

PIUS: HOLOCAUST ENABLER?

For John Cornwell, Pius XII is “Hitler’s Pope.” For Martin Peretz, the pope is a Holocaust “enabler.” Peretz is the editor of the left-wing journal, *The New Republic*, and this was the charge he made in his article “Tel Aviv Postcard” on April 10.

Knowing that the journal has been around for quite a long time, we were curious to learn what the editors of the publication had to say about the Holocaust while it was happening. To that end, we secured a book, *The New Republic Reader: Eighty Years of Opinion & Debate*, to see what one of their own, Dorothy Wickenden (former executive editor of the journal) had to say about *The New Republic’s* record at the time.

On page 9 of the book, Wickenden writes that “Astonishingly, under an editor who had continued the magazine’s critiques of American injustice and who recognized the dangers of fascism, *The New Republic* counseled fatalism and restraint in the face of Hitler, Mussolini, and Franco.” She was speaking of Bruce Bliven, under whose tutelage “*The New Republic* became unreservedly left-wing.”

In a letter to the editor, after recounting this bit of history, William Donohue took off the gloves: “Before any more fingers are pointed at Pius XII—who did more to save Jews than anyone else—let him first take a hard historical look at what his ideological kinfolk did at the time of the Holocaust. *The New Republic*, like the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, are the ones who need to apologize for their shameful silence in the face of genocide and stop with the scapegoating of Pius XII.”

Readers of *Catalyst* should be prepared to see us use this quote over and over and over again. We will let the world know

who really went mute during the Holocaust.