sacco y vanzetti

sacco y vanzetti stands as one of the most controversial and debated criminal cases in American history, symbolizing issues of justice, immigration, and political ideology in the early 20th century. This article explores the background of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, the details of their trial, public response, and the lasting legacy of their story. Readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of the historical context, the facts surrounding their prosecution, and why sacco y vanzetti remains a significant reference point in discussions about civil rights and the American legal system. The following sections will analyze the events, the legal proceedings, and the broader implications, making this guide essential for anyone seeking to learn about sacco y vanzetti.

- Historical Background of Sacco y Vanzetti
- The Crime and Arrest
- The Trial and Legal Proceedings
- Public Reaction and International Impact
- · Controversies and Criticism
- Legacy and Influence on Modern Society
- Frequently Asked Questions

Historical Background of Sacco y Vanzetti

Origins and Personal Lives

Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were Italian immigrants who arrived in the United States during a period of intense social and economic change. Both men settled in Massachusetts, working as a shoemaker and a fish peddler, respectively. Their backgrounds reflected the struggles faced by many immigrants in the early 1900s, including economic hardship, cultural adaptation, and exposure to radical political ideas. Sacco and Vanzetti became involved in anarchist circles, advocating for workers' rights and opposing government oppression. This association would later play a pivotal role in their prosecution and public perception.

Political Climate in Early 20th Century America

The era was marked by widespread fear of radicalism, known as the Red Scare. The government targeted individuals and groups suspected of communist and anarchist activities, leading to mass arrests and deportations. Anti-immigrant sentiment ran high, with Italian immigrants often stereotyped as criminals and agitators. The context of sacco y vanzetti's story is inseparable from these broader political and social tensions, which shaped public opinion and influenced legal proceedings.

- · Economic instability and labor strikes
- Rise of anarchism and socialism
- Nativist hostility toward immigrants
- Government crackdowns on radicalism

The Crime and Arrest

The Braintree Robbery and Murder

On April 15, 1920, a payroll clerk and a security guard were

Sacco Y Vanzetti

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Sacco and Vanzetti: A Century of Debate and Unanswered Questions

The names Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti still resonate a century after their execution, sparking passionate debate and highlighting enduring questions about justice, prejudice, and the American legal system. This post delves into the intricacies of the Sacco and Vanzetti case, exploring the events leading to their conviction, the controversies surrounding their trial, and the lasting legacy of their story. We'll examine the evidence, the societal context, and the enduring questions that continue to fuel discussions today.

The Crime and the Accusation: A Robbery Gone Wrong

On April 15, 1920, a payroll robbery and murder occurred in South Braintree, Massachusetts. Two men, identified later only by descriptions, killed a paymaster and a guard, escaping with a significant amount of money. The investigation led police to Nicola Sacco, a shoemaker, and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, a fish peddler, both Italian immigrants and known anarchists. Their radical political beliefs,

coupled with the fact that they possessed firearms similar to those used in the crime, immediately cast suspicion upon them.

The Trial: A Storm of Prejudice and Circumstantial Evidence

The trial, which began in 1921, became a highly publicized spectacle. The prosecution presented largely circumstantial evidence, linking Sacco and Vanzetti to the crime through witness testimony that was, at best, unreliable and, at worst, demonstrably flawed. The defense argued that the evidence was insufficient and that the prosecution was prejudiced against the defendants due to their immigrant status and anarchist affiliations. The judge, presiding over a deeply xenophobic and anti-communist climate, displayed clear bias towards the prosecution, creating an atmosphere rife with injustice.

Ballistics and Witness Testimony: Key Controversies

One of the most contested aspects of the case was the ballistic evidence. While the prosecution claimed that bullets found at the crime scene matched Sacco's pistol, expert testimony later contradicted this claim, highlighting questionable methodologies and raising serious doubts about the accuracy of the forensic analysis. Witness testimony was also problematic, marred by inconsistencies and a lack of conclusive identification of Sacco and Vanzetti as the perpetrators. The questionable reliability of this evidence became a major focus of post-trial investigations.

The Anarchist Factor: Prejudice and Political Climate

The fact that Sacco and Vanzetti were avowed anarchists played a significant role in their conviction. The prevailing anti-immigrant and anti-radical sentiment in the United States during the Red Scare fueled public opinion against them, creating a climate where a fair trial was virtually impossible. Their political beliefs were used to pre-judge their guilt, overshadowing the flaws in the prosecution's case.

The Aftermath: Execution and Legacy of a Miscarriage of Justice?

Despite mounting evidence of prosecutorial misconduct and questionable evidence, Sacco and Vanzetti were found guilty and sentenced to death. Their case became an international cause célèbre, with prominent intellectuals, artists, and activists campaigning for their release or a retrial. Despite numerous appeals, they were executed in 1927. Their deaths fueled widespread outrage and solidified their place in history as symbols of injustice and the dangers of prejudice within the legal

The Governor's Commission and Continued Debate

Even after their executions, the case continued to generate controversy. A gubernatorial commission appointed in 1976 revisited the evidence and concluded that Sacco and Vanzetti had likely been wrongly convicted. The commission's report, however, failed to definitively exonerate them, leaving a cloud of uncertainty that persists to this day. This highlights the persistent questions about the case's fairness and the limitations of post-mortem investigations.

Conclusion: A Case Study in Justice Denied?

The Sacco and Vanzetti case remains a potent symbol of injustice and the fragility of due process. Their story serves as a stark reminder of the dangers of prejudice, the importance of impartial justice, and the enduring need for critical examination of historical events and their implications for contemporary society. While the question of their guilt or innocence may never be definitively resolved, the case's lasting impact on the discourse around social justice, immigration, and the flaws inherent in legal processes remains undeniable.

FAQs

- 1. Were Sacco and Vanzetti actually guilty? The evidence presented at their trial was largely circumstantial and highly contested. While some maintain their guilt, others believe they were wrongly convicted due to prejudice and flawed evidence. The truth remains elusive.
- 2. What role did anti-immigrant sentiment play in the case? The prevailing anti-immigrant and anti-radical sentiment in the US during the 1920s significantly influenced public perception and likely impacted the jury's verdict. Their Italian heritage and anarchist beliefs contributed to a hostile environment.
- 3. How did the Sacco and Vanzetti case impact the legal system? The case highlighted flaws in forensic techniques and the potential for bias within the justice system, leading to calls for reform and greater scrutiny of evidence and judicial proceedings.
- 4. Why does the case continue to be relevant today? The case serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of prejudice, injustice, and the importance of fighting for fair legal processes for all, regardless of their background or beliefs. It remains relevant in discussions about social justice and immigration reform.
- 5. What are some key resources for learning more about the Sacco and Vanzetti case? Numerous

books, documentaries, and academic articles extensively explore the case. Searching for "Sacco and Vanzetti" in academic databases and online libraries will yield a wealth of information.

sacco y vanzetti: Sacco and Vanzetti Bruce Watson, 2007-08-16 In this groundbreaking narrative of one of America?s most divisive trials and executions, award-winning journalist Bruce Watson mines deep archives and newly available sources to paint the most complete portrait available of the ?good shoemaker? and the ?poor fish peddler.? Opening with an explosion that rocks a quiet Washington, D.C., neighborhood and concluding with worldwide outrage as two men are executed despite widespread doubts about their guilt, Sacco & Vanzetti is the definitive history of an infamous case that still haunts the American imagination.

sacco y vanzetti: Twentieth-Century Cause Cèlébre John Neville, 2004-04-30 The trial and imprisonment of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti and the resulting press coverage catapulted the two immigrant anarchists from the margins of obscurity to international celebrity in 1926 and 1927. This study examines this press coverage and the political movement that set the tone for one of the 20th century's most debated and least understood political causes. Neville argues that, while casting about for a case to champion in 1926, the Comintern of the USSR discovered in Sacco-Vanzetti the perfect vehicle to discredit and shame the United States. As an international cause celebre, this event did not occur spontaneously but, rather, was managed behind the scenes in Europe to discredit the reputation of the United States through a carefully orchestrated propaganda campaign. Perhaps the most formidable enemies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the U.S. government were ultimately their own political leaders, who seemed powerless to rebut an all-or-nothing international propaganda campaign designed to succeed with Sacco and Vanzetti playing the role of willing martyrs. That few supporters of the Sacco-Vanzetti movement realized this effort distorted the historical accuracy of the case for decades after the men were executed. More than 70 years later, historians and scholars must separate the myth from the reality, an extremely difficult task given the passage of time and the still largely accepted view that Sacco and Vanzetti were victims of political persecution.

sacco y vanzetti: The Legacy of Sacco and Vanzetti Louis Joughin, Edmund M. Morgan, 2015-03-08 A definitive history of the case...notable alike for its clarity and its fairness....Professors Joughin and Morgan conclude that Sacco and Vanzetti were the victims of a sick society, in which prejudice, chauvinism, hysteria, and malice were endemic. Few who will read this moving work will doubt that they have proved their point.—The New York Times This was not merely a trial in court nor even a sociological phenomenon in the history of the United States. It was a spiritual experience and setback which only a fundamentally healthy America could have endured....What influence was it that brought such world figures as Clarence Darrow, William Borah, H.G. Wells, Arnold Bennett, Edna St. Vincent Millay, George Bernard Shaw, Arthur Brisbane, William Allen White, Fritz Kreisler, Albert Einstein and others to plead for men entirely unknown to them? Joughin and Morgan tell you why with the clarity and thoroughness of scholars and with the authority which their long study, impartiality, and sincerity assure and guarantee. It is a book that will excite and anger you.—The New Republic Originally published in 1978. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

sacco y vanzetti: The Black Flag (Routledge Revivals) Brian Jackson, 2013-06-26 First published in 1981, this book reassesses the case of Sacco and Vanzetti, two Italian immigrant anarchists living in Boston in 1920. The pair were accused of a payroll robbery and the murder of two guards for which they were arrested and, after a long trial based on inadequate and prejudiced evidence, executed in 1927. In 1977, on the fiftieth anniversary of their deaths, the Commonwealth

of Massachusettes issued a proclamation which acknowledged a miscarriage of justice. The Black Flag provides an account of the controversial trial and a re-evaluation of the celebrated case of the Commonwealth's decision. Brian Jackson puts the trial in the social context of the period and exposes the nature of anarchism by looking at the lives of two of its exponents, resulting in a moving exploration of a series of events that continue to trouble the conscience of America.

sacco y vanzetti: The Letters of Sacco and Vanzetti Nicola Sacco, Bartolomeo Vanzetti, 2007-08-28 Commemorating the eightieth anniversary of Sacco and Vanzetti's execution- with a new cover and new foreword Electrocuted in 1927 for the murder of two guards in Massachusetts, the Italian- American anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti defied the verdict against them, maintaining their innocence to the end. Whether they were guilty continues to be the subject of debate today. First published in 1928, Sacco and Vanzetti's letters represent one of the great personal documents of the twentieth century: a volume of primary source material as famous for the splendor of its impassioned prose as for the brilliant light it sheds on the characters of the two dedicated anarchists who became the focus of worldwide attention. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

sacco y vanzetti: The Sacco-Vanzetti Case Nicola Sacco, 1969

sacco y vanzetti: Sacco & Vanzetti Eli Bortman, 2005 Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were Italian immigrants and they were anarchists. Were these their only crimes? Or did they really murder a factory paymaster and his guard in Braintree, Massachusetts, in April 1920? Seven years later, they were both put to death in the electric chair, and the thousands of mourners who followed their funeral cortege thought that they were victims of prejudice. Were they merely killers? In Sacco and Vanzetti, the latest addition to New England Remembers series, Eli C. Bortman decodes one of the most fascinating murder cases in New England history. And he considers the significance of a case that continues to cause controversy. Vanzetti believed that he and Sacco were not dying in vain-that their execution would trigger an international revolt of anarchists. This did not happen, but the shock waves continue to reverberate.

sacco y vanzetti: In Search of Sacco and Vanzetti Susan Mondshein Tejada, 2012 It was a bold and brutal crime--robbery and murder in broad daylight on the streets of South Braintree, Massachusetts, in 1920. Tried for the crime and convicted, two Italian-born laborers, anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, went to the electric chair in 1927, professing their innocence. Journalist Susan Tejada has spent years investigating the case, sifting through diaries and police reports and interviewing descendants of major figures. She discovers little-known facts about Sacco, Vanzetti, and their supporters, and develops a tantalizing theory about how a doomed insider may have been coerced into helping professional criminals plan the heist. Tejada's close-up view of the case allows readers to see those involved as individual personalities. She also paints a fascinating portrait of a bygone era: Providence gangsters and Boston Brahmins; nighttime raids and midnight bombings; and immigration, unionism, draft dodging, and violent anarchism in the turbulent early years of the twentieth century. In many ways this is as much a cultural history as a true-crime mystery or courtroom drama. Because the case played out against a background of domestic terrorism, in a time that echoes our own, we have a new appreciation of the potential connection between fear and the erosion of civil liberties and miscarriages of justice.

sacco y vanzetti: The Case of Sacco and Vanzetti Felix Frankfurter, 1927 On April 15, 1920, Parmenter, a paymaster, and Berardelli, his guard, were fired upon and killed. Sacco and Vanzetti were charged on May 5, 1920, with the crime of the murders, were indicted on September 14, 1920, and put to trial May 31, 1921, at Dedham, Norfolk County, Massachusetts. compare pages [3]-8.

sacco y vanzetti: The Sacco-Vanzetti Case , 1928

sacco v vanzetti: The Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti Howard Fast, 2011-12-13 A novel based on

the controversial case of two immigrants executed for murder in 1927, from the #1 New York Times-bestselling author of Spartacus. Seven years, two trials, and three appeals after their arrest for robbery and murder in 1920, anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti await execution in their prison cells. Supporters around the world have passionately argued their innocence, particularly when Celestino Madeiros, a young mobster, confesses to the murders along with other members of his gang. But no retrial is ordered; on August 23, 1927, Sacco and Vanzetti are executed. Howard Fast's heartrending fictional account offers a window into the thoughts and feelings of a presumed-innocent Sacco and Vanzetti, and is a withering indictment of the American justice system. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Howard Fast including rare photos from the author's estate.

sacco y vanzetti: <u>The Sacco-Vanzetti Case</u>, 1928

sacco y vanzetti: <u>Kill Now, Talk Forever</u> Richard Newby, 2006 Principally an abridgement of the transcript of the trial as published in: The Sacco-Vanzetti case. 2nd ed. Mamaroneck, N.Y.: P. P. Appel, 1969; followed by a collection of remarks over the past 80 years about the trial and its significance.

sacco y vanzetti: Representing Sacco and Vanzetti Jerome H. Delamater, Mary Anne Trasciatti, 2005-09-17 The contributors to this volume, from a range of academic disciplines and artistic traditions, illuminate previously unexplored aspects of the internationally renowned Sacco and Vanzetti case. Rather than take up the question of whether the two Italian immigrant anarchists were guilty, the essays in this book analyze literary-, artistic-, and mass-mediated representations of Sacco and Vanzetti, linking them to stereotypes of so-called foreigners and others that prevailed in the 1920s, and interrogating those images that prevail in our own age.

sacco y vanzetti: With Malice Aforethought Theodore W. Grippo, 2011-06-27 On April 15, 1920, five bandits robbed and killed a paymaster and his guard in a Boston suburb. The police charged Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti with the crime. They were local immigrant workers associated with a detested anarchist group. A year later, a jury convicted Sacco and Vanzetti of murder during a period of anti-communist hysteria in America. They were executed after six years of failed appeals, despite proven misconduct by prosecutors and the judge and a confessed participant in the crime who swore that the two Italians were not involved. Worldwide protests erupted. Millions claimed the two were framed and executed for their political beliefs. Author Ted Grippo takes the reader through the trial, disclosing and examining new documents and other recently discovered evidence supporting a conspiracy to frame Sacco and Vanzetti. While the debate over their guilt may continue for some, With Malice Aforethought will end the argument for many. **** A comprehensive history of shocking abuses of the criminal justice system that resulted in the conviction and execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. Greg Jones, former First Assistant US Attorney An important story revealing the treatment of Italian immigrants in 1920s America. Bill Dal Cerro, President, Italic Institute of America.

sacco y vanzetti: The Sacco-Vanzetti Case Newton Diehl Baker, 1928

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sacco y vanzetti: The Sacco and Vanzetti Case Michael M. Topp, 2005-02-01 In 1920 Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, two Italian immigrants and devout anarchists, were accused of robbery and murder. Their subsequent trial and execution captivated the world and exposed many of the cultural and political tensions of 1920s America. Sacco and Vanzetti's supporters claimed the two anarchists had been persecuted for their beliefs and not their actions, while their detractors saw proof of the country's ability to protect itself from dangerous foreign elements. Michael M. Topp's unique collection of documents examines both sides and provides a clear presentation of the trial while emphasizing the broad historical context in which it was conducted. An interpretive

introductory essay, document headnotes, a chronology, and questions for consideration provide further pedagogical support. A bibliographic essay and a brief discussion of artistic productions based on the trial are also included.

sacco y vanzetti: The Sacco-Vanzetti Case Osmond Kessler Fraenkel, 1969 sacco y vanzetti: Sacco & Vanzetti John Davis, 2004 Political activists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were framed and executed for murder in a wave of anti-immigrant hysteria in Boston in the 1920s. Their story is a salutary one, illustrating the way in which anarchists and immigrants were painted as terrorists - a grim reminder of the consequences of using fear as a political weapon. Eventually pardoned in 1977 by Governor Dukakis, Sacco and Vanzetti's case sparked an unprecedented international defence campaign backed by writers, artists, politicians and musicians. It remains one of the most famous political trials in history.

sacco y vanzetti: The Sacco-Vanzetti Case Nicola Sacco, 1969 On April 15, 1920, a band of five armed robbers made off with the payroll of a South Braintree, Mass. shoe company, shooting dead the guard (Alessandro Berardelli) and the paymaster (Frederick Albert Parmenter). Two Italian extremists, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, were charged on May 5, 1920, with the murders; indicted on September 14, 1920; and brought to trial in the Superior Court at Dedham, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, Judge Webster Thayer presiding. A verict of guilty was rendered but sentence was not pronounced until April 9, 1927. Following a worldwide outcry of injustice, Governor Alvan Fuller appointed an independent commission to advise him of the fairness of the trial. The commission's members were Abbot Lawrence Lowell, Pres. of Harvard University, Judge Robert Grant, and President Samuel W. Stratton. In Nov. 1925 Celestino Medeiros, a young Portugese, confessed to the crime. A motion based on Medeiros' statement was argued before Judge Thayer, who denied it. On Aug. 22, 1927, Sacco and Vanzetti were executed.

sacco y vanzetti: The Case of Sacco and Vanzetti: A Critical Analysis for Lawyers and Laymen Felix Frankfurter, 2023-09-10 The Sacco and Vanzetti case is probably America's most controversial court case. One of the most important studies of the case was made by Justice Felix Frankfurter when he was a professor of administrative law at Harvard. It created considerable stir when initially published in 1927. The book was praised and attacked; it was considered "thrilling," "uncomfortable," "lucid" and "judicious." It was destined to become somewhat of a classic in American juridical literature. "The author... has gone through the record of the successive court proceedings, covering thousands of pages of printed matter, and on it has based this judicial résumé... he makes a survey of the case that is wonderfully compact, but complete enough to bring together all the essential developments and present them in a lucid, readable narrative." — The New York Times "Mr. Frankfurter has very comprehensively analyzed the trial of these two condemned murderers, and a careful study compels the experienced lawyer to stand aghast at the result obtained under the absolute disregard for the rules of evidence and the conduct of a trial by a jurist who is supposed to be without prejudice or partiality." — Edwin M. Abbott, Journal of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology "[Felix Frankfurter's] book on the Sacco-Vanzetti case is a real contribution to the cause of Free Speech; it is, moreover, a thriller... Every lawyer ought to read this slender but powerful volume." — Morris L. Ernst, The Yale Law Journal "This small volume of barely more than a hundred pages should be read by lawyer and by layman. The reader will then know how the guaranties of justice and liberty may crumble under the destructive influence of class complacency." — Charles Nagel, Harvard Law Review "Felix Frankfurter in his book mercilessly analyzes both the record of the trial and the affidavits summarizing the after-discovered evidence upon which a new trial was sought... None can read Frankfurter's able brief without an inner conviction that the defendants are innocent." — Charles I. Thompson, University of Pennsylvania Law Review and American Law Register "This compelling account will remain an important document in the history of what has become one of the outstanding cases in the annals of criminal justice... [Professor Frankfurter] deserves credit for the courage with which he undertook a task which in the community in which he lives was thankless and unpopular." — Ernst Freund, Social Service Review "The whole account is set forth in a manner likely not only to capture but to hold the

interest of the reader. Besides having been demonstrated, by the attacks upon it, to be reliable, it is no exaggeration to say that the book is really thrilling." — E. W. Puttkammer, American Journal of Sociology

sacco y vanzetti: The Life and Death of Sacco and Vanzetti Eugene Lyons, 1940

sacco y vanzetti: The Lives of Sacco & Vanzetti Rick Geary, 2013-04-01 Rick Geary tackles the most controversial case of the 20th century. Anarchists Sacco & Vanzetti were accused of robbery and murder but so many supposedly damning pieces of evidence were questionable their guilty verdict elicited massive protests around the world. Geary presents us with all the twists and turns, appeals and dubious evidence after presenting us the human face of the two men, demonized by many, turned to martyrs by many others in his usual unflappable way.

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sacco y vanzetti: Sacco and Vanzetti Paul Avrich, 2020-07-21 The Sacco-Vanzetti affair is the most famous and controversial case in American legal history. It divided the nation in the 1920s, and it has continued to arouse deep emotions, giving rise to an enormous literature. Few writers, however, have consulted anarchist sources for the wealth of information available there about the movement of which the defendants were a part. Now Paul Avrich, the preeminent American scholar of anarchism, looks at the case from this new and valuable perspective. This book treats a dramatic and hitherto neglected aspect of the cause célèbre that raised, according to Edmund Wilson, almost every fundamental guestion of our political and social system.

sacco y vanzetti: Sacco and Vanzetti, Labor's Martyrs Max Shachtman, 1927sacco y vanzetti: The Sacco-Vanzetti Case Nicola Sacco, Osmond Kessler Fraenkel, 1969

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sacco y vanzetti: The Sacco-Vanzetti Case, 2008 Sacco and Vanzetti were tried at Dedham, in the Superior court of Massachusetts for Norfolk county, May 31-July 14, 1921, for the murder of F.A. Parmenter and A. Berardelli at South Braintree, April 15, 1920.

sacco y vanzetti: The Legacy of Sacco and Vanzetti Louis Joughin, Edmund Morris Morgan, 2008

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sacco y vanzetti: Facing The Chair John Dos Passos, 1970-03-21 This is a fascsimile [sic] edition of the report published by the Sacco and Vanzetti Defense Committee in 1927 just prior to the execution of the two men. John Dos Passos analyses the 'red scare' of 1919-1920 which provided the background of the case, describes the lives of the two workingmen, scrutinizes the trials and systematically exposes the prosecution as a frame-up.--T.p. verso.

sacco y vanzetti: The Sacco-Vanzetti Affair Moshik Temkin, 2009-05-26 What began as the obscure local case of two Italian immigrant anarchists accused of robbery and murder flared into an unprecedented political and legal scandal as the perception grew that their conviction was a judicial travesty and their execution a political murder. This book is the first to reveal the full national and international scope of the Sacco-Vanzetti affair, uncovering how and why the two men became the center of a global cause celebre that shook public opinion and transformed America's relationship with the world. Drawing on extensive research on two continents, and written with verve, this book connects the Sacco-Vanzetti affair to the most polarizing political and social concerns of its era. Moshik Temkin contends that the worldwide attention to the case was generated not only by the conviction that innocent men had been condemned for their radical politics and ethnic origins but

also as part of a reaction to U.S. global supremacy and isolationism after World War I. The author further argues that the international protest, which helped make Sacco and Vanzetti famous men, ultimately provoked their executions. The book concludes by investigating the affair's enduring repercussions and what they reveal about global political action, terrorism, jingoism, xenophobia, and the politics of our own time.

sacco y vanzetti: Case of Sacco and Vanzetti a Critical Analysis for L Felix Frankfurter, 1973-09-01

sacco y vanzetti: The Sacco-Vanzetti Case: Defendants' exceptions , 1969 On April 15, 1920, a band of five armed robbers made off with the payroll of a South Braintree, Mass. shoe company, shooting dead the guard (Alessandro Berardelli) and the paymaster (Frederick Albert Parmenter). Two Italian extremists, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, were charged on May 5, 1920, with the murders; indicted on September 14, 1920; and brought to trial in the Superior Court at Dedham, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, Judge Webster Thayer presiding. A verict of guilty was rendered but sentence was not pronounced until April 9, 1927. Following a worldwide outcry of injustice, Governor Alvan Fuller appointed an independent commission to advise him of the fairness of the trial. The commission's members were Abbot Lawrence Lowell, Pres. of Harvard University, Judge Robert Grant, and President Samuel W. Stratton. In Nov. 1925 Celestino Medeiros, a young Portugese, confessed to the crime. A motion based on Medeiros' statement was argued before Judge Thayer, who denied it. On Aug. 22, 1927, Sacco and Vanzetti were executed.

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