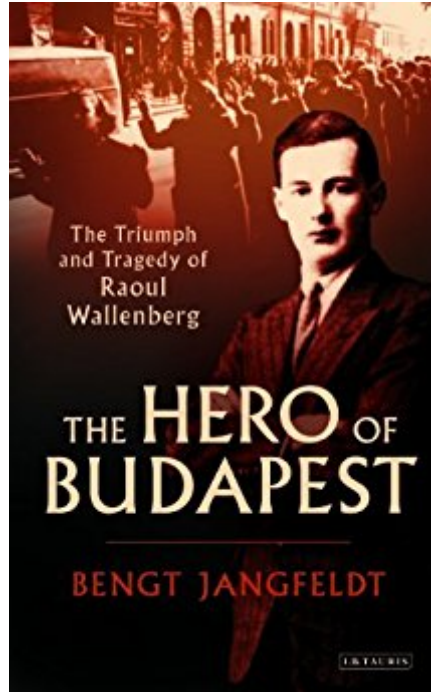


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Hero Of Budapest, The: The Triumph And Tragedy Of Raoul Wallenberg



Synopsis

The story of Raoul Wallenberg - who, at immense personal risk, rescued many of Budapest's Jews from the Holocaust - is one of the most remarkable of World War II. Yet the complete account of his life and fate can only be told now - and for the first time in this book - following access to the Russian and Swedish archival sources, previously not used. Wallenberg was a Swedish businessman, recruited by the War Refugee Board to rescue thousands of Hungarian Jews. Once in Budapest, he created and distributed so called 'protective passports' among the Jewish population, thus managing to save up to 8,000 people. Through the 'safe houses' and clandestine networks that he established around the city, many thousands more were saved from the concentration camps. Yet, when Budapest was liberated by the Red Army in January 1945, Wallenberg was arrested, taken to Moscow and disappeared into the Soviet prison system. Using previously unseen sources, Bengt Jangfeldt has been able to reconstruct the events surrounding Wallenberg's arrest almost hour by hour and, for the first time, he is able to shed new light on why Wallenberg was arrested and what happened to him after he disappeared.

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Customer Reviews

The extermination of one of the largest Jewish communities in Europe was that of Hungary. Dry statistics figures show that all in all, 570000 of Hungary's 825000 Jews fell victim in the Holocaust, 437000 of them in the course of less than two months in the spring of 1944. Winston Churchill wrote that the persecution of Jews in Hungary and their expulsion is "probably the greatest and most horrible crime ever committed in the history of the world." Enter Raoul Wallenberg. He grew up in a wealthy banking family and his father died of cancer before he even saw his son. Raoul was raised by his mother, but the main figure who was responsible for his upbringing was his paternal grandfather, Gustav Wallenberg. According to Professor Jangfeldt, Gustav advised his grandson to carry out the duty "of those who have the talent to carry out the great tasks to rise above their contemporaries". Thus Raoul was sent to study architecture at the University of Michigan. After graduating, Raoul took some jobs both in South Africa and in Palestine- to be precise: in Haifa, and after some months he chose to work for a Hungarian Jew who had an import-export business in Stockholm. The name of Raoul's boss was Kolman Lauer and he would be the turning point in Raoul's life, since Lauer, backed by the Americans, was engaged in an effort to save the Hungarian Jews. Raoul arrived in Budapest in July 1944. after being appointed secretary to the delegation and representative of the War Refugee Board. From this point onwards, Raoul would implement his grandfather's wish. He worked incessantly in order to save as many Jews as possible by doing several things. He issued provisional passports called "protective passports ("Schutzpass)" to Jews who had some connection to Sweden.

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