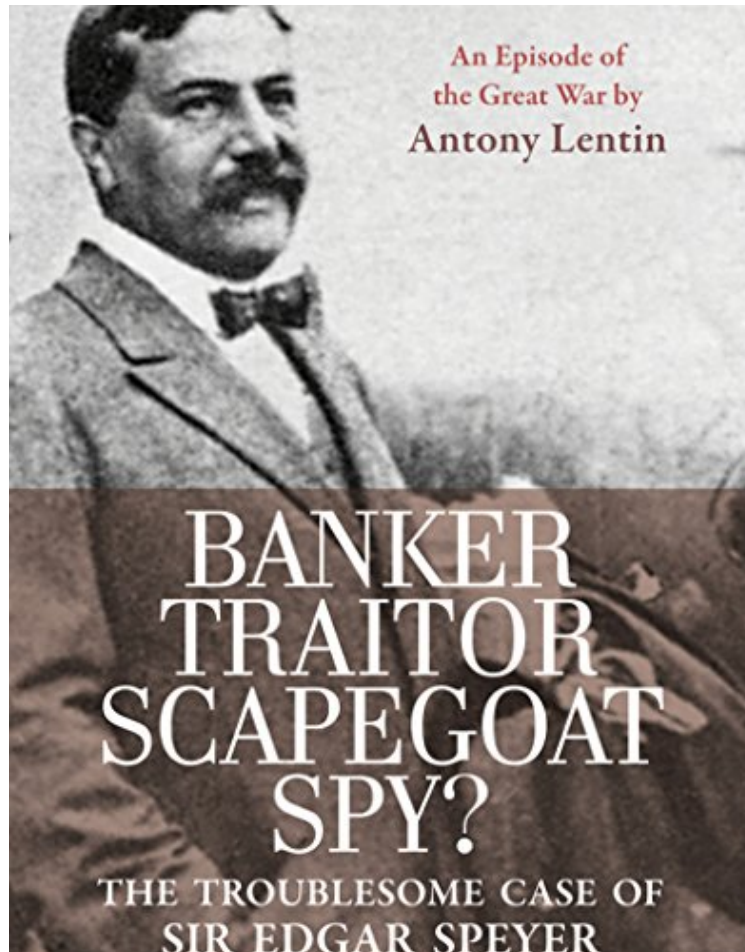


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# Banker, Traitor, Scapegoat, Spy?: The Troublesome Case of Sir Edgar Speyer

Von Antony Lentin

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**Von Antony Lentin : Banker, Traitor, Scapegoat, Spy?: The Troublesome Case of Sir Edgar Speyer** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Banker, Traitor, Scapegoat, Spy?: The Troublesome Case of Sir Edgar Speyer:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Speyer case revisited.... Von Phillip Taylor MBE [[VIDEOID:mo3BQEGJTBAPBP8]] THE VERDICT - EVIDENT VENGEANCE WITH AN ABSENCE OF HUMANITY An appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers We can understand why Tony Lentin was so taken by this disturbing and sad story because of his extensive legal background and his substantial expertise in all matters to do with modern history in particular, and an inquisitiveness which would not have gone amiss in 1921. Speyer's story is an important historical biography and also plays a part in our modern legal history, albeit a shameful episode where things went wrong for

Speyer for all the wrong reasons. It is to be hoped that this sort of thing will never happen again, but we would not like to bet on it! As Louis Blom-Cooper remarks in his Foreword, a judicial review of this particular administrative action against Speyer for the States flawed, irrational and blatantly prejudicial decision in 1921 to discriminate against him would almost certainly succeed today with a different, fair result for Sir Edgar and his family. Lentin has worked extremely hard to uncover the correspondence and associated papers which are set out clearly in the detailed notes and he includes a section on further reading and a detailed index. His scholarship throughout is first rate, highly competent and paints an appalling picture of what can happen when the power of the State becomes irrational. We do not use such a heavy word as corrupt although the inferences from the published papers in this book highlight the sort of flawed decision-making we should not see again in the United Kingdom. If there is anything which we can take comfort from with the Speyer case it is that modern judicial review, however costly, must be retained and improved for the future if there is to be any scrutiny of the bad decision-making highlighted in Speyer. We have all had our days in a court when we know that forces are at work well outside the decision-making process we are asking the court to undertake: alas, we can never prove it! So, there is a lesson to be learnt from Tony Lentin's endeavours: the need for an external review of bad ministerial and administrative decisions which might one day become enshrined in our constitution to prevent another Speyer. All we can feel is that the same thing did not happen to the Mountbattens and others who were more fortunate, and not Jewish: no more vengeance and a little more humility should be the new order of the day.

**Kurzbeschreibung** Sir Edgar Speyer was a conspicuous figure in the financial, cultural, social and political life of Edwardian London. Head of the syndicate which financed the construction of the deep "tube lines" and "King of the Underground", he was also a connoisseur and active patron of the arts who rescued the "Prom" from collapse, enhanced the nation's musical and artistic life at his own expense and directed the funding of Captain Scott's Antarctic expeditions. Speyer and his wife, the concert violinist, Leonora Speyer lived in fabulously magnificent style. Early in the early summer of 1914 they stood at the peak of their success and celebrity in London society. Within weeks, on the outbreak of war, they became pariahs, objects of suspicion and aversion. Despite having been a naturalised British citizen for over 20 years and an ubiquitous public benefactor, Speyer found himself ostracised by society and mercilessly harried by the Northcliffe press. Under the Aliens Act of 1918, Speyer was summoned in 1921 before a judicial enquiry which found him guilty of disloyalty and disaffection and of communicating and trading with the enemy. He was stripped of his citizenship and membership of the Privy Council. Pilloried by The Times as a traitor, Speyer vehemently denied the charges, but he never returned to England thereafter and never forgot his ordeal.