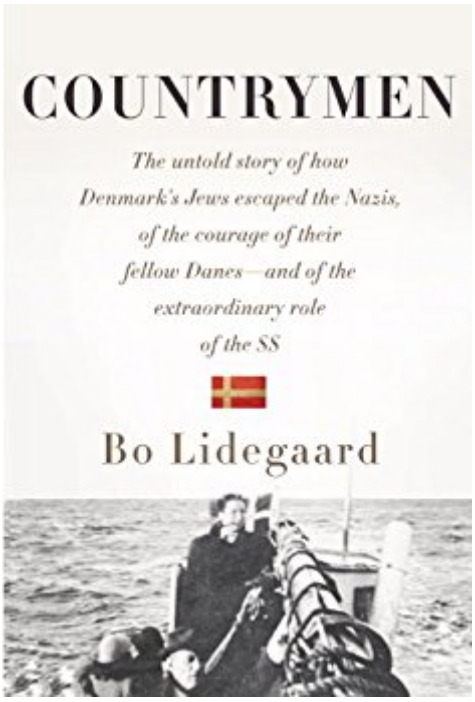
The book was found

Countrymen



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

Amid the dark, ghastly history of World War II, the literally extraordinary story, never before fully researched by a historian, of how the Danish people banded together to save their fellow Jews from the Nazisâ ”told through the remarkable unpublished diaries and documents of families forced to run for safety, leaving their homes and possessions behind, and of those who courageously came to their aid. In 1943, with its king and administration weakened but intact during the Nazi occupation, Denmark did something that no other country in Western Europe even attempted. Anticipating that the German occupying powers would soon issue the long-feared order to round up the entire population of Jews for deportation to concentration camps, the Danish people stood up in defiance and resisted. The king, politicians, and ordinary civilians were united in their responseâ ”these threatened people were not simply Jews but fellow Danes who happened to be Jewish, and no one would help in rounding them up for confinement and deportation. Â While diplomats used their limited but very real power to maneuver and impede matters in both Copenhagen and Berlin, the warning that the crisis was at hand quickly spread through the Jewish community. Over fourteen harrowing days, as they were helped, hidden, and protected by ordinary people who spontaneously rushed to save their fellow citizens, an incredible 7,742 out of 8,200 Jewish refugees were smuggled out all along the coastâ ”on ships, schooners, fishing boats, anything that floatedâ ”to Sweden. While the bare facts of this exodus have been known for decades, astonishingly no full history of it has been written. Unfolding on a day-to-day basis, Countrymen brings together accounts written by individuals and officials as events happened, offering a comprehensive overview that underlines occupied Denmarkâ ™s historical importance to Hitler as a prop for the model Nazi state and revealing the savage conflict among top Nazi brass for control of the country. This is a story of ordinary glory, of simple courage and moral fortitude that shines out in the midst of the terrible history of the twentieth century and demonstrates how it was possible for a small and fragile democracy to stand against the Third Reich.

Book Information

File Size: 9795 KB

Print Length: 416 pages

Publisher: Knopf (September 17, 2013)

Publication Date: September 17, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00C0ALYKS

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #420,471 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #21 inÂ Books > History > Europe > Scandinavia > Denmark #102 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > Scandinavia #491 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > World > Jewish > Holocaust

Customer Reviews

Many years ago I was told how, during the German occupation of Denmark, the king refused to comply with the Germans' demands to make Jews wear the star-of-David. And he did so, the story goes, by wearing a Jewish star himself, and the whole country wearing stars in support of the Jewish population.As it turns out, that isn't exactly what happened. But the actual history is almost as impressive, because Denmark DID save its Jews from the Nazis in World War II. And Bo Lidegaard tells us every detail of that history.This is another book in which I'd like you to ignore my star rating, because its value is based more on your expectations than mine. I confess that my interest in the subject was superficial, at least in comparison to the information supplied. It's like asking someone, "How was your day at work?" and getting a two-hour answer when a few paragraphs would satiate your curiosity about the topic. However, I certainly cannot fault the author for doing a conscientious detailed job!Still, I learned quite a bit about Denmark's role during World War II, and how hard the community and the government (or what was left of it) tried to keep themselves a separate and independent entity. For example, the populace was encouraged to comply with the Germans but to give them a cold shoulder socially. And the key in supporting the Jews was not a matter of appreciating the religion (there were only 7,000 Jews in the country to begin with) but the perception of Denmark's independence and, kind of, "You ain't the boss of me.

In the history of Nazi Germany's persecution of the Jews there aren't many happy stories. Usually the best we can manage is a family hidden in the attic or an individual who slipped away. But the case of Denmark, where 7,000 Danes were Jewish, stands out even if it doesn't start very promisingly.When Germany attacked in April 1940, Denmark's leaders didn't believe the country was strong enough to resist. Instead of putting up a fight, Denmark became an occupied country

that still retained some semblance of self-government - a situation most Danes found humiliating. And given Germany's record of persecution against Jews, Danish leaders did everything they thought possible to avert a roundup of their citizens. Yet when it finally came on October 1, 1943, the people themselves managed to help nearly all the Jews to escape to Sweden. Out of 7,000, only a few hundred were captured by the Germans.Given that I am one quarter Danish (my grandmother and her parents emigrated around 1900) I really looked forward to this history. And it's an inspiring story of how the Danish people helped their "countrymen" escape what everyone knew was a death-sentence. The risks people took were very real and dangerous, and neighbors even cared for the property of the refugees (instead of the opportunistic looting that generally happened in other places). The book focuses mostly on the Hannover and Marcus families - two sisters - as well as their father, but other sources and stories are included as well. I found it especially interesting how people knew what the Germans were doing to the Jews (not always in vague or general terms!) and yet they still found it hard to believe it would happen in Denmark, instead trusting in the "honor" of the occupation forces.

Denmark had been under German occupation since 1940, but as late as 1943 - through a combination of unimaginable courage, crafty diplomacy and naked dissimulation - the government of that kingdom managed to remain more or less intact, in control of its population, territory and organs of administration, including its police and armed forces.Denmark had managed to maintain its neutrality under a seeming and widely criticized patina of appeasement: while allowing the Germans into the country, it firmly resisted Nazi representation in its councils of government. But by 1943, the German occupiers had reached the limits of their tether, their patience at an end: Denmark was theirs, and its Jewish population was to be deported and exterminated in the man-made hells that spotted the eastern half of the European continent.Knowing this to be the case, the aging King Christian X and his stalwart prime minister, Thorvad Stauning, collaborated with the country's citizenry to save their 7,000 fellow Danes who happened to be Jewish from certain death at the hands of their Nazi occupiers Over fourteen days - from Sunday, September 26th to Saturday October 9th, the great mass of the Danish people "spontaneously" came together to help, hide and protect their Jewish friends and neighbors - neighbors who were suddenly refugees - and smuggle nearly the whole of Denmark's Jewish community out of the country in trains, planes, automobiles and boats and into safety in neighboring Sweden.Shockingly, until the publication of Bo Lidegaard's "Countrymen" there has been no definite history written of this amazing episode, a singular bright spot in the horrors of World War II Europe.

Download to continue reading...

Countrymen: The Untold Story of How Denmark’s Jews Escaped the Nazis, of the Courage of Their Fellow Danes--and of the Extraordinary Role of the SS Countrymen On Wings of Eagles: The Inspiring True Story of One Man’s Patriotic Spirit -- and His Heroic Mission to Save His Countrymen

Dmca