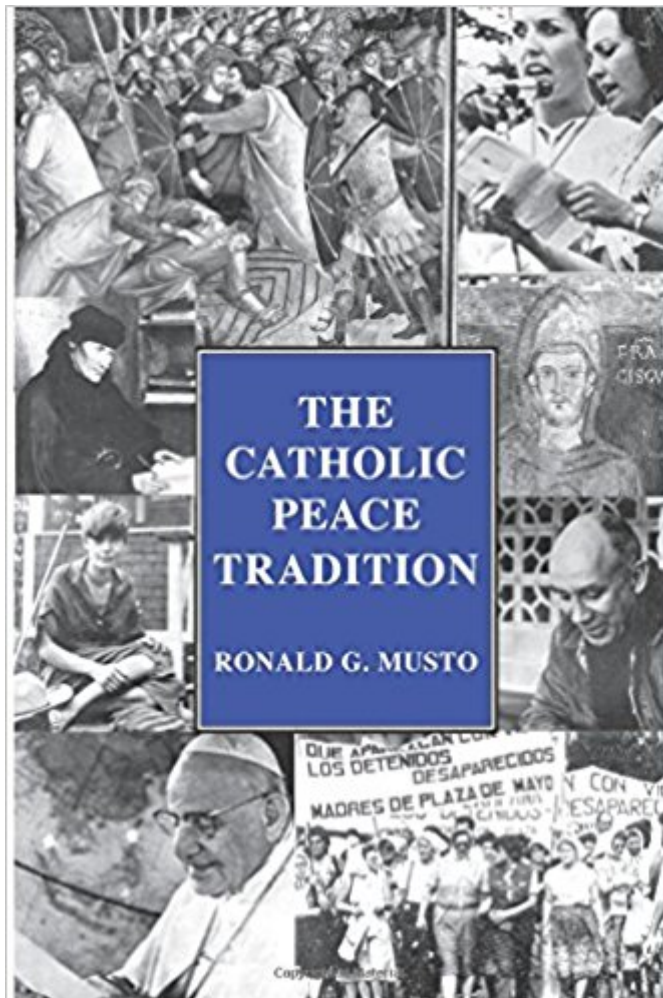


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The Catholic Peace Tradition



Synopsis

This book is a history of the peace tradition in the Roman Catholic Church from the time of the Gospels to the twentieth century. Its purpose is to show that there is a continuing, unbroken, and self-sustaining stream within Catholicism from the martyrs and pacifists of the early church to John XXIII and the peacemakers of our time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A fascinating, rich and highly readable narrative." -- Books and Religion, March/April 1987 "a first-class example of the tradition of scholarship in the service of morality and education." -- American Historical Review, April 1988 "a remarkable historical synthesis...control[s] and evaluate[s] a vast amount of historical and literary material." -- Journal of Religion, April 1988

Ronald G. Musto is a historian, the editor of "Liberation Theologies" and the author of the forthcoming "Apocalypse in Rome: Cola di Rienzo and the Politics of the New Age."

Ron Musto's The Catholic Peace Tradition, which I first read almost ten years ago, comes across even better the second time around. Beginning with biblical understandings of peace, this history traces the development of Christian ideals of peacemaking, the peaceable kingdom, and the ethic of love and justice from the earliest days of the Church to the end of the twentieth century. Musto's book is an absolutely essential resource for anyone in the religious peace movement.

Encyclopediac, eminently readable, and inspiring: it's a wonderful book. One of the most exciting aspects of Musto's treatment is his argument that the Church was revolutionary from day one, subverting the standard pax Romana of its day--a coercive, negative peace that has clear parallels to pax Americana today--and that the early Christians were systematic in their opposition to violent and unjust political and social systems. But the opposition was always one of active nonviolence that sought conversion rather than conquest. Musto has something to say to those skeptics today who think that active nonviolence is ineffective. The peacemaking tactics of early Christians, who refused to respond to force with force, actually confused and ultimately overcame the Roman Empire. The first velvet revolution occurred well before the twentieth century. Would that those of us who call ourselves Christians today would rediscover the radical, revolutionary character of Jesus' message! How different the world could be if we took His message of peace and love as seriously as we ought.

-Really- indepth and well researched. I found this to be very readable and found myself going through the pages with much attention. I was amazed at how little I knew of the Catholic peace heritage and gave me a sense of joy to know that there has always been a nonviolent force out there despite discouraging history that we are often (only) told.

For every student at a Catholic high school or Catholic college. This book offers a wealth of insight into matters that aren't often discussed. Say you ain't gonna study war no more and read this book!

Musto has put together an outstanding in-depth survey to the Catholic peace tradition from the Scriptures through early Christian pacifism, the Just War, the Crusades, and international law. He even demonstrates there were peace movements during the Crusades! This book is a wonderfully researched, nuanced book that belongs on the bookshelf of anyone who wants a fair, balanced picture of war and peace in the Catholic tradition. A must for teachers.

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