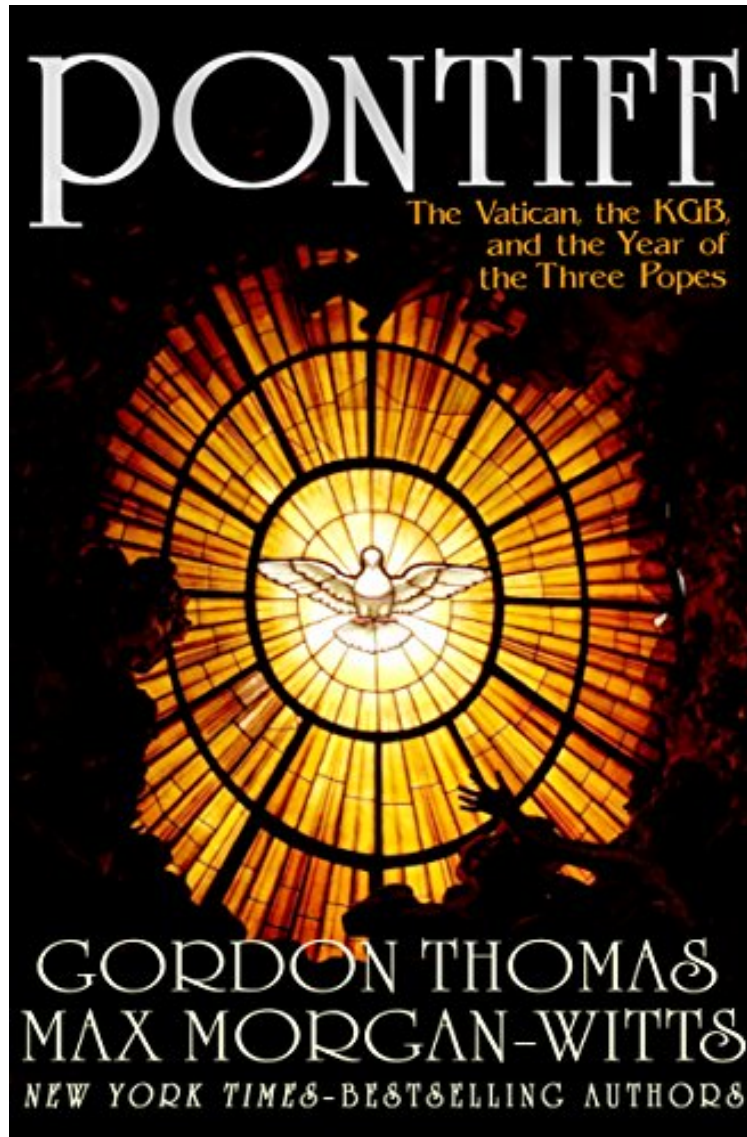


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Pontiff: The Vatican, the KGB, and the Year of the Three Popes (English Edition)

Von Gordon Thomas, Max Morgan-Witts
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Von Gordon Thomas, Max Morgan-Witts : Pontiff: The Vatican, the KGB, and the Year of the Three Popes (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pontiff: The Vatican, the KGB, and the Year of the Three Popes (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Masterpiece and prophetic book Von Peter Uys Published in 1983, this work was a blockbuster in the mid 1980s. Not only is the book an absorbing read but the authors were correct and prescient in their expectations predictions of the momentous pontificate of John Paul II. The significance of this pope who, together with Thatcher Reagan, was responsible for the collapse of communism, is brilliantly explored in *The President, the Pope, and the Prime Minister* by John O'Sullivan. The introduction provides a brief background on the history of the Papacy which is followed by a short chapter on the terrorist Mehmet Ali Agca, the Grey Wolves terror organization and the political violence in Turkey in the late 1970s. Part I assesses the person and the pontificate of Pope Paul VI, and his sickness death in 1978. He was the first Bishop of Rome to appoint many cardinals from outside Italy Europe. Part II includes a discussion of the fascinating processes procedures of electing a pope. John Paul I was elected and lived for only 33 days. Then Karol Wojtyla was elected, the first Polish Pope, against the background of the beginning of the collapse of the Soviet Block. The rise of the Solidarity trade union in Poland was the first sign of the impending implosion of the evil empire. Part III reveals the involvement of the KGB and the Bulgarian Secret Service in the assassination attempt. But John Paul II survived, made a quick recovery and was instrumental in bringing freedom to his native Poland and to the whole of Eastern Europe. The book contains a note on sources, notes on the text arranged by chapter, a bibliography and index. Pontiff remains a most enjoyable read and illuminating work with its insights into the working of the Vatican, the conclaves of cardinals electing the pope, the personalities of the time like the liberal theologian Hans Kng and the reactionary Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. It is peopled by a colorful array of interesting characters like the influential figures of the time in the Roman Catholic Church, including cardinals Casaroli, Koenig, Cody, Felici and Bishop Marcinkus. Of equal importance, it provides relevant information on the terrorist networks of the time and the co-operation between the KGB Islamist terrorists. This book is highly recommended for the skillful way in which it reveals the history of the time, the developments that would lead to the implosion of the communist empire in the early 1990s, and the character of the greatest pope of the 20th century.

Kurzbeschreibung Pontiff unravels one of the last unexamined mysteries of the modern world The Vatican has remained one of the last unexamined mysteries of the modern world. For centuries, pomp and pageantry have hidden from view the dramatic, sometimes sinister, realities that haunt the office of Supreme Pontiff and the men who make up his papacy. Gordon Thomas and Max Morgan Witts now bring their tremendous investigative talent to this most secret of institutions, offering us an unrivaled portrait and day-to-day account of the lives, personalities, and relationships of the three most recent popes: an equally fine account of the hour-by-hour deliberations of the closely guarded conclaves at which two popes were elected in the fateful year of 1978; and a remarkable rendering of the concrete issues facing the institutional papacy in foreign affairs, economic matters, and the human factor the highly individual ambitions, loyalties, and hatreds that characterize the men and women who serve the Holy Father. The result is a book that is ahead of the worlds headlines, a book that makes headlines of its own. Not only have the authors brought the world of the Vatican into the open, their sleuthing has uncovered several major news stories. Pontiff includes a day-to-day account of the assassination attempt by Mehmet Ali Agca upon John Paul II: Agcas history and family, his right-wing political connections, his activities and jailing in Turkey, his escape from jail aided by the KGB, his movements through terrorist training camps in Libya and Syria, and a complete investigation of the Bulgarian connection that led to the shooting in St. Peters Square. Here, also, is the story of John Paul IIs involvement with the creation of Solidarity in Poland, and his almost-daily secret contacts with Lech Walesa, as well as the unprecedented letter to Brezhev threatening his resignation from the papal throne. In addition, owing to the authors intricate web of connections at the Vatican (including many cardinals), the book contains previously unknown information about the man entrusted with the Churchs money, Paul Marcinkus, and his relationship with the shadowy Michele Sindona. Pontiff is a fascinating revelation of a world previously unknown to us, and an intimate view of a few men in Rome trying to lead an increasingly unwilling world to their own vision of salvation.