



# Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History

By James Carroll

Download now

Read Online 

## Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History By James Carroll

In a bold and moving book that is sure to spark heated debate, the novelist and cultural critic James Carroll maps the profoundly troubling two-thousand-year course of the Church's battle against Judaism and faces the crisis of faith it has provoked in his own life as a Catholic. More than a chronicle of religion, this dark history is the central tragedy of Western civilization, its fault lines reaching deep into our culture.

The Church's failure to protest the Holocaust — the infamous “silence” of Pius XII — is only part of the story: the death camps, Carroll shows, are the culmination of a long, entrenched tradition of anti-Judaism. From Gospel accounts of the death of Jesus on the cross, to Constantine's transformation of the cross into a sword, to the rise of blood libels, scapegoating, and modern anti-Semitism, Carroll reconstructs the dramatic story of the Church's conflict not only with Jews but with itself. Yet in tracing the arc of this narrative, he implicitly affirms that it did not necessarily have to be so. There were roads not taken, heroes forgotten; new roads can be taken yet. Demanding that the Church finally face this past in full, Carroll calls for a fundamental rethinking of the deepest questions of Christian faith. Only then can Christians, Jews, and all who carry the burden of this history begin to forge a new future.

Drawing on his well-known talents as a storyteller and memoirist, and weaving historical research through an intensely personal examination of conscience, Carroll has created a work of singular power and urgency. Constantine's Sword is a brave and affecting reckoning with difficult truths that will touch every reader.

 [Download Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jew ...pdf](#)

# Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History

*By James Carroll*

## Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History By James Carroll

In a bold and moving book that is sure to spark heated debate, the novelist and cultural critic James Carroll maps the profoundly troubling two-thousand-year course of the Church's battle against Judaism and faces the crisis of faith it has provoked in his own life as a Catholic. More than a chronicle of religion, this dark history is the central tragedy of Western civilization, its fault lines reaching deep into our culture.

The Church's failure to protest the Holocaust — the infamous "silence" of Pius XII — is only part of the story: the death camps, Carroll shows, are the culmination of a long, entrenched tradition of anti-Judaism. From Gospel accounts of the death of Jesus on the cross, to Constantine's transformation of the cross into a sword, to the rise of blood libels, scapegoating, and modern anti-Semitism, Carroll reconstructs the dramatic story of the Church's conflict not only with Jews but with itself. Yet in tracing the arc of this narrative, he implicitly affirms that it did not necessarily have to be so. There were roads not taken, heroes forgotten; new roads can be taken yet. Demanding that the Church finally face this past in full, Carroll calls for a fundamental rethinking of the deepest questions of Christian faith. Only then can Christians, Jews, and all who carry the burden of this history begin to forge a new future.

Drawing on his well-known talents as a storyteller and memoirist, and weaving historical research through an intensely personal examination of conscience, Carroll has created a work of singular power and urgency. Constantine's Sword is a brave and affecting reckoning with difficult truths that will touch every reader.

## Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History By James Carroll Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #62838 in Books
- Brand: Mariner Books
- Published on: 2002-04
- Released on: 2002-04-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 1.40" w x 5.50" l, 1.46 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 756 pages

 [Download Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jew ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online *Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History* By James Carroll

---

### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

*Constantine's Sword* is a sprawling work of history, theology, and personal confession by James Carroll (the author of *An American Requiem*, among many others). Carroll begins his landmark project by describing contemporary Catholic remembrances of the Holocaust and the Church's intolerable legacy of hostility towards Jews. He then surveys Catholic anti-Judaism beginning with the New Testament and proceeding through the early Church, the Crusades, the Inquisition, the Enlightenment, and World War II, before concluding with "A Call for Vatican III," a Church council that would make meaningful repentance for an entrenched tradition of hatred. Carroll's prescriptions for repentance, continued in a powerful epilogue, are bracingly concrete: "there is no apology for Holy Week preaching that prompted pogroms until Holy Week liturgies, sermons, and readings have been purged of the anti-Jewish slanders that sent the mobs rushing out of church.... Forgiveness for the sin of anti-Semitism presumes a promise to dismantle all that makes it possible." Carroll's personal reflections as an American Catholic infuse his historical narrative, and although his reflections are sometimes unnecessarily detailed, they are admirable for the principle they express: "I find myself unable to accuse my Church of any sin that I cannot equally accuse myself of," he writes. Carroll's judgments on the Church are rightly harsh, even agonizing. And yet his vision for a future rapprochement between Christians and Jews is hopeful, in part because he personally has come to understand the deep connections between Israel and the Church: "Jesus offers me, a non-Jew, access to the biblical hope that was his birthright as a son of Israel." --*Michael Joseph Gross*

#### From Publishers Weekly

Part history, part memoir, this hefty tome by novelist Carroll (*Mortal Friends*, etc.) traces the record of anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism in the Catholic Church, suggesting that centuries of animus culminated in the Holocaust. Carroll also traces the development of his own thinking about Judaism: as a Catholic seminarian, he knew no Jews and little about Judaism, except what he learned in classrooms, i.e., that Judaism had been superseded by Christ's new covenant. As a young priest at Boston U (which his colleagues disparagingly referred to as B-Jew, since so many Jews were enrolled), Carroll began to spend time with rabbis and Jewish students whose political and social commitments he found congenial. Eventually he left the priesthood; his increased discomfort with the Church's attitudes toward Judaism played no small part in that decision. But this book is more than guilty Catholic breast-beating. It also offers a sweeping look at instances of anti-Jewish sentiment throughout European history, from the blood libel to the Dreyfus affair, from the Inquisition to Auschwitz. Carroll offers fresh, provocative analysis, as in his discussion of the idea that the God of the Jews is a judgmental God concerned with law, whereas Jesus is about love. A foundation of much anti-Semitism. Carroll argues that Jesus' emphasis on love was his most Jewish attribute. Carroll makes these incisive arguments in his characteristically vigorous prose; fans of *An American Requiem*, his National Book Award-winning memoir, won't be disappointed. This magisterial work will satisfy Jewish and Christian readers alike, challenging both to a renewed conversation with one another. (Jan.) Forecast: A Book-of-the-Month Club alternate selection, this book has a built-in market among Jewish and Catholic readers. Carroll is a columnist for the *Boston Globe*, so he has a dedicated readership there that will be boosted further by publicity appearances in that city and around the country. Two major events in the Boston area will kick off the book's publicity: a symposium at Brandeis and one at Harvard Divinity School, both featuring a discussion of the book by leading religious scholars.

Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### From Library Journal

A National Book Award winner on Christianity's dark side. Aits anti-Semitism.

Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Arnold Williams:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite book and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History. Try to make the book Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History as your good friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you truly feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , we need to make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

#### **George Eichner:**

With other case, little individuals like to read book Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History. You can choose the best book if you like reading a book. Provided that we know about how is important any book Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History. You can add understanding and of course you can around the world by just a book. Absolutely right, mainly because from book you can learn everything! From your country right up until foreign or abroad you may be known. About simple issue until wonderful thing it is possible to know that. In this era, we can easily open a book or maybe searching by internet unit. It is called e-book. You can utilize it when you feel uninterested to go to the library. Let's read.

#### **Marian Dyer:**

Book is usually written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can realize everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading ability was fluently. A book Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History will make you to be smarter. You can feel far more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think in which open or reading a new book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or ideal book with you?

#### **Georgia Yorke:**

Reserve is one of source of expertise. We can add our knowledge from it. Not only for students but in addition native or citizen require book to know the up-date information of year to year. As we know those guides have many advantages. Beside we all add our knowledge, may also bring us to around the world. By book Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History we can consider more advantage. Don't you to be creative people? For being creative person must like to read a book. Only choose the best book that acceptable with your aim. Don't become doubt to change your life at this book Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History. You can more desirable than now.

**Download and Read Online Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History By James Carroll #U60M74WVERY**

## **Read Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History By James Carroll for online ebook**

Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History By James Carroll Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History By James Carroll books to read online.

### **Online Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History By James Carroll ebook PDF download**

**Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History By James Carroll Doc**

**Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History By James Carroll Mobipocket**

**Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History By James Carroll EPub**