

## Sacco & Vanzetti

Ann Coulter, *Godless: The Church of Liberalism* (NY: Crown Forum, 2006), 51–54.

Only recently have we learned not only that Sacco and Vanzetti were absolutely guilty of cold-blooded murder — which is no surprise — but also that their liberal defenders knew the truth all along. Their lawyers knew it and cooked up an alibi for them. Phony progressive Upton Sinclair knew it, even as he denounced the American justice system for framing two innocent immigrants because of their unconventional political views.

Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were ruthless anarchists who killed a couple of payroll carriers for a Boston shoe factory in 1920 in order to bankroll their bombings of government buildings. After their arrest, they repeatedly lied to investigators. Police found a loaded gun on Sacco that matched the crime weapon, almost literally giving prosecutors a smoking gun. Sacco and Vanzetti were tried by jury and sentenced to death. In the U.S. justice system's typical "rush to justice" fashion, seven years passed between Sacco and Vanzetti's murder spree and their eventual execution. Among the appeals was one you will see whenever liberals start weeping for some criminal: They produced an eleventh-hour "confession" from someone who would face no additional punishment for confessing (in this case, because he was already in prison).

But Sinclair wrote a groaning 750-page tome called *Boston*, a historical novel in the James Frey style, suggesting that Sacco and Vanzetti had been sentenced to die for a crime they didn't commit. According to Sinclair's novel, these two poor immigrants had been framed by the rich and powerful in Boston — despite the fact that their victims were hardly corporate chieftains but payroll carriers, Frederick Parmenter and Alessandro Berardelli, the latter an Italian immigrant himself. Nonetheless, Sinclair insisted it was the social conservatism of the day that led to the convictions of Sacco and Vanzetti simply because they were immigrants with socialist and anarchist views.

Thanks to recently unearthed letters from Sinclair to his lawyer, we now know that Sinclair was aware all along that Sacco and Vanzetti were guilty. He also knew that the only perjured testimony at trial came from the defendants' alibi witnesses. In private letters to his lawyer, Sinclair admitted that while researching his book, he had met with the anarchists' defense attorney in a hotel room and asked for the truth. In Sinclair's own words, the defense lawyer said "the men were guilty," and even told Sinclair "in every detail how he had framed a set of alibis for them." [Jean O. Pasco, "Sinclair Letter Turns Out to Be Another Expose," *Los Angeles Times*, December 24, 2005.]

Facing what he called "the most difficult ethical problem" of his life, Sinclair decided to lie in his book, his moral indignation undimmed. As Sinclair explained in his letters, "It is much better copy as a naive defense of Sacco and Vanzetti because this is what all my foreign readers expect, and they are 90% of my public." (In the article about the Sinclair letters that expose him as a fraud, the *Los Angeles Times* reporter still insisted on referring to Sinclair as "one of America's most strident truth tellers." It's nice to be a liberal.) In one letter, Sinclair admonishes his lawyer,

“This letter is for yourself alone. Stick it away in your safe, and some time in the far distant future the world may know the real truth about the matter.” [Ibid.] But not while there was money to be made from the America-hating left.

Sinclair accused Hollywood of “blacklisting” movies about Sacco and Vanzetti, apparently because no one turned his book into a movie. Liberal claims of “blacklisting,” like sex tapes, always appear at the ideal time to advance the liberal’s career goals. The Internet Movie Database lists seven films made about Sacco and Vanzetti, three made in Hollywood, including a TV movie by Sidney Lumet, which was nominated for four Emmys. The 1971 Italian film *Sacco e Vanzetti* — with music by Joan Baez — was nominated for the Palme d’Or at Cannes. I guess the two payroll carriers murdered in cold blood by Sacco and Vanzetti will have to wait another day for their movie.

Ginned up by liberal frauds like Upton Sinclair, 250,000 protesters marched in Boston the day Sacco and Vanzetti were executed, and another 200,000 engaged in a violent march the day of their funeral. There were protests in Switzerland, Germany, Argentina, England, and Mexico and violent riots in France, where thousands fought with the police in Paris. Liberals would not have this much fun again until the Rosenbergs were executed.

In some cases, it was literally the same people defending Sacco and Vanzetti who would later be defending Soviet spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and Alger Hiss. In 1927, Felix Frankfurter — Harvard Law School professor and future character witness for Alger Hiss — wrote a book purporting to exonerate Sacco and Vanzetti, *The Case of Sacco and Vanzetti: A Critical Analysis for Lawyers and Laymen*. Supreme Court Justice Willlian O. Douglas referred to Frankfurter’s book as his “bible.” Edward R. Murrow championed Sacco and Vanzetti on his *See It Now* broadcasts for CBS News on one of the rare nights he wasn’t scoffing at Soviet espionage. Liberals produced books, paintings, songs, even an opera about Sacco and Vanzetti, the last featuring Sacco’s aria “The Whole Shoe.” In 1977, on the fiftieth anniversary of their executions, Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis cleared their names and proclaimed August 23, 1977, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti Day in Massachusetts.