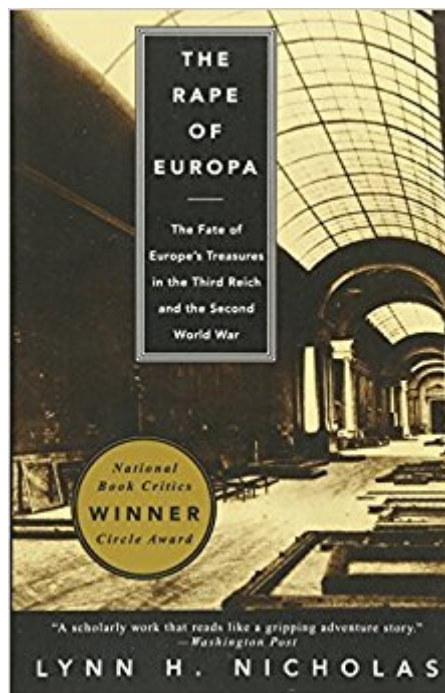




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# The Rape Of Europa: The Fate Of Europe's Treasures In The Third Reich And The Second World War



## Synopsis

Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award  
The 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of

this title.

In 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.

The 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

This 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."

Imagine 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 strength 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.

I have first encountered this book a few years ago at the Yad Vashem museum shop. Our guide told us that Yad Vashem considered this particular book to be the best record of stolen artwork by Nazi Germans. I was delighted when it came out in Kindle edition. First, I have to highly commend the author on the fantastic research she has done. She has focused not only on thefts from the famous museums such as the Louvre and the Uffizi but also on private collections and smaller art galleries. She has also done justice to accurate portrayls of each of the so-called "art experts" in Nazi Germany Second, the hypocrisy of some of the Nazi leaders is so blatant: first, they host an exhibition of degenerative art and then they secretly go on to buy or steal some of the same art. This book can serve as an excellent textbook across several disciplines: art history, criminology, forensic science, not to mention political analysis of Nazi-occupied Europe.

This book is foundational in understanding how the Nazis plundered the art of Europe prior to WWII and beyond. The families who lost their treasures and family members are depicted with sensitivity. The monstrous Nazi socialist regime ruined lives and families through theft and destruction. Today we seek these art works in order to return them to their rightful owners. A moving story of heartache, theft, and what happens when the state is not checked by laws to protect citizens and their property. I highly recommend this work to everyone interested in art history, art theft, the Holocaust, socialist regimes, and the evil unleashed by the Nazis.

My wife used this book as a reference book for a class and still needs to actually sit down and read the book from start to finish. She says it is very informative and would recommend it to others who are interested in the subject matter; World War II and European art/artifacts.

I knew the story in bits and pieces, from books and one movie starring Burt Lancaster as a French resistance fighter trying to stop artwork from leaving the country. Rape of Europa was the first time I understood the sheer immense number of works involved, in nearly every country in Europe. The film is effective in setting the story, focusing on key events, and using still photos dynamically, as Ken Burns does. If one were to trace the movement of art in Europe during WWII, it would map out as a crazed anthill, with some ants carrying the same piece three or four times, back and forth.

Heroic what was done to restore the art to its original owners, and criminal how so much property was never returned. The photo of a cavernous space full of household items with no living owners, still shocks me. How much simply could not be returned, as the synagogues, the businesses, the homes and the lives of so many Jews ceased to exist.

This is an outstanding piece of work on an important subject. Lynn Nicholas obviously spent countless hours researching the theft of art from private owners, museums, and the like during a chaotic period of history, and has documented the movement of many of the artworks as the war wound to its end. This book is a valuable documentary record that has relevance to the present day. Because of the detailed history, one had to read carefully (some might say slowly) so as not to miss important facts. That is not a criticism but, rather, an observation of the virtue of the work. For a somewhat quicker, but historically accurate, read about a part of the Nazi confiscation of artworks-- the looting of art from museums-- I enjoyed *The Woman Who Heard Color* by Kelly Jones. It deals with Hitler's effort to stamp out modern art, which he called "degenerate" art, and replace it with "wholesome" Aryan art.

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