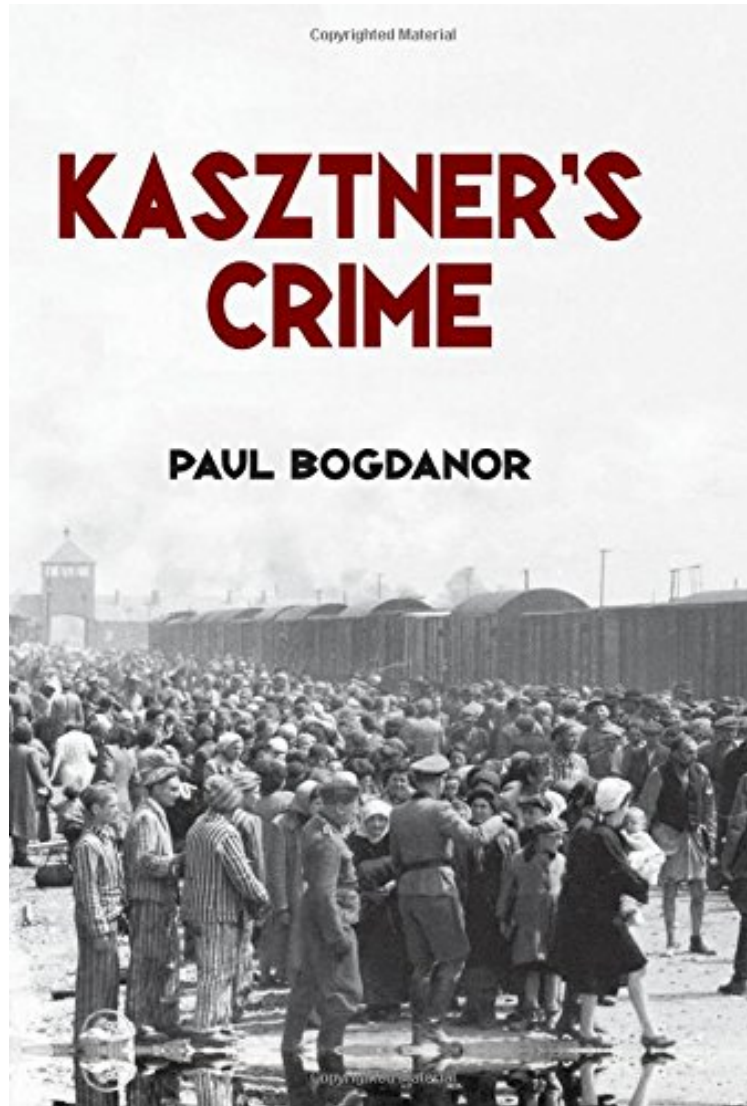


(Ebook pdf) Kasztner's Crime (Jewish Studies)

Kasztner's Crime (Jewish Studies)

Paul Bogdanor

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#5643361 in Books 2016-08-30 Original language: English 9.00 x 6.00 x 1.00l, .0 #File Name:
1412863406336 pages | File size: 15.Mb

Paul Bogdanor : Kasztner's Crime (Jewish Studies) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kasztner's Crime (Jewish Studies):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. That alerting was not as easy as it may sound today
By John H. Merely 2.0 out of 5 stars DON'T BLAME THE TRAGEDY OF HUNGARIAN JEWRY ON KASZTNER
By John H. Merely on December 25, 2016
Format: Paperback
I commend the author for his extensive research. However, the book has an agenda: laying the tragedy of the Holocaust in Hungary at the feet of Dr. Kasztner. This is totally unfair. Historically, the Jewish Community in Hungary was totally fragmented: Orthodox, Neologue, Status quo ante.

The established leadership failed totally in making any preparations for what they saw in the rest of Europe from 1939 to 1944. The "it can't happen here" attitude was totally pervasive and paralyzing. Mr. Bogdanov gives too much emphasis on the importance of the Zionist movement in Hungary. Though Theodore Herzl was born in Budapest, the Zionist movement never caught on in Hungary where the prevailing attitude was that of assimilation. The Zionist movement never involved more than 5% of the Jewish population. The day after the German occupation of Hungary on March 19, 1944, the leaders of the established Jewish community were summoned by the SS commander Krumei and instructed "to form a Jewish Council which would exercise jurisdiction over all Jews" (Braham). Dr. Kasztner was not a member of the Jewish Council. The purpose of the Jewish Council was to submit orders to the Jewish communities in Hungary. If there was to be any organized resistance it would have had to come from the Jewish Council. However, they followed the orders of the SS. I do not blame them. They had very few options. The name Rudolph Kasztner would not have been recognized by anyone in Hungary with the possible exception of those in his hometown of Kolozsvár (Cluj). He was a lawyer, journalist who had recently come up to Budapest from an area that had just recently been reattached to Hungary. He had zero name recognition. The idea that he, singlehandedly, could have or should have warned the communities about their deportation fate is absurd. He just wasn't in any way, shape or form a leader of the mainstream Jewish community. He was a total unknown. The author blames Kasztner for not alerting the Jewish population of Kolozsvár. That alerting was not as easy as it may sound today. I refer to Ellie Weasel's "Night" where the sexton of the synagogue in 1941 was rounded up as an "alien" Jew and deported to Kamenet's-Podolsk in Poland. He survives the massacre by playing dead and crawls back to his hometown, Szigeth. There he starts to tell people of his experiences. The congregants scream at him that he is a crazy fool and to please "shut up." Denial is an extremely strong psychological force! Zolt Bela in his "Nine Suitcases" describes a group of men who leave the Nagyvarad ghetto to escape to Rumania a few kilometers away. Half way there, they lose their courage and go back to the ghetto. Mr. Bogdanor on page 149 writes "Until June 16, the forty-one thousand Jews in these provinces had not yet been concentrated and it was by no means impossible to instigate a mass flight to neighboring Yugoslavia and Romania." I beg to differ: absolutely impossible! The bottom line is that 1684 Jews were saved - against all odds. A hundred things had to go right. Today when we look at the Holocaust in Hungary, we see a historic narrative but in 1944 there was a constantly changing kaleidoscope: Brand's mission a failure - Kasztner takes over, Krumei, Wisliceny take over for Eichmann, increased international pressure on Horthy, and most of all, the declining military fortunes of the Germans and the increasing need by some SS for "alibis." The 1684 saved Hungarian Jews could have perished in so many ways. Eichmann could have diverted the train to Auschwitz. The train could have been bombed by the Allies on the way into Bergen Belsen and, even more on the way out to the Swiss border. Had Kasztner's negotiations stalled and the victims stayed another six weeks they would have succumbed to the typhus epidemic in Belsen the winter of 1944-45. Had Kasztner not existed, the Holocaust in Hungary would have proceeded as it did. There just would have been 1684 more victims. By Kasztner's skillful negotiation, his "chutzpah, and his thinking "outside the box," these 1684 were saved." Diseases desperate grown, By desperate appliances are relieved. Or not all." - William Shakespeare

This book re-examines one of the most intense controversies of the Holocaust: the role of Rezs Kasztner in facilitating the murder of most of Nazi-occupied Hungary's Jews in 1944. Because he was acting head of the Jewish rescue operation in Hungary, some have hailed him as a saviour. Others have charged that he collaborated with the Nazis in the deportations to Auschwitz. What is indisputable is that Adolf Eichmann agreed to spare a special group of 1,684 Jews, who included some of Kasztner's relatives and friends, while nearly 500,000 Hungarian Jews were sent to their deaths. Why were so many lives lost? After World War II, many Holocaust survivors condemned Kasztner for complicity in the deportation of Hungarian Jews. It was alleged that, as a condition of saving a small number of Jewish leaders and select others, he deceived ordinary Jews into boarding the trains to Auschwitz. The ultimate question is whether Kasztner was a Nazi collaborator, as branded by Ben Hecht in his 1961 book *Perfidy*, or a hero, as Anna Porter argued in her 2009 book *Kasztner's Train*. Opinion remains divided. Paul Bogdanor makes an original, compelling case that Kasztner helped the Nazis keep order in Hungary's ghettos before the Jews were sent to Auschwitz, and sent Nazi disinformation to his Jewish contacts in the free world. Drawing on unpublished documents, and making extensive use of the transcripts of the Kasztner and Eichmann trials in Israel, *Kasztner's Crime* is a chilling account of one man's descent into evil during the genocide of his own people.

[A] well-researched book on the contentious Kasztner affair a controversy that commenced in wartime Hungary and has continued until the present day. . . . Bogdanor demonstrates that Kasztner's story after 1945 constantly changed, peppered by omissions and contradictions . . . at the back of the readers mind, there will still lurk the question of what he or she would have done in Kasztner's position. A course of action which resides in the grayness of immoral choice the difference between bad and worse. Bogdanor's book provides uncomfortable food for thought in this personal arena as well. Colin Shindler, *The Jerusalem Post* [S]ets out the case against [Kasztner] in damning detail. Even the most devoted defender might have second thoughts after reading his book. Jenny Frazer, *The Times of Israel* "Paul

Bogdanor studied the image of Kasztner and published his conclusions from the evidence given by Holocaust survivors about the controversial man. In his new book the author shatters the positive myth created around Kasztner, whereby he was a hero who saved many Jews from the clutches of the Nazis." NRG, Israeli news site Mr Bogdanor, who spent ten painstaking years researching Kasztner's connection with the Nazis, uncovered the terrible truth after examining a number of unequivocal - and until now overlooked - testimonies of Holocaust survivors. He also delved into Kasztner's own post-war report and other documented evidence, much of which has never been translated into English before. Jennifer Newton, The Daily Mail Rumours and unsubstantiated charges that Kasztner sacrificed the lives of Jews are not new. The claims led to a controversial libel trial in Israel in the 1950s. But it is the first time that he can be shown 'beyond all doubt' to have played a role in the genocide and to have knowingly betrayed his people. Kirstie McCrum, The Mirror [A]n incredible work of investigative writing that merits full attention . . . In writing Kasztner's Crime, Bogdanor aims to right a great injustice to the memories of the Holocaust victims by exposing Kasztner for what he was. The intelligent and well-supported case he puts forward is certainly damning, and tallies with the verdict of the Israeli court in 1955, which concluded that Kasztner had sold his soul to the Devil." Lovereading.co.uk book review I am deeply troubled, almost traumatized by the well-researched answers which Bogdanor gives . . . a must read Joseph Olmert, Adjunct Professor, University of South Carolina "[Paul Bogdanor] gives us a more compelling and convincing overall assessment of Kasztner... well-researched... Bogdanor[s] book is a must read." Dr Josef Olmert, Department of Political Science, University of South Carolina [T]he majority of Hungary's Jews were never warned about their imminent fate [in Nazi death camps], but believed they were being resettled for forced labor in the east. . . . [Paul Bogdanor's] well-researched and incisive indictment. . . is both graphic and convincing. It will undoubtedly cause renewed shockwaves among the descendants of survivors worldwide. John S. Conway, Professor Emeritus of History, University of British Columbia About the Author Paul Bogdanor is an independent researcher in Britain. He previously co-edited The Jewish Divide Over Israel: Accusers and Defenders. He has also written for publications in the United States, Britain, and Israel.