

## Italian book assesses Benedict's papacy

John L. Allen Jr. | Aug. 27, 2010



The cover of *Attack on Ratzinger* by Andrea Tornielli and Paolo Rodari

Friends and foes alike of Pope Benedict XVI concur that he's got an image problem. Where they place the blame for it may differ, but the fact itself seems clear: From a PR point of view, this is a pontificate defined by its train wrecks.

Cataloguing those train wrecks is the burden of a valuable new book by two of the best Italian *vaticanisti* going: Andrea Tornielli of *Il Giornale* and Paolo Rodari of *Il Foglio*, both of whom also operate widely read blogs -- "Palazzo apostolico" for Rodari and "Sacri palazzi" for Tornielli. Their work is titled *Attacco a Ratzinger: Accuse e scandali, profezie e complotti* ("Attack on Ratzinger: Accusations and Scandals, Prophecies and Plots"), published in Italian by Piemme.

The book came out in Italy on Tuesday, and one hopes an enterprising publisher in the States will bring out an English translation quickly. (Let me volunteer here and now: I'd be happy to put together a preface introducing the book, and its authors, to an English-speaking audience.)

While the sexual abuse crisis has occasioned the most serious criticism of Benedict XVI, it's hardly an isolated case. Tornielli and Rodari treat a long list of other controversies and PR debacles too.

Read the full report here: ['Attack on Ratzinger': Italian book assesses Benedict's papacy](#) [1]

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