

Italian Teachers Day

Saturday 5th March 2022

Round table: 'Dalla dittatura alla democrazia'

The Italian Memory of the Second World War

- Founding narratives for a renewed nation.
- Discontinuity with the past – vs the consensus of the Fascist regime.
- The centrality of the Italian Resistance (The ‘myth’ of the Italian Resistance).
- The comparison with the Germans (‘Il demone dell’Analogia’ – ‘Il vizio del confronto’).
- The myth of *Italiani brava gente* > Distortion > Amnesia about the Italian War Crimes.
- The impact of Allied propaganda.

Further readings:

Filippo Focardi, *Il cattivo tedesco e il bravo italiano: la rimozione delle colpe della seconda guerra mondiale* (Rome; Bari: Laterza, 2013)

Filippo Focardi, *Nel cantiere della memoria. Fascismo, Resistenza, Shoah, Foibe* (Rome: Viella, 2020)

Tony Judt, *Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945* (London: Vintage Books, 2010)

What should we teach about the Second World War in Italy?

- The ethical value of the Antifascist *choice*.
- Complexity: Avoid black and white depictions without erasing all differences.
[e.g. use of violence by Italian partisans; stories of those who joined the Fascist side; the Italian war crimes committed in the colonies or during World War II]

Resources to teach the Second World War and its Postwar Memory

Literature

Italo Calvino, ‘Andato al commando’, in *Ultimo viene il corvo* (1949)
[https://giurisprudenza.unipg.it/files/generale/IMPORT/LABORATORIO_SCRITTURA/Ultimo_viene_il_corvo.pdf]

Beppe Fenoglio, ‘Il trucco’, in *I ventitré giorni della città di Alba* (1952)
[<https://fmontemarano.files.wordpress.com/2008/09/brano1.pdf>]

Documents

Lettere di condannati a morte della Resistenza italiana (8 settembre 1943 - 25 aprile 1945), ed.
by Piero Malvezzi e Giovanni Pirelli (1952)

Giaime Pintòr, *L'ultima lettera al fratello Luigi* (Novembre 1943)

http://www.stampacritica.it/Attualita/Voci/2011/9/18_LUltima_Lettera.html

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsHunIIQ4vE> [Reading of the letter]

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQdmnLjHayA> /

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cpMIZqMuqQ> [Commemorations of Pintòr by Molise regional TV on 25 April 2015 and 2018]

Memoirs

Roberto Vivarelli, ‘Mio padre’, *La fine di una stagione: Memoria 1943-1945*, pp. 13-16.

Online Resources

<https://www.mausoleofosseardeatine.it> [facts and documents about the 24 March massacre in Rome with the stories of all victims and educational pathways in art, literature and cinema]

<https://www.noipartigiani.it> [hundreds of interviews with veterans of the Italian Resistance. Particularly useful the section ‘La Frase’]

<https://www.occupazioneitalianajugoslavia41-43.it> [Website of the Online Exhibition *A ferro e a fuoco* on the history of the Italian occupation in Yugoslavia]

Cinema

Roma città aperta, dir. by Roberto Rossellini (1945)

Mediterraneo, dir. by Gabriele Salvatores (1991)

Visual Documents

Political Propaganda of 1948 Political Election

[<http://www.manifestipolitici.it>]

