

# PRISONER *of the* VATICAN

## DAVID I. KERTZER

READ BY ALAN SKLAR

The astonishing story of a secret papal plot to seize political control, pitting Pius IX against Garibaldi and the king of Italy.

We think of Italy as an ancient nation, but in fact the unified Italian state was born only in the nineteenth century - and only against the adamant refusal of the pope to relinquish his rule of Rome. In this riveting chronicle of international intrigue, the renowned historian David Kertzer delves into secret Vatican archives to reveal a venomous conflict.

For more than fifty years, the pope was a self-imposed prisoner within the Vatican walls, planning to flee Italy, to return only as the restored ruler of Rome and the Papal States. The scheme to dismantle the newborn Italian nation involved not only the cardinals and the Curia but also attempts to exploit the rivalries among France, Germany, Austria, Spain, and England. Kertzer brings to light an untold drama played out among fascinating characters: Pope Pius IX, the most important pontiff in modern history; King Victor Emmanuel, working behind the backs of his own ministers; the dashing national hero Garibaldi; France's ill-starred Napoleon III, and many more.

No one who reads his new book will ever think of Italy, or the Vatican, in quite the same way again.

**David I. Kertzer** is author most recently of *The Popes Against the Jews*, which the *New York Times* hailed as "fascinating...{a} riveting piece of historical detective work." Kertzer was a finalist for the 1997 National Book Award for *The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara*, which won the National Jewish Book Award. He is the Paul Dupee University Professor of Social Science at Brown University, where he is also professor of anthropology and Italian studies.

Winner of several *AudioFile* Earphones Awards, **Alan Sklar** has narrated over 60 audiobooks, including *Black Hawk Down*, *The Kennedys: America's Emerald Kings*, and *Red Dragon*. The Dartmouth graduate's theater credits include *Hamlet*, *Taming of The Shrew*, and many modern roles. Alan has also narrated thousands of corporate videos.



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Running Time: 14 hours  
Unabridged

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This exclusive production of *Prisoner of the Vatican* is based on the book of the same name by David I. Kertzer.  
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DAVID I. KERTZER  
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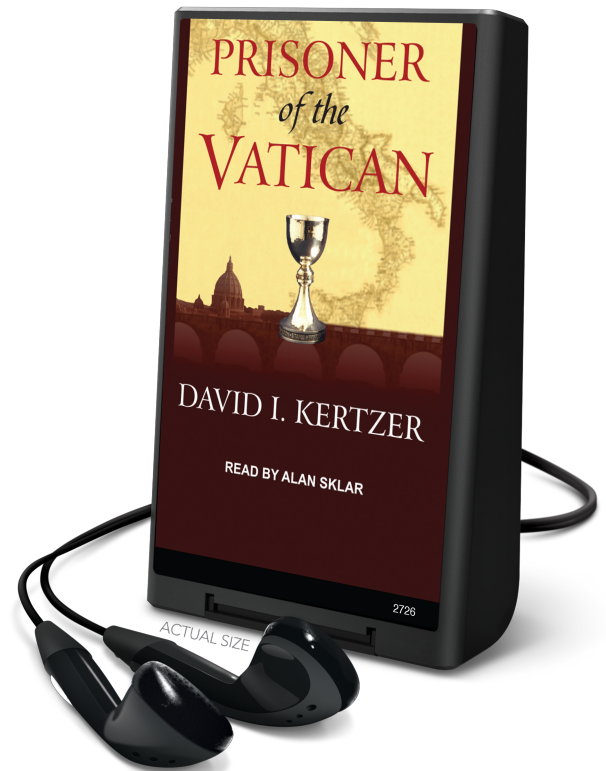
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