

**MUSSOLINI AND THE HEBREWS**

1922 – 1943

**The New York Times**

**THE OFFICIAL RECORD SPEAKS AT LAST**

## **CHRISTIANS CITED FOR AID TO JEWS**

*New York Times (1857-Current file)*; Sep 18, 1933; Pro Quest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2001)  
pg. 12

6 Americans in Group Chosen by Editors as Year's Leading Champions of Peoples. among the twelve men chosen by Jewish newspaper editors as the greatest Christian champions of the Jewish people during the past year. In their answers to the questionnaire the editors gave the following reasons for their selections:

### **Mussolini IS Praised**

Premier Mussolini – Because he took pains to demonstrate that Italian Fascism does not tolerate racial and religious persecution.

Page 201 The Last Centurion: [www.Benito-Mussolini.com](http://www.Benito-Mussolini.com)

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## **JEWS UNITE TO AID GERMAN BRETHREN**

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

*New York Times (1857-Current file)*; Nov 2, 1933; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)



### **Chief Rabbi of Italy Speaks.**

The most dramatic moment of the conference came tonight when Dr. A. Sacerdoti, Grand Rabbi of Italy, faced the delegation as a loyal Fascist who repudiated the Nazi brand of fascism. "Italian fascism has never shown the slightest degree anti-Semitic, as has been so plainly shown by many declarations on the part of its founder, Premier Mussolini. Italian Fascism seeks to bring about the unity of all the citizens of in the State, not their division, he declared." Fascism in its restoration of spiritual and religious values has a matter of fact, made it possible for us Italian Jews to achieve a renewal and stretching of our Judaism by a magnificent reorganization of our communal life."

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## Excerpts from the Wall Street Journal, December 22, 1993

AN ARMY OF SCHINDLERS FROM ITALY  
BY DOROTHY RABINOWITZ  
JOURNAL EDITORIAL WRITER

Oskar Schindler, flawed hero of Steven Spielberg's monumental film, "Schindler's List," came to Poland a profiteer and ended up a rescuer of many hundreds of Jewish lives. His story's entry into the world, via Mr. Spielberg's justly celebrated film, calls to mind a number of other unlikely rescuers of whose exploits little has been heard, however much they are known to historians.

I have in mind, namely Hitler's allies, the Italians, whose government ministries and army and highest political circles moved heaven and earth to see to it that not a single Jew was deported from Italy. They schemed, they plotted, they resorted to the wildest of strategies and delaying efforts -- including the invention of the most wonderful complicated "census-taking" known to man -- to ensure that no Jews under their governance fell into German hands. Not for nothing does the history of these plots sometimes read like farce.

Not only would the Italian government -- reflecting the popular attitude of the citizenry at large -- resist deportation, its army and consuls undertook extraordinary efforts to rescue Jews in their zones of occupation. As an Axis partner, Italy's forces occupied a large sector of Greece, part of Yugoslavia, and eight sectors of southeastern France, including Nice.

The attitude of the occupying Italians with regard to Germany's extermination plans for the Jews was made immediately clear to the great distress and confusion of the Germans and their French allies. For, as soon as the Vichy government rounded up Jews for arrest and deportation, the Italians military and foreign ministry demanded -- and obtained -- a stop to the arrests and deportations.

In Annecy, the French police, who had rounded up a trainload of Jews for deportation, found themselves looking at the barrels of guns trained on them by soldiers of the Italian Fourth Army. In Greece, the Italian consuls and military - witness to the brutal deportations taking place before their eyes -- busied themselves handing out phony certificates of "Italian nationality" to the hunted Jews.

In Nice, the Italian commandant stationed carabinieri outside the Jewish communal center and synagogue to make certain that Vichy police could not enter to make arrests.

What there was in the character of the Italians that made their resistance to mass murder so implacable, so different from that of the Vichy French, is a question we may ponder -- and one for whose existence we may be grateful.

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## FASCISM AND COMRADES OF HEBREW RELIGION

It is useless to deny that in the national-popular universe there exists different opinions both on the question of present Israel or on the Jewish Italian world or, better said, on Italians of Hebrew religion.

The Jews in our national territory have never been actually persecuted by Italians who in the vast majority of cases always helped them and hid them at risk of their own life and by often paying with dire consequences.

And we have numerous examples of soldiers, officers, officials, and comrades of the Militia, Police, and Carabinieri who defended them and removed them from the furious and murderous

irrationality of German killers.

And we have heroes like Parlance, comrade of the Spanish war and sent to the East, a Fascist from the start, who with his incredible effort, saved thousands to the point that he, a Fascist, was honored in Israel as “Righteous Among Gentiles”.

It is true that Italy, because of its alliance with Hitler, produced the most ridiculous “Race Manifest” but never with the terrible consequences as in Germany where the infamous “Nuremberg Laws” allowed every possible abuse on harmless people who were at the mercy of the Gestapo.

Is there still resentment and suspicion from the Italian Right against the Jews?

No, there is a rage of a different nature and an irrational pressure of a minority that directs over the traditional targets and divergent frustrations not bound to a coherent political train of thought and to adult and mature behavior.

How many ties there are between the Fascism and the Comrades of Hebrew religion?

Many, even though both the Right and the national and international Hebrew community have willingly ignored them because of that absurd policy of a partly historic revisionism.

There was a great number of Italian Jews who supported the ascend of “Il Duce Mussolini”, five of them were among the 119 who founded the Italian Fascism Corps at San Sepolcro Square in Milan on the 23rd of March 1919 and Cesare Goldman was responsible for organizing the event.

Among the “Fascists Martyrs” who died in the conflict between 1919 and 1922, three were the Comrades of Hebrew religion, namely D. Senigaglia, G. Balaffi, and B. Mondolfo and 746 Italians of Hebrew religion in 1923 were enrolled in the Fascist party while more than 300 were alongside Il Duce in the famous “March to Rome”.

And this without counting the immense economic contribution that many of them gave to the newborn Fascist party and to the important friends of Mussolini.

Aldo Finzi, a Comrade of Hebrew religion, was the pilot who flew over Fiume together with G. D'Annunzio and was one of the nine elected in 1921 as Congressman and later became Vice-Secretary at the Interior Ministry and a member of the Great Council.

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Dante Almansi was second in command to the police chief De Bona and Guido Jung was Finance Minister from 1932 to 1935.

Maurizio Rava was Vice-Governor of Libya, Governor of Somalia and a General of the Fascist Militia.

Renzo Ravenna was a very personal friend of Italo Balbo, a very first member of the Fascist squad and for 15 years a Ferrara Podesta (Mayor).

Ugo Foa was awarded decorations many times for Militia Valor during the Great War, a lawyer, and among the very first enrolled in the Fascist Party was very important Official until 1939.

And did you know that the first Dean of the University of Rome was Giorgio Del Vecchio a Comrade of Hebrew religion?

And what can we say of Margherita Sarfati, lover of il Duce before Claretta Petacci, publisher assistant to the news paper “Popolo D'Italia” and Co-Editor of the “Gerarchia” (Hierarchy), the ideological magazine of the Regime.

Aside from these cases, from 1929 to 1935 there were 4920 Comrades of Hebrew religion accepted into the party and the exact percent (10%) of the Italian Hebrew population of that time and the same as those enrolled to the Party in relation to the global population.

And this until the “Arian” blunder.

It is necessary to think and reflect on history itself without denying the evidence of the mistakes made and in the hope of arriving at what J. Evola defined as “The true awareness of the reality” in order to reach moral and internal fulfillment.

Francesco Zero

## **THE IMPORTANCE AND ROLE OF SPIRITUALITY IN THE LIFE AND GOVERNMENT OF BENITO MUSSOLINI**

Mussolini, as do so many young men and women growing into their early adult life, paid little if any attention to the importance of the fundamental and precious spiritual truths that were held by their parents and others in their society who have lived a longer life than they have. At the beginning of his life, his views on church and its clergy were formed at the knee of his father, Alessandro Mussolini who lived a long and difficult life. Alessandro saw the clergy and the Church as being shifting elements in the Risorgimento world of Italian politics from 1854 to 1910 the years he lived and worked in Predappio, Italy.

When Benito left home to work abroad as a laborer, teacher, writer, newspaper editor and eventually owner - publisher, and when he began a family with his wife Rachele, he came under far different religious and spiritual influences — some positive, some negative.

Assuming in 1922 the Supreme Political Command of Italy as the Prime Minister of a centuries old Roman Catholic country, at the young age of thirty- nine years old he soon recognized the importance and the spiritual value of the Church and its universal mission to one billion people and the long held Catholic spirituality as lived and demonstrated by the fifty million citizens of Italy. He had inherited from former Italian governments a festering sore of conflict and distrust between the Holy See at the Vatican and the Government of Italy and The Kingdom of Italy. He decided in 1929 which road he would follow. By his diplomatic triumph of The Lateran Pact, the Church and the State both were confident and secure in their co-habitation of the City of Rome and the Church's relationship with the Kingdom of Italy and Sovereignty of the House of Savoy along with the sovereignty of the Holy See in Rome

His interest in religion continued to grow and take on greater meaning in his life. He often had informal talks with priests of many ministries, several of whom became close friends. We Italians are Catholics by conviction, he told a delegation of priests who came to talk with him. I am a Catholic by conviction, because I believe that Catholicism is the religion which possesses a doctrine capable of resolving all the problems of life, individual and social, national, and international, and in the conflict between spiritualism and materialism it sustains and desires the primacy and victory of the spirit.. A priest then asked him when will he return to the church to receive the sacraments of the church, he said, let us wait a little, father. There is time, there is time.

# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

March, 1937

## IMPERIAL ROME REBORN

by John Patric

I stood under Benito Mussolini's office window after Addis Ababa fell. I saw him throw his strong right arm and say, slowly and distinctively: "The war is finished!"

The Roman Empire was reborn that night. Later it was named, "L'Impero Italiano," yet Romans rule it surely as their fathers from the near-by Forum ruled most of the world they knew. Empires have fallen. This one — and this one alone — has risen again.

More than 26 centuries ago the wolf-suckled twins quarreled and Remus was slain for leaping scornfully over the wall of Romulus' new town. Far from having been "built in a day," the Eternal City is unfinished even now; and to her seven hills more and finer roads than ever lead from far places.

One day I had been with newspaper folk in the reclaimed Pontine Marshes near Rome. As we lunched informally with Il Duce in a little Littoria restaurant, I learned what upon what meat this modern Caesar feeds.

Mussolini talked some, listened most, and smiled often, rolling his eyes so much that my strongest memory now is a continual sight of the whites.

Above one close-clipped, iron gray temple a large mole added homely character to his nearly bald head. Tucking an napkin protectively beneath his black collar, he ate with quick, nervous motions — bread, noodles, cheese, pork-and-peas, an orange, and drank a little Frascati wine.

ROME IS A HAVEN FOR MANYAN ALIEN. I TALKED WITH JEWS RUNNING BUSY AUTO WRECKING SHOPS AND WONDERED HOW MANY OLD CARS AMERICA WOULD SCRAP IF METAL JUMPED TO WAR PRICES AND FOUR GALLONS OF GAS COST FIVE DOLLARS.

"THERE ARE PERHAPS 25,000 OF US IN ROME," REMARKED THE FATHER OF A LARGE FAMILY WHOSE YOUNGER MEMBERS WATCHED HIM MELT BABBIT FROM BRONZE BEARINGS, "MANY OF US FOUGHT IN ETHIOPIA. WE ARE FREE TO WORSHIP AS JUDEA, BUT WE ARE ROMANS TOO."

ANOTHER JEW, A RETIRED CLOTHING MERCHANT SAID HE LIVED IN ROME BECAUSE "HERE I FEEL MORE EQUALITY THAN I HAVE EVER KNEW."



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In memory of Valentino and Angela (Nella) Daldin