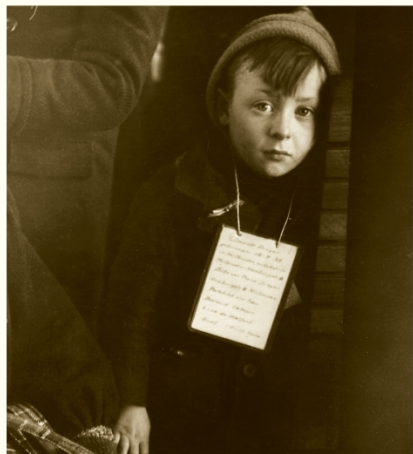


Alfred A. Häsler

The Lifeboat is Full: Switzerland and the Refugees, 1933-1945

Published by Diogenes as *Das Boot ist voll*

Original title: *Das Boot ist voll*



Alfred A. Häsler

*Das Boot
ist voll*

*Die Schweiz und
die Flüchtlinge 1933-1945
Mit einem Vorwort von
Roger de Weck*

Diogenes

Book factsheet

History, current affairs

384 pages

11.3 x 18 cm

February 1989

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Movie adaptation

1981: *Das Boot ist voll*

Director: Markus Imhoof

Cast: Tina Engel, Hans Diehl, Martin Walz, Curt Bois

Praise

The Lifeboat is Full: Switzerland and the Refugees, 1933-1945

»That ›The Lifeboat is Full‹ is not just of historic interest is made clear by the recent discussions on the right of asylum.« – Charles Linsmayer

»This essential book must remain in print!« – Daniel Keel

»Like Oedipus who takes the wrong path to escape his fate, these refugees take the incorrect way: They rescue themselves by finding their own ruin. But Oedipus had other paths open to him, other than that to Thebes; but for these refugees, there was no other path open but into Switzerland.« – Friedrich Dürrenmatt

›Das Boot ist voll!‹ (›The lifeboat is full!‹), this sentence was mouthed by many Swiss during the Second World War. Rhetorically garnished, it was an expression of the fear prevailing in much of the Swiss population of an over-alienation of the country through Jewish refugees seeking asylum. This asylum essential for their survival was not granted to the lion's share of those who reached the country. The journalist and writer Alfred A. Häsler was one of the first to critically examine Switzerland's asylum policy in 1967, and through this opened the eyes of a broad cross-section of the general population to this dark chapter in Swiss history.

Roger de Weck wrote an extensive preface especially for this edition.



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Alfred A. Häslar was born in Wilderswil in Berner Oberland in 1921. His first articles against Switzerland's asylum policy began to appear in the ›Nation‹ after 1939. He was the editor of ›Tat‹ from 1958–1977, at ›Ex Libris‹ from 1964–1985, the ›Weltwoche‹ from 1977–1984, and a freelance reporter for radio and television. In 1986, he received an honorary doctorate from the School of Theology at the University of Zurich. Alfred A. Häslar died on 7 April 2009 in Zurich.