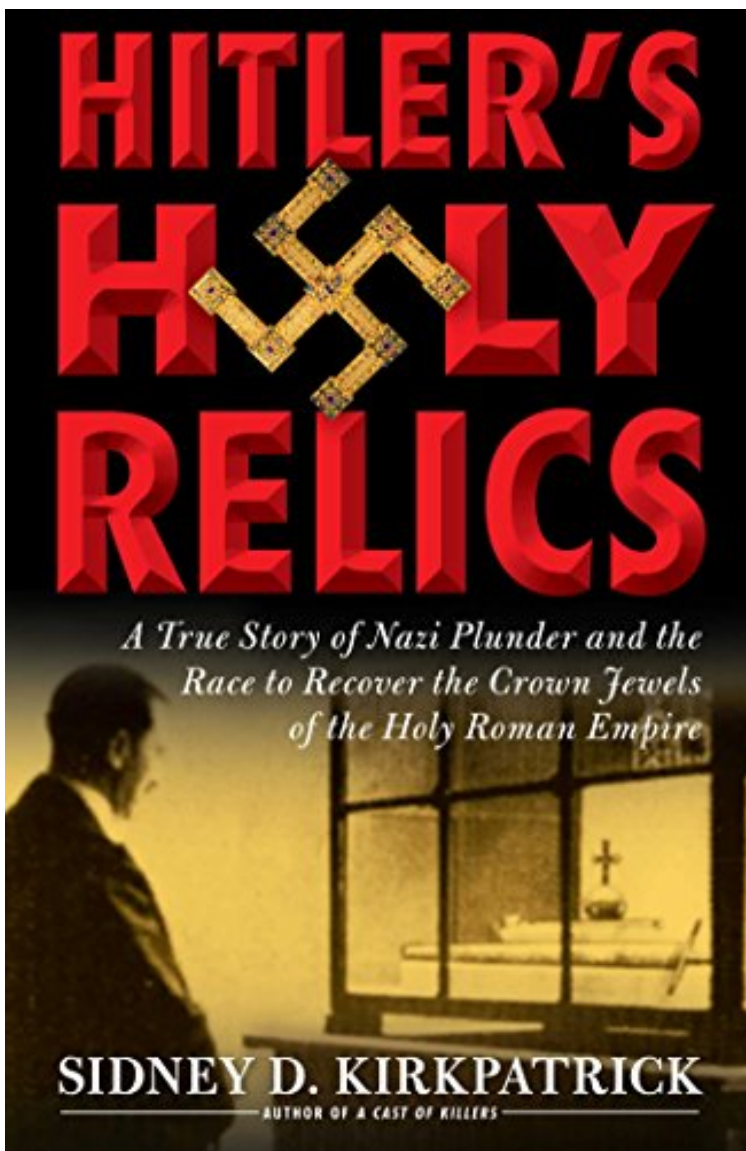


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# Hitler's Holy Relics: A True Story of Nazi Plunder and the Race to Recover the Crown Jewels of the Holy Roman Empire (English Edition)



*Par Sidney Kirkpatrick*

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## Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurFrom Paris to Stalingrad, the Nazis systematically plundered all manner of art and antiques. But the first and most valuable treasures they looted were the Crown Jewels of the Holy Roman

Empire. In *Hitlers Holy Relics*, bestselling author Sidney Kirkpatrick tells the riveting and never-before-told true story of how an American college professor turned Army sleuth recovered these cherished symbols of Hitlers Thousand-Year Reich before they could become a rallying point in the creation of a Fourth and equally unholy Reich. Anticipating the Allied invasion of Nazi Germany, Reichsfhrer Heinrich Himmler had ordered a top-secret bunker carved deep into the bedrock beneath Nrnberg castle. Inside the well-guarded chamber was a specially constructed vault that held the plundered treasures Hitler valued the most: the Spear of Destiny (reputed to have been used to pierce Christs side while he was on the cross) and the Crown Jewels of the Holy Roman Empire, ancient artifacts steeped in medieval mysticism and coveted by world rulers from Charlemagne to Napoleon. But as Allied bombers rained devastation upon Nrnberg and the U.S. Seventh Army prepared to invade the city Hitler called the soul of the Nazi Party, five of the most precious relics, all central to the coronation ceremony of a would-be Holy Roman Emperor, vanished from the vault.

Who took them? And why? The mystery remained unsolved for months after the wars end, until the Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, ordered Lieutenant Walter Horn, a German-born art historian on leave from U.C. Berkeley, to hunt down the missing treasures. To accomplish his mission, Horn must revisit the now-rubble-strewn landscape of his youth and delve into the ancient legends and arcane mysticism surrounding the antiquities that Hitler had looted in his quest for world domination.

Horn searches for clues in the burnt remains of Himmlers private castle and follows the trail of neo-Nazi Teutonic Knights charged with protecting a vast hidden fortune in plundered gold and other treasure. Along the way, Horn has to confront his own demons: how members of his family and former academic colleagues subverted scholarly research to help legitimize Hitlers theories of Aryan supremacy and the Master Race. What Horn discovers on his investigative odyssey is so explosive that his final report will remain secret for decades. Drawing on unpublished interrogation and intelligence reports, as well as on diaries, letters, journals, and interviews in the United States and Germany, Kirkpatrick tells this riveting and disturbing story with cinematic detail and reveals for the first time how a failed Vienna art student, obsessed with the occult and dreams of his own grandeur, nearly succeeded in creating a Holy Reich rooted in a twisted reinvention of medieval and Church history. *Revue de presse* Tales of art stolen and then recovered or lost forever make for an intriguing drama of the Second World War. *Hitlers Holy Relics* paints one such story . . . complete with a bold hero, a post-apocalyptic backdrop, a subplot out of Indiana Jones, a treasure worth dying for, and a classic locked-room mystery at its heart. . . . A crackling good story. --Noah Charney, *Artinfo.com* A vivid true-crime narrative about a postWorld War II investigation meant to prevent Nazis still at large from using several venerable medieval artifacts to reconstitute the Reich. . . . Fast-moving and intriguing, in the vein of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. --*Kirkus* sA riveting narrative that is as exciting as a well-crafted novel. . . . Sidney Kirkpatrick paces his book about the case of the vanishing jewels with such skill that it grabs readers by the scruff of the neck and does not let go until the very last page. --Larry Cox, *King Features Syndicate*

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