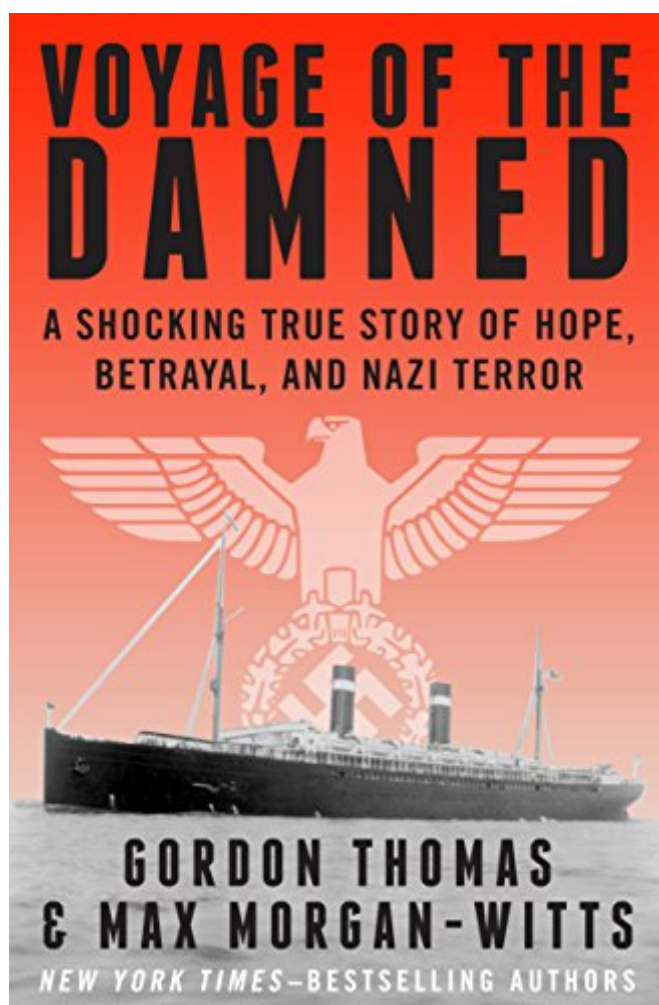


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Voyage Of The Damned: A Shocking True Story Of Hope, Betrayal, And Nazi Terror



Synopsis

The “extraordinary” true story of the St. Louis, a German ship that, in 1939, carried Jews away from Hamburg and into an unimaginable ordeal (The New York Times). On May 13, 1939, the luxury liner St. Louis sailed from Hamburg, one of the last ships to leave Nazi Germany before World War II erupted. Aboard were 937 Jews—some had already been in concentration camps—who believed they had bought visas to enter Cuba. The voyage of the damned had begun. Before the St. Louis was halfway across the Atlantic, a power struggle ensued between the corrupt Cuban immigration minister who issued the visas and his superior, President Bru. The outcome: The refugees would not be allowed to land in Cuba. In America, the Brown Shirts were holding Nazi rallies in Madison Square Garden; anti-Semitic Father Coughlin had an audience of fifteen million. Back in Germany, plans were being laid to implement the final solution. And aboard the St. Louis, 937 refugees awaited the decision that would determine their fate. Gordon Thomas and Max Morgan Witts have re-created history in this meticulous reconstruction of the voyage of the St. Louis. Every word of their account is true: the German High Command’s ulterior motive in granting permission for the “mission of mercy”; the confrontations between the refugees and the German crewmen; the suicide attempts among the passengers; and the attitudes of those who might have averted the catastrophe, but didn’t. In reviewing the work, the New York Times was unequivocal: “An extraordinary human document and a suspense story that is hard to put down. But it is more than that. It is a modern allegory, in which the SS St. Louis becomes a symbol of the SS Planet Earth. In this larger sense the book serves a greater purpose than mere drama.”

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Customer Reviews

We have had this in our library for years, and have several out in the world that we have lent to others interested in our world's history. This is a true story, horrific proof of what society can and has done in the past to "OTHERS". A warning for the faint of heart, this is verified truth, not from social media, not from rumors or hacked emails from anyone. This book has been published in many formats, movies and documentaries. Let us not forget, lest we repeat our own history.

I only recently learned of this tragedy while studying US-Cuban relations. As a necessary follow-up to this book, I recommend *Refuge Denied: The St Louis Passengers and the Holocaust*. Together, the two volumes reveal much that has largely been ignored, hidden, or forgotten about America's history regarding the Holocaust.

A very interesting and very thought-provoking review of the story. I saw the movie the book is 10 times better

Never in the history of humanity have greed and politics been so terribly employed against 900 innocent and disparate people. This atrocity must never be forgotten so it is not repeated.

I was not aware of this incident until recently. Excellent book and delivery. Will try and find the movie.....

An interesting documentation of a sorry story in the history of foreign policy decisions by the FDR administration. Worth reading, but somewhat depressing.

Courageous Captain, caring, sympathetic crew. The horrors and hopes of their journey is a story everyone should read. Condemn those who lied to and exploited the refugees, who only wanted safety for their families.

A magnificent book which chronicles the voyage of a large group of Jews who wanted to or were forced to leave Germany during the period leading up to the second world war. The strength and conviction of the Captain of the St. Louis ship was clearly seen, as well as the evil and viciousness of the Nazis on board the ship disguised as firemen. The sad irony is that when the occupants of the ship were finally given what they thought was safe haven in three countries, only those in the UK survived to a large extent the outbreak of the second world war with Hitler's concentration camps and wholesale killing of the Jews. The callousness of the rest of the world in refusing to provide a safe haven for a persecuted people should remain a source of shame. One cannot help but wonder how the history of Cuba would have been affected if they had agreed to accept the Jews from the St. Louis.

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