

Take-Home Section of Exam #3: Michael Phayer Questions

Write about a 3-page essay on one of the following questions. You must include at least six citations from the Phayer 'Holocaust' book. Recall that the purpose of the essay is twofold: 1) entertain your instructor with an interesting and well-informed paper; and 2) indicate to him that you have read the book.

1. Most serious historians believe that Pius XII did very little to help European Jews or other ethnic groups (e.g., Poles and Serbian Orthodox) during the Holocaust. Explain why this was so. What were Pius XII's priorities? Why did he not act more aggressively?
2. Write a comparative essay on what the Vatican (pope) did or did not do in the following situations during World War II: the vicious policies of the (nominally Catholic) Ustasha Party in Croatia; the German removal of Roman Jews ("under the very windows of the Vatican") in October 1943. In which of the two situations did the Vatican do more to help peoples persecuted by Nazis and fascists?