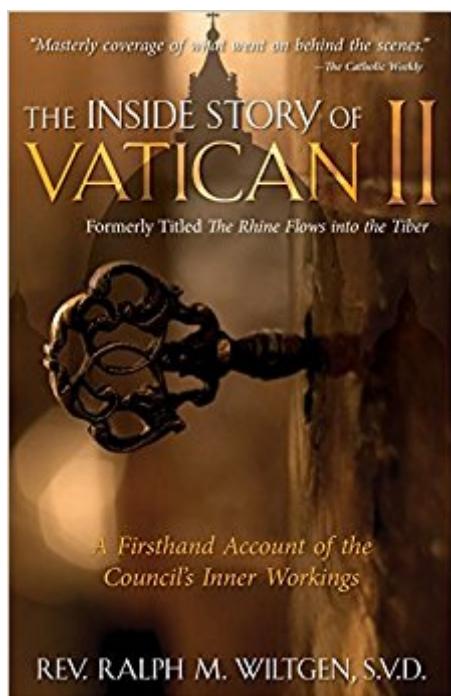


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The Rhine Flows Into The Tiber: A History Of Vatican II



Synopsis

Only two years after the Second Vatican Council concluded in 1965, Catholics around the world welcomed the publication of *The Rhine Flows Into the Tiber*, a history of the Council published worldwide in four languages. Widely hailed for its balanced, factual reporting, this eye-opening insider's account was written by Rev. Ralph M. Wiltgen, a priest and professional journalist who was an eyewitness with unparalleled access to the principal figures and events of the Council. *The Inside Story of Vatican II* is a revised, updated edition of that ground-breaking contemporary account, which details in particular the crucial influence on the Council's proceedings exerted by its German-speaking bishops. As Catholics continue to debate the meaning and impact of Vatican II, they will find this book an indispensable guide for understanding what actually took place there behind the scenes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Rev. Father Ralph M. Wiltgen, S.V.D. (1921-2002) was a Divine Word Missionary and journalist who founded the independent, multilingual Council News Service to report on the events of Vatican II.

I have found no better single volume on Vatican II. Professor Matttei, in his recent history of the Council, presents a great deal of detail, and perspective on many more of the participants, but it is almost too much. It is also worth noting that the professor cites Fr. Wiltgen's work in many places in

his own volume. Fr. Wiltgen presents a unique view of the proceedings, giving a real sense of presence at the Council, without burying the reader in excessive detail. He was there, after all, and published a journal for the bishops at the Council. Unlike several of the books published later, this is not a polemic, but a journal, and in the spirit of what journalism used to be: objective reporting of events. I have a copy of the original paperback, and am very happy now to have the revised volume on my Kindle, making it easy to reference when I am away from home.

An amazing in-depth and impartial account of what exactly transpired during the Second Vatican Council. It details the debates, conflicts, and personalities which would end up dominating the Council. It favors neither the ideology of the liberals nor the conservatives - but tells the complete story of how events transpired in a fair and balanced way.

This is another of the books that has long been on my "search" list, and has been out of print for some time. I'm grateful that it has now been reprinted, and is available to help Catholics understand the influence/direction that shaped Vatican II to a large extent. Having read the Documents of Vatican II, (I learned more from the footnotes than from the text itself) and gained insight into the direction, but was still left with the "Who, where, what, why and how" questions. So many questions answered! I highly recommend this for Catholics searching for answers after Vatican II.

Just finished reading this book and it is an amazing and concise account of the inner workings of the Council and the legislative battles that took place. It is by no means exhaustive and is almost neutral to a fault, but for anyone who wants a non-polemical account of the Council that captures the spirit of the times in which it happened, this is an excellent read.

To those who want an unbiased exposition on what went on behind the scenes of Vatican II, this is an excellent book. I think the human element of the Council (e.g. politics and conflicting agendas) is brought into the light. To those who naively claim VII was simply the product of the Holy Spirit, this book will undeceive them.

This is a must read for those interested in the council. It's an observation view with little spin. However, it does not adequately address the problems with the council itself in the timebombs there in *f* Â Ä ¿ Â

This book is a detailed (sometimes overly detailed) account of the Second Vatican Council. It introduces you to the names and politics surrounding the council and how certain decisions were reached. If you want to know who said what, then this is the book for you.

I had been wanting to read this esteemed book for a long time now, but I was extremely disappointed in that it did not live up to its vaunted reputation. Indeed, as the author was a journalist, it excels in facts and dates and names. But surprisingly that's all there is to it. It is one long laundry list of how so-and-so gave a speech on this day regarding this issue and said such-and-such. The bishops then voted to approve this schema by such-and-such margin. And so and and so on. There is no biographical background, no historical context, no theological analysis, which was quite surprising considering its provocative title and its reputation as some sort of expose' of the progressive machinations at the Council. As an antidote, I would recommend The Second Vatican Council - An Unwritten Story

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