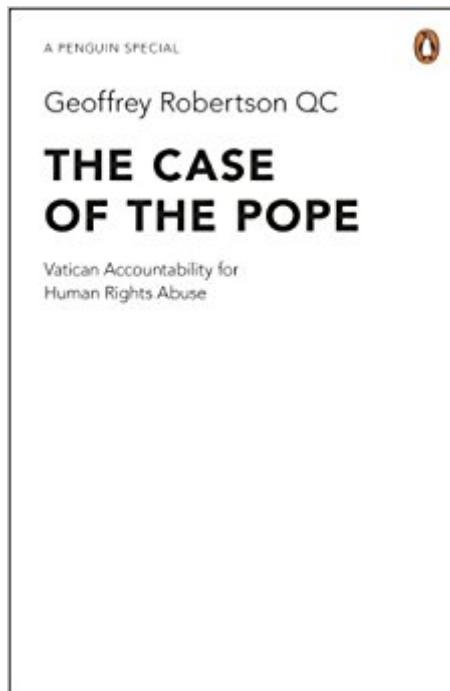




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The Case Of The Pope: Vatican Accountability For Human Rights Abuse



Synopsis

In *The Case of the Pope* Geoffrey Robertson delivers a devastating indictment of the way the Vatican has run a secret legal system that shields pedophile priests from criminal trial around the world. Is the Pope morally or legally responsible for the negligence that has allowed so many terrible crimes to go unpunished? Should he and his seat of power, the Holy See, continue to enjoy an immunity that places them above the law? Geoffrey Robertson, a distinguished human rights lawyer and judge, evinces a deep respect for the good works of Catholics and their church. But, he argues, unless Pope Benedict XVI can divest himself of the beguilements of statehood and devotion to obsolescent canon law, the Vatican will remain a serious enemy to the advance of human rights.

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



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Customer Reviews

"Robertson is an adept QC and this is a devastating case."  "Daily Telegraph"Combines moral passion with steely forensic precision. . . It is one of the most formidable demolition jobs one could imagine on a man who has done more to discredit the cause of religion than Rasputin and Pat Robertson put together."  "Guardian"Forceful, wide-ranging."  "Tablet"Robertson has not become a successful lawyer by muddling his arguments and distorting his facts. . . He writes clearly, at times passionately, as counsel for the prosecution."  "Financial Times

Geoffrey Robertson is founder and head of Doughty Street Chambers, the largest human rights practice in the UK. He has appeared in the courts of many countries as counsel in leading cases in constitutional, criminal, and international law and served as the first President of the UN War Crimes

Court in Sierra Leone, where he authored a landmark decision on the illegality of recruiting child soldiers. He defended in the last two cases brought for blasphemy in Britain (against Salman Rushdie and Gay News), represented Catholic lawyers and youth workers detained without trial by Lee Kwan Yew, and was counsel in *Bowman v United Kingdom*, which established the right of Catholics to campaign effectively against abortion laws during elections. He sits as a recorder and as a master of Middle Temple and a visiting professor of human rights law at Queen Mary College. In 2008, he was appointed as a distinguished jurist member of the UN Justice Council. His books include *Crimes Against Humanity: The Struggle for Global Justice*, *The Justice Game*, and *The Tyrannicide Brief*, as well as a memoir.

Describes the protection of child molesters on an industrial scale (100,000 victims in recent decades) by the Catholic Church, especially by the current pope in a former role in that officially on behalf of the Catholic Church he handled many hundreds of cases of child molesting by Catholic Church personnel reporting none of them to the police. This book explains how the church prevents church personnel from reporting crimes by using the churches cannon law such that they can be excommunicated for doing so, tries to keep victims quiet, and removes offenders from the jurisdictions in which they have offended to prevent prosecution. While not being a solicitor this book makes me wonder if the Catholic Churches cannon law by obstructing secular law would make the Catholic Church able to be disbanded as a criminal organization under some Australian state laws. I especially think this relevant after reading a book called *The Vatican Exposed* which describes the out of money Catholic Church bringing fascism to power in Italy prior to WW II, with full knowledge that this was a vote to end democracy in favour of fascism when fascists were promising to restore the Roman Empire, in return for an enormous cash bribe; influence in education; control of various businesses including a munitions company that supplied weapons during Italy's invasion on Ethiopia; statehood for the Vatican; and exemption of any accountability of the Vatican Bank, and the bringing to power of Hitler in Germany by a catholic controlled religious party giving up its elected places in government to the Nazis in return for a 9% tax on all German Catholics for the Vatican, as well as the Catholic Church's siding with the fascists in Croatia and its help in carrying out an attempted genocide in that conflict and the looting by the Catholic Church of the victims. The book details the Catholic Church's efforts of helping 30,000 Nazis fleeing justice after the war in return for bribes. The book also details the church's involvement with the Italian and American Mafia beginning after the war including the use of Vatican Bank by the Mafia in return for a slice of the illegal profits, and the Vatican placing a Mafia man in control of Vatican Bank. The apparent murder

of a pope who removed criminal Catholic personnel from influence and their subsequent replacement back into power by the next pope, John Paul II, is also detailed. I mentioned *The Vatican Exposed* partly because people interested in *The Case Of The Pope* might also like it. *The Case Of The Pope* is a must for all parents and children.

Robertson presents a clear and compelling case for major reforms to be made. The central issue is the practice and covering up of child abuse on a massive scale. The statistics presented are horrendous and make no account of possible abuse in Africa and other developing regions where errant clergy have been posted. Issues affecting this central issue include celibacy, the resort to canon law, the possibility that clergy thought they had an entitlement, and the history behind the Vatican's having nation status. It is simply incredible that the Church is presently attempting to have the awful John Paul II made a saint; clear evidence that the church still does not get it.

Hard to believe, but then Geoffrey Robertson QC would not make this stuff up. The full extent of the atrocities conducted by the church are now coming to light and yet the effort to cover-up does persist. Another book that needs to be mandatory on all higher schools curriculum.

Dozens of books have been written about the clergy sexual molestation scandal in the Catholic Church. Geoff Robertson has written one of the select few that serve as foundational studies essential for a clear understanding of the issue. This brilliant book is grounded solidly on facts. The author, a well respected and accomplished human rights attorney and judge from Great Britain, has thoroughly examined the unique status of the Catholic Church as a member of the community of nations. The reason for the author's examination and analysis of the Catholic Church's participation in the U.N. and its parallel status as a sovereign nation is the revelation of the Church's handling of the world-wide problem of sexual abuse of minors by its clergy. One does not have to get very far into the book before the feelings of anger, prompted by the exposition of the Vatican's systematic duplicitous actions, turn to revulsion. This book is not a polemic but a detailed exposition of what really is and for this reason it makes the blood of any honest person, Catholic or not, quickly rise to the boiling point. Over the past several years official Catholic sources from the Vatican down to the local parish have churned out a steady flow of well-tuned rhetoric about the sex abuse crisis. It all amounts to variations on the same theme, namely that the Church leaders really aren't at fault in any way and that they have done more than any other institution to deal effectively with the scourge of sexual abuse and exploitation of children and adults. Geoffrey Robertson has studied the facts

and has responded by pouring cold water on the Church's complex and misleading propaganda. The clergy sex abuse phenomenon is not a "Church" problem but a societal problem of international dimensions. Robertson's book is one of the very best sources for understanding this problem and seeing it as it really is.

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