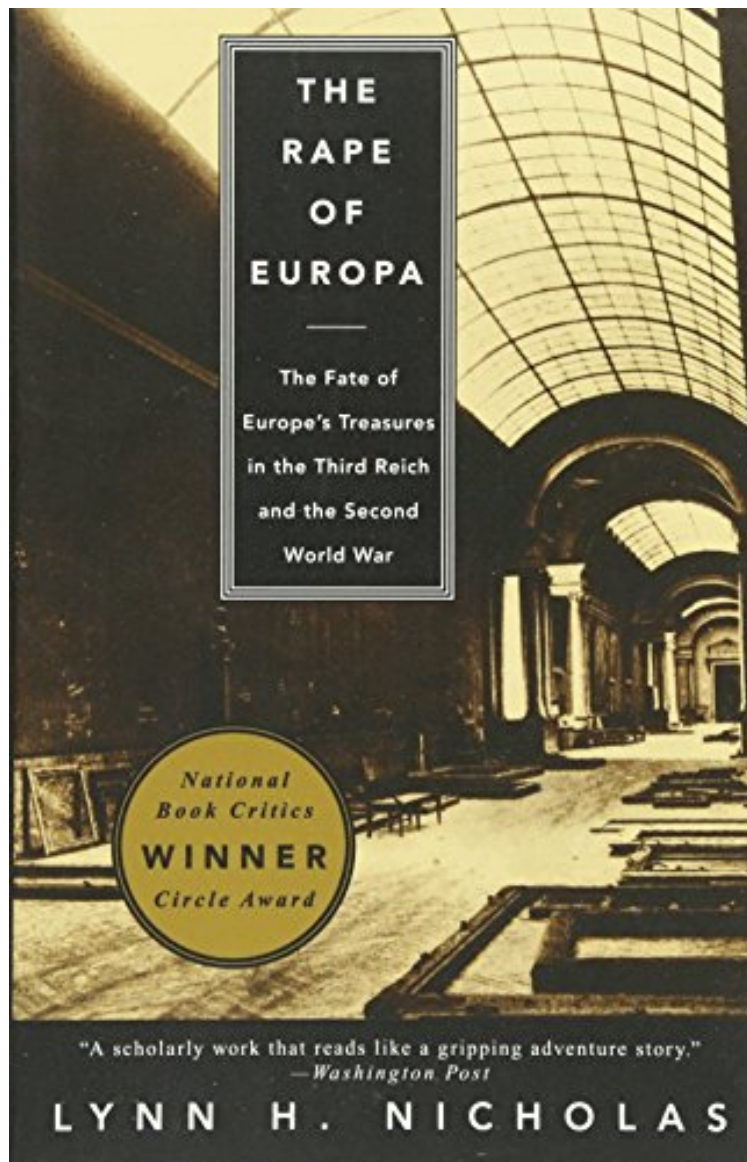


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The Rape of Europa: The Fate of Europe's Treasures in the Third Reich and the Second World War

Lynn H. Nicholas

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Lynn H. Nicholas : The Rape of Europa: The Fate of Europe's Treasures in the Third Reich and the Second World War before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rape of Europa: The Fate of Europe's Treasures in the Third Reich and the Second World War:

53 of 53 people found the following review helpful. the definitivie workBy RexDThe release of the movie "The Monuments Men" is stimulating interest in the topic of art looted during World War II and the efforts made since to restore that art to its rightful owners. Anyone who becomes interested in this subject should read "The Rape of Europa" by Lynn Nicholas. This work was described by Dr. Mason Hammond, one of the original monuments men, as "the definitive work on the subject." It provided the basis from which this movie was made, and it is based on years of research in the archives of both the US and Europe. It is very readable and tells an absorbing story. The book won the National Book Critics Circle Award for general non-fiction in 1994.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. INVALUABLE historical masterpieceBy teacher of kidsThis book deserves the best review I can write! I found it after the Monuments Men movie was recommended and it is amazing. The level of research alone done for this work deserves an award and the content of it makes it a MUST for the well-rounded historical reader.. The theme is the intrigue and involvement of the treasures of Europe (artwork, statuary, books, letters, historical pieces, painting, poetry and prose) and the treachery with which men attempted to elevate their wealth and/or stature or their country's wealth, some with little to no regard for the historical, personal and ethnic value behind these pieces. The story begins long before WWII when the Nazis were consolidating their power base. As this book shows, history is NOT dull. It took a long time to read, as I needed to check my historical knowledge along the way and covers YEARS of the intrigue and military involvement regarding the world's treasures. FABULOUS book and I DO understand the word "masterpiece." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you are museumfolk, this book will get you excited about your job again.By Sheba CamachoImagine a tale where the action heroes are the curators and art historians, where the people in the invaded towns defend their art and history through ruses, intricate strategies and sometimes amazing feats of strenght and character. This is the kind of tale Lynn Nicholas is weaving here.You might feel that the amount of names and dates is too dense, and maybe have some trouble with all the footnotes. However, the Kindle format can help make the reading experience more streamlined (loving the XRay function for this one), and once you get past that, you'll discover a fabulous book that manages to articulate all the simultaneous things that were happening around European art and artworks during the WW2.

Winner of the National Book Critics Circle AwardThe real story behind the major motion picture The Monuments Men. The cast of characters includes Hitler and Goering, Gertrude Stein and Marc Chagall--not to mention works by artists from Leonardo da Vinci to Pablo Picasso. And the story told in this superbly researched and suspenseful book is that of the Third Reich's war on European culture and the Allies' desperate effort to preserve it.From the Nazi purges of "Degenerate Art" and Goering's shopping sprees in occupied Paris to the perilous journey of the Mona Lisa from Paris and the painstaking reclamation of the priceless treasures of liberated Italy, The Rape of Europa is a sweeping narrative of greed, philistinism, and heroism that combines superlative scholarship with a compelling drama.

.com Every few months you'll read a newspaper story of the discovery of some long-lost art treasure hidden away in a German basement or a Russian attic: a Cranach, a Holbein, even, not long ago, a da Vinci. Such treasures ended up far from the museums and churches in which they once hung, taken as war loot by Allied and Axis soldiers alike. Thousands of important pieces have never been recovered. Lynn Nicholas offers an astonishingly good account of the wholesale ravaging of European art during World War II, of how teams of international experts have worked to recover lost masterpieces in the war's aftermath and of how governments "are still negotiating the restitution of objects held by their respective nations."From Publishers WeeklyIn this NBCC winner, first-time author Nichols documents Nazi Germany's attempt to cleanse Europe of its "degenerate" art and the Allies' effort to preserve the continent's cultural treasures. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalFirst-time author Nicholas presents a poorly written survey of the traffic in art under the Nazi regime, first in Germany and then in occupied Europe. She has a great deal of information, but it is not presented clearly or consistently. Nicholas has worked extensively with original documents and secondary works to reconstruct the German confiscation of art across the Continent, not just from Jews but from individuals and institutions in every country. Part cultural policy, part individual cupidity-especially by Goering-part egomania (Hitler's plans for a great museum in Linz), the "rape of Europe" makes for an engrossing story, but it is beyond the author's powers to deal with this story at more than an anecdotal level. While more limited in scope, firsthand accounts like Craig Smyth's Repatriation of Art from the Collecting Point in Munich After World War II (Abner Schram, 1988) are preferable. Pass on this.Jack Perry Brown, Art Inst. of Chicago Lib.Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.