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THE ItalicWay

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The magazine of the Italic Institute of America

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THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Sergio Mattarella
President of the Republic

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The Italic Way

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Quotable:

“All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them.”

- Galileo Galilei



It has been almost thirty years since *The Italic Way* began revealing the vast details of the Italian heritage. Our research into a variety of subjects has never been limited by political correctness. More importantly, we have avoided the superficiality so prevalent among Italian American periodicals – no food, no fashion, no travel. Our perspective is straightforward, not muddled.

The truth we have discovered over these years may not be palatable to some readers. It isn’t always uplifting. I often feel that Italian Americans, to quote Col. Nathan Jessup, a character in the movie *A Few Good Men*, “...can’t handle the truth!”

Most of the articles you will find in this issue will, indeed, be uplifting, but others paint a very bleak picture of what our legacy as an ethnic culture has become. But unlike Galileo’s insights into the universe, the truth behind our “discoveries” will not be easy to digest. It has been far easier for our community to deny or gloss over these truths. To paraphrase another Galileo quote, “*Yet, it is still the truth!*”

- John Mancini, Editor



Italy in the Headlines

Italy's first annual Fertility Day got off to a bad start this year. "Conceived" to encourage the nation's declining birthrate by helping infertile couples, the campaign also hoped to show young adults a healthful way to live. Unfortunately, some Italians took the campaign's guide book as racist. The cover (right) shows four White adults as living properly but a number of mixed-race adults as leading a dissipated life. Italians are beginning to understand the limits of a multi-ethnic society.



SK		Itsekiri
SL		Icelandic
TA		Italian
TA	ITAA	Italian (Any Other)
TA	ITAN	Italian (Neapolitan)
TA	ITAS	Italian (Sicilian)
JAV		Javanese
JIN		Jinghpaw/Kachin
JPN		Japanese

Italy's Foreign Office was riled up recently over ethnic categories in many English and Welsh colleges and public schools: The

schools had created a breakdown of Italic student applicants by region of origin: ITA for Italians, ITAN for Neapolitans, ITAS for Sicilians, and ITAA for "other" Italians. Ambassador to the UK, Pasquale Terracciano, despatched a protest to the UK Foreign Office demanding that the insulting divisions "be removed with immediate effect."

Italy is home to two of the oldest complete Torahs (aka Five Books of Moses) in the world: One dating from ca. 1155 at the University of Bologna, and the recently discovered Biella Torah (photo) which dates from 1250. It is unique because it is still pristine and in use by a Jewish temple.



President Obama and First Lady Michelle hosted Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and wife Agnese Landini for one of their last White House fetes. Renzi, it is said, is one of Obama's favorite leaders. The visit came on the heels of a devastating earthquake in central Italy that killed 247 and left 2,000 homeless.

Rome's new mayor Virginia Raggi (right) is just more evidence of Italian women gaining power. She joins Laura Boldrini, President of Italy's Chamber of Deputies, and Chiara Appendino, Mayor of Torino.



The World Jewish Congress paid for a full page ad in the *NY Times* on October 17th to protest the UN's decision to drop the term Temple Mount in referring to its list of World Heritage Sites. It will be called the Noble Sanctuary, as Palestinian Muslims do. The ad further noted that Italy abstained from the vote, rather than vote against it. The implication was that the Italians have taken an anti-Zionist turn. Italy later apologized.



The Fine Italian Hand



The Del Bianco family knew the real story, but it was not the one told at Mt. Rushmore, and it still isn't. For Lou Del Bianco, the quest to have his grandfather Luigi's life's work in the Black Hills of North Dakota acknowledged is an on-going struggle.

Luigi Del Bianco (below) was the man who carved the "refinements of expression" in the faces of the four Presidents on Mount Rushmore. As Chief Carver for sculptor Gutzon Borglum, Del Bianco labored four years to perfect Borglum's vision. But since the monument was officially unveiled in 1941, Del Bianco has not gotten his due...until now.



This year, on Facebook, the National Park Service posted this biography, which officially mentions Del Bianco's title for

the first time: "Artist Luigi Del Bianco came to work at Mount Rushmore at the request of Gutzon Borglum, the designer and engineer of the stone sculpture. Luigi Del Bianco worked for Mr. Borglum during the seasons of 1933, 1935, 1936, and 1940. He was a Senior Driller until the end of July in 1935 when Mr. Borglum designated him Chief Carver."

Not enough for grandson Lou, "Permanent recognition at the mountain is what we are really after, but this is a break-through and a start in the right direction."

The fine Italian hand can be seen across America, from the Capitol Building murals by Constantino Brumidi to the grand projections of the American spirit dotting our nation.

Sometimes Italians designed these monuments from scratch or chiseled them out of solid rock for other sculptors.

Look for them whenever you travel.



Astoria Column in Astoria, OR. Winding fresco documenting the history of Oregon, by Attilio Pusterla, 1926

Seated Lincoln, Washington, DC. Carved by the Piccirilli Brothers from a Daniel French sculpture, 1922



Stone Mountain, GA. Tribute to Confederate leaders designed by Teodoro Bottinelli, 1928-29

Statue of Vulcan in Birmingham, AL. World's largest cast iron statue, by Giuseppe Moretti, 1904



All'Italiana

In Memoriam

Dean Lawrence Milani, 81, a biomedical engineer who created the technology that led to the portable defibrillator. Chicago-born, Milani was also a Formula 2 racer and avid pilot, flying into his 70s.



Marco Pannella, 86, co-founded the Radical Party in Italy in 1955. His relentless agitation for change led to a number of national referenda that substantially changed Italian society.

These included legalizing divorce and abortion, as well as banning the death penalty and creating a nuclear-free Italy. He was French-Swiss on his mother's side.

Bill Del Monte, 109, was the last survivor of the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. Just three months old at the time, his family lost its home and a successful Italian restaurant. By 1915, the family situation was restored, no doubt with loans from A.P. Giannini's Bank of America which was partial to Italian Americans. Bill went on to lose a fortune at 23 in the 1929 stock market crash, but recovered.

Antonin Scalia, 79, served as a justice on the U.S. Supreme Court and was known for his conservative, "originalist" interpretation of the Constitution. Fearing how words and definitions change with time, Scalia believed the yardstick for interpretation should be the late 18th Century: "The only good Constitution is a dead Constitution," rather than an evolving one. Raised in Queens, NY, Scalia admitted he was spoiled as an only child in an extended Italian family. He is known for his controversial vote to stop the Florida recount which elected George W. Bush by one electoral vote in 2000.

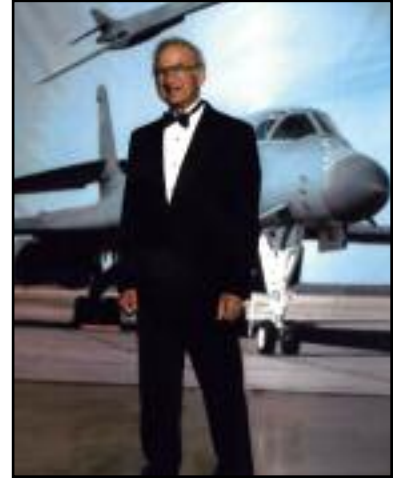


Frank Palopoli, 94, was the chemist whose team invented the fertility drug Clomid (or Serophene) which has been used by millions of women around the world. He was born in Pittsburgh to Italian immigrants.

Garry Marshall, 81, was a prolific television writer, producer, and director with credits like sitcoms *Happy Days*, *Laverne & Shirley*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Lucy Show*, and movies such as *Pretty Woman* and *Overboard*. He inherited his production talents from his father (original surname Masciarelli) and his sense of humor

from mom Majorie Ward. His original family name inspired the character Fonzarelli in *Happy Days*.

Sam Iacobellis, 87, was credited with helping topple the Soviet Union. An aerospace engineer by trade at Rockwell Int'l, Iacobellis was given the assignment to produce a fleet of B-1Bs for the Air Force in 1981, part of President Reagan's plan to outpace the USSR's nuclear advantage. The plane had failed to meet design and production standards under two previous presidents. Iacobelli managed to produce the dream plane by 1984, ahead of schedule and under budget. For the USSR, the new plane was too much to compete against.



Umberto Eco, 84, was the scholar-novelist who wrote *The Name of the Rose*, a medieval murder mystery that sold 10 million copies in some 30 languages. Heavy reading for most, the book and others he wrote were erudite works full of period details and symbolism. Eco was able to lecture in five modern languages as well as in Latin and classical Greek. He recalled receiving his first writing award while in the Fascist Youth Program. At his death he held prestigious awards in Italy (*Premio Strega*), in France (*Légion d'Honneur*) and in the U.S. (*Arts and Letters*).

Hector A. Cafferata, 86, was awarded the Medal of Honor for valor during the Korean War. As a 21-year old Marine, Cafferata held off a Communist Chinese regiment at the Chosin Reservoir, killing an estimated 100 of the enemy (he was cited for only killing 15, for credibility). Later that morning he saved some fellow Marines when a grenade landed near them by grabbing the grenade and throwing it away. He lost a finger and wounded his hand and arm. Still later he was shot by a sniper but was successfully evacuated.



Dr. Peter J. Jannetta, 84, a pioneer on facial pain developed a surgical procedure to treat a condition that often caused suicide in its victims. Known as trigeminal neuralgia, the condition effects the nerve endings in the face causing intense, episodic pain. Previous treatments were to sever the trigeminal nerve which left the patient with permanent numbness. In 1966, Jannetta accident-



tally discovered that the nerve was not the problem but a blood vessel pressing on it in the brain. His surgical technique (the Jannetta Procedure) is a standard treatment today. It has also been used to treat tinnitus, facial spasms, and vertigo.

Robert Palladino, 83, a calligrapher who inspired Steve Jobs and brought myriad fonts to computers. As a Trappist monk, Fr. Palladino taught calligraphy at Reed College in Portland, OR. Apple founder Steve Jobs audited Fr. Palladino's class which made an indelible impression on the inventor. Quoth Jobs: "If I had never dropped in on that single course in college, the Mac would have never had multiple typefaces or proportionally spaced fonts. And since Windows just copied Mac, it's likely that no personal computer would have them." Ironically, Fr. Palladino never used a computer: "I have my hand, and I have my pen. That's it."



Earl (Giannini) Hamner, Jr, 92, created *The Waltons* in 1971 as a television special based on his book *Spencer's Mountain*. CBS-TV chose to make it a series which ran for nine seasons. His mother was Doris Giannini, descended from Italian immigrants who settled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

Julius La Rosa, 86, broke into stardom singing on the *Arthur Godfrey Show* in 1951. He didn't take well to Godfrey's rules and was famously fired on-air. But instead of destroying La Rosa's career it opened new vistas, including gigs on the *Ed Sullivan Show*, ultimately getting his own show in 1955. Among his many songs was *Eh, Cumpari* (sic), a down-home Italian version of *Old MacDonald* with instruments instead of barnyard animals. But his usual repertoire was the traditional American romantic ballad.

Maria Teresa de Filippis, 89, was the first woman to compete in Formula 1 racing. She helped open auto racing to women like Danica Patrick (Nascar, IndyCar) and Lella Lombardi (Formula 1). Her career peaked with a 10th place finish at the Belgian Grand Prix in 1958. Born to an aristocratic family in Naples, de Filippis began her racing at a young age in a Fiat 500, on a dare from her three brothers.

Dario Fo, 90, the acerbic playwright and thorn of Italy, included every institution, including the Pope, in his critical wit. Not for nothing was he called "the Master" by today's anti-establishment Five Star Movement. Banned from entering the U.S. at least twice, Fo won the 1997 Nobel Prize for Literature to the shock and disgust of many Italians who considered much of his work as obscene and beyond the pale.

ITALIAN POVERTY

Last May, Italy's highest appeals court declared that shoplifting food to satisfy hunger, driven by poverty, is not a crime. The case involved a 30-year old Ukrainian man who pocketed some cheese and sausage but only paid for breadsticks. The fact that the crime was non-violent and the man proved his state of poverty influenced the decision.

According to published statistics, 5 million of Italy's 60 million inhabitants live below the poverty level. How much of this is attributable to minorities and immigrants is not clear. Some 8% of Italy's population is non-Italic.

NATO COMMANDER

U.S. Army Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti assumed duties as top U.S. and NATO commander (4-stars) in Europe this year. A native of Logan, Ohio, and West Point graduate Scaparrotti's career included commanding the 82nd Airborne Division, Commandant at West Point, Commander of U.S. forces in South Korea, and tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, Zaire, Bosnia, and Liberia. He has recommended beefing up American troops in Europe and arming Ukraine.



VENICE: THE OTHER DANGER

The Italian government expected to have the flood control system known as Mose` (Moses) in place this year, but it doesn't look that way. But keeping Venice high and dry isn't the only objective nowadays. It seems tourism is also killing it, transforming it into a very old Disneyland. Natives are being squeezed out by hotels, cruise ships are blotting out traditional views, and economic diversity has dwindled down to just servicing tourists. The alarm bells went off last July when the United Nations placed Venice on its World Heritage Danger List.





WORLD NOTES

OLYMPIC SHOWING

Italy made it to the top ten medal winners at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Brazil. With 28 medals, including 8 gold, just behind Australia (29), the Italians fell far short of European neighbors such as Britain (67), Germany (42), France (42).



Photo: The Italian team marches at the Rio games with swimmer Federica Pellegrini carrying the flag.

HEALTHY NOT HAPPY

The Bloomberg Ranking for this year put Italy as #2 for Healthiest nation. Scores are based on positive factors like life expectancy and causes of death, negative ones like impediments to health such as the proportion of young people who smoke, the number of people with raised cholesterol and the number of immunizations. Singapore (only a city) was tops and Australia came third. The U.S ranked #33.

But what good is health without happiness? On that score Bloomberg ranked Italy #50 while Switzerland made first and the U.S. #15. A good portion of Italian sadness comes from perceptions of their nation as corrupt. Keep making those Mafia movies!

ISIS TERMINOLOGY

The Islamic State (aka ISIS) is known for its retro-dogma that sees the world as it was centuries ago. Among the common terms it uses to describe Westerners are “crusaders” and “Franks,” both labels



dating from the Crusades (Franks being the French crusaders). But they save their favorite label to describe the ultimate battle to be waged. It will be between Islamic warriors and the “Romans.” They are referring to the Eastern Roman Empire headquartered in Constantinople from which they rebelled back in A.D. 636, taking Roman Syria after the Battle of Yarmouk. Islamic historians claim that the Jewish residents favored the jihadists over their Roman rulers. How did that work out?

POWER GROUPS

*The New York Times** claims that 503 people have an “outsized influence” on the nation’s rules and culture. Of the 16 fields they analyzed, Italian Americans have reached their 5% proportional share of the U.S. population in only six of them, according to an Italic Institute assessment: Big Business CEOs, (7%), Largest City Mayors (15%), State Governors (6%), Supreme Court (12%), TV Execs (7%), Baseball/Football Club Owners (8%).



Fields where Italian Americans are absent or underrepresented: U.S. Senate (3%), Ivy League Presidents (0), Top Military Advisors (0), President’s Cabinet (0), News Media Execs (0), Hollywood moguls (0), Basketball Team Owners (0). * Feb. 28, 2016

ARCHBISHOP WANTS MOSQUE

The Archbishop of Bologna, Matteo Maria Zuppi (right), favors building a mosque in his diocese even though Muslims there are treading cautiously. He also wants Muslim festivals accommodated in public schools. The Archbishop has no problem with the lack of tolerance in Islamic countries that forbid Christian churches. “This should push us to work



even harder to allow every believer to pray...” One critic suggested that Zuppi worry more about rebuilding his own churches damaged by the recent earthquake.

THE COOKIN’ PRINCE

His family was booted out of Italy in 1946 but Prince Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy has found his true calling in a gourmet food truck in

which he tools around Los Angeles. Family wealth allowed him to start his career as a banker, then filmmaker, but at 44 years old his heart seems to be in purveying quality Italian food from the side of a truck.



THE BIG WHEEL

On New York City’s Staten Island, home of the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum and half of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, there will soon be erected the largest ferris wheel in the world. At 630 feet tall, the New York

Wheel will be higher than ones in London, Orlando, and Las Vegas. Its thirty-six observation pods will accommodate 1,440 passengers per ride. The Italic con-



nection is in the components: the four legs that will support the spindle are being made by Walter Tosto, SpA of Pescara Italy.

The other connection is that the chief structural engineer on

this \$1.2 billion project is Italian American Chris DeLuca. If all goes well, the Wheel will be able to withstand a Category 3 hurricane, hopefully without passengers.

AN ITALIAN TALMUD

It’s taking eighty scholars and linguists to translate the compendium of Jewish teachings known as the *Talmud* into the Italian language. The *Talmud* cannot be translated rotely due to some cryptic texts and occasional anti-Gentile references, so “interpretative translation” is required. Italian taxpayers are footing the bill, so far allocating \$5.5 million. The project has consumed five years just to produce Volume One. Some 36 more volumes

are in the works for the next ten years. Some Italians see the project as a form of reparations for Fascist anti-Semitism. But Rabbi Steinsaltz, a member of the project’s honorary committee, said public underwriting “gave honor to the Italian nation, that had the sense to support this enterprise.” There are about 28,000 Jews in Italy, .0005% of the population. (photo: Rabbi Shemuel Di Segni (right) presents Italian President Segio Mattarella a copy of Vol. One.)



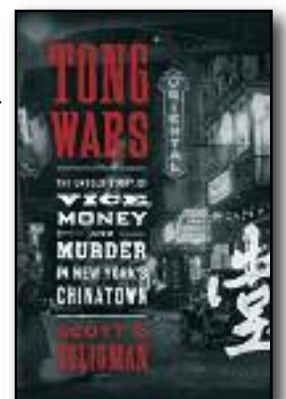
AN ODD WISH

Screenwriter Alan Yang accepted his Emmy Award in October complaining about the absence of Asian Americans in films:

“There’s 17 million Asian-Americans in this country, and there’s 17 million Italian-Americans. They have *The Godfather*, *Goodfellas*, *Rocky*, *The Sopranos*. We got Long Duk Dong [a negative character in *The Breakfast Club*]. So we got a long way to go...Asian parents out there, if you could just do me a favor and just a couple of you get your kids cameras instead of violins, we would be all good.”

Perhaps Mr. Yang can buy the rights to *Tong Wars* (right), a detailed account of Chinese American crime families who wreaked havoc in major cities with mob hits, drug dealing, White slavery, and political corruption. The tongs made the Black Hand look like street punks.

Mr. Yang could do for East Asians what Coppola, Scorsese, and Chase did for Italian Americans.



Editorials



FROM THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Troublemakers

Bill Dal Cerro

In this and the previous issue we have profiled “troublemakers,” people sprung from Italic culture who inspired social or intellectual change, both here and in Italy. Clearly, the troublemakers we profiled prove that this same Italic spark lies within us.

But, as two other articles in this issue note (*Italian Icons*, p.18 and *Unrelenting Message*, p.29), this spark is clearly dimming. Assimilation and media defamation have taken a huge toll, and Italian Americans are content to roll with the tide. But not all of us.

I had the great fortune of attending a dinner in St. Louis recently honoring a true troublemaker in our national community: Father Salvatore Polizzi. Fr. Sal, as he’s affectionately called, is the man responsible for saving that city’s Little Italy (known as “The Hill”) from the wrecking ball in the 1970s. The neighborhood is now one of St. Louis’s top tourist attractions.

But Fr. Polizzi didn’t save The Hill simply by praying or writing letters to newspaper editors. He took action. He put pressure on local politicians by organizing residents. He urged two famous sons of The Hill, baseball greats Joe Garagiola and Yogi Berra, to use their fame to speak out. He publicly chastised the media for viewing our culture as unworthy of respect: “Every time the media uses the word mafia,” he famously told one reporter, “they take away my civil rights.” To this day, he turns off his television whenever *The Godfather* is broadcast on cable. And that’s way too often!

Thanks to his efforts in the 1970s, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* stopped using the word ‘mafia’ in print. But, thanks to Hollywood’s continual on-slaught of mob movies, the word ‘mafia,’ as of last year, made it back into a story in that *Post-Dispatch*. Fr. Sal picked up the phone, reminded the (new) editor of the paper’s pledge of fairness, and the word was eliminated. In short, Polizzi made some noise.

If people are bothered by the word “troublemaking,” let us call it by two other names: pride and passion. If one is truly proud of Italian culture, then passionately defending it should be a natural response.

If not, what you will continue to see is a media version of Italian American culture: a pastiche, not the real deal. And the fault, dear Brutus, lies not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are cowards.

- BD



FROM THE CO-FOUNDER

Time to Pivot

John Mancini

For nearly thirty years we have been consumed with preserving and redefining the Italian heritage – our “classical” perspective. Being long in the tooth, we have had the benefit of knowing immigrant relatives and recalling the promising times of the 1950s and 1960s. But, we also remember how during the 1970s Italian American culture veered off the tracks – the false prophet Joe Colombo and *The Godfather* series overwhelming 500 years of our accomplishments in this country.

The Census Bureau says there are 17 million people who claim Italian ancestry. Of those, in our opinion, only a handful have the background and perception to know how far we have fallen. The rest live in a world created by Hollywood and the Food Channel. Believe it or not, our perceived culture here (not in Italy) boils down to “cooks & crooks.” Sprinkle in words like “family” and “*mangia!*” and you have the superficial Italian pride we lament.

Sadly, the overriding evidence shows how little impact this magazine and our Classical Italian Movement has had on this downward trend. We have made absolutely no inroads into the Gen X and Millennial generations. There are no young people waiting in the wings to carry our Classical torch. And remember, the new generations are only part-Italian and/or totally ignorant of the depth and breadth of their ancestral past. And there’s a reason.

Youth acculturation has been our Achilles Heel. While Greek and Jewish Americans, to name just two, acculturate their young through proprietary religions, we never had that advantage. We share Catholicism with dozens of other ethnic groups. Italian American children attending mandatory CCD lessons are not taught Italian heritage. Absent a new “Italian Orthodox Church” we will never inculcate our heritage through “home study.”

Perhaps it is time to fall back to a more defensible line: our White-European (WE) legacy. The Census Bureau tells us that White-European Americans will soon be a minority. (We explain why on p. 12.) Columbus Day is the new front line for WEs, not just for Italian Americans. Every day we see the demonization of Western Civilization, as though the world would be a better place without it. As absurd as this sounds, we cannot dismiss the power of population change. Yet, the more we defend our legacy to the world the more we are labeled racists. Herein lies the challenge. The Italic Institute should pivot to meet it.

-JLM



Forum Italicum



Insights of an Italian Canadian

by Tony Carella

Probably because I was born and raised in the USA—in San Francisco—but have spent most of my life in Toronto, Canada where I attended university, married and settled many years ago, I am from time to time asked the question “what is the difference between Italian Americans and Italian Canadians?” I would have to say “timing!”



The author Tony Carella is a 17-year member of the Municipal Council in Vaughan, Ontario

Having lived on both sides of the border, I come to that conclusion from experience. My grandparents settled in the States between 1890 and 1912. The Sicilians on my father’s side went to San Francisco, while my mother’s parents (from Le Marche) went to Scranton, PA, then eventually to California, where my story begins.

The fact is that there are very many parallels between both groups: their often negative first experiences as newcomers to North America; the businesses and trades to which they gravitated on arrival

and afterwards; the treatment of some of their community leaders during World War II; and so on. But the difference in timing remains a defining characteristic.

Different Waves

The first wave of Italian immigrants (about 60,000) came to Canada in the brief but prosperous twenty year period from the mid-1890s to the beginning of the First World War, mostly to work on the railroads and in the mines. But the number dwindled to nothing during the war, and despite an uptick thereafter, Mussolini generally discouraged emigration after coming to power in 1922. With the spread of the global depression in the 1930s, immigrants were effectively barred from Canada. But after the war, beginning in the mid-1950s, a veritable tidal wave arrived, and that influx

continued year after year until well into the 1970s. The bulk of these immigrants came from Calabria, Sicily, Lucania (aka Basilicata), Abruzzo, Molise and Friuli-Venezia Giulia, settling for the most part in Canada’s principal cities: Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. The upshot is that the bulk of Italian immigration to Canada is a generation (or two or three) behind that to the United States, and that has had several consequences.



Canada: population 36 million
The bulk of the 1.5 million Italian Canadians live in the urban areas of Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia.

The degree of time/space separation between Italians and the Italian American immigrants of my grandparents’ and parents’ generations is not duplicated with Italian Canadians, who maintain a more robust connection to the *madrepatria*. Indeed, many people make the trip back to Italy every summer, but not to see the sights in the big cities. Rather, they go to reconnect with family and friends still living in their *paese* of origin. Indeed, one couple I know spends two or three weeks every summer at a country home they purchased within a kilometer of the now tumbled-down ruin of the house where the husband was born some seventy years ago.

What is even more to be noted is that along the same country road where their holiday home is located are those belonging to several cousins who opted for France and Belgium when they left Italy in the 1950s in search of work. Add e-mail, direct-dial overseas telephone service, Skype, etc. and the point is made: Italian Canadians have had a better chance of maintaining their *italianità* because they

came more recently and because technological advances have afforded them greater opportunities to maintain the connection with their roots—with family and friends who remained in Italy.

Italian Canadians are 4% of the population

Our Population

There are about 1.5 million Canadians who self-identified as Italian-born or of Italian-heritage,

(Cont’d. on p. 22)



The Italian Republic at 70

When Italians restored Roman Italy between 1860-70, it was rechristened a constitutional monarchy under the House of Savoy. It continued so even under Fascism until the Second World War brought Italy to its knees. A national referendum in 1946 dethroned the monarchy and established the Italian Republic. This year marks the 70th anniversary of that change.

by John Mancini, Don Fiore, and Rosario Iaconis

Whatever one's view of Benito Mussolini, it can be argued that the twenty years of Fascist rule completed the reunification of Italy, suppressed regionalism, and instilled a sense of nationhood from Sicily to the Alps. In contrast, the founding of the Republic brought a proliferation of political parties, the granting of regional autonomy, and the cutting of ties with the Catholic Church. Consequently, the Italian Republic dialed down the notion of nationalism, unleashing the creative nature of Italians - along with the often divisive tendencies within them.

To the outsider, today's Italy is robust in the arts, business, and design. Italian products - from automobiles to food - remain top quality around the globe. Italy is at once the greatest repository of art and archeology as well as the paradigm for the good life and social justice. However, it is also a hotbed of dissident voices, some seeing conspiracies behind every scandal, others feeling a general dissatisfaction with the Italian character. The general perception is one of a nation unalterably afflicted with corruption and organized crime. It is also a country saddled with enormous debt (128 % of GDP), forever vulnerable to economic downturns, whether from rising interest rates on its debt or from a shaky banking system. And, like Britain, France and Germany, Italy is grappling with new racial, religious, and cultural challenges wrought by uncontrolled immigration. Even its eponymous national airline, Alitalia, is partly Arab-owned.

A Nation of Shopkeepers?

The Republic's global reach has become a corporate one rather than

a nationalist one. It is her corporations that blaze trails and carry the flag across the globe. ENI, the energy conglomerate, has recently discovered a huge natural gas field for Egypt. FIAT acquired Chrysler to expand into the American market. Gucci, Ferrari, and a host of luxury brands project that sterling Italian image that has eluded the Republic of late.

The Republic once had a global presence over the years as a UN peacekeeper and as a NATO ally in Iraq and Afghanistan, but some hard knocks have ratcheted down participation. It has given up the pipedream of becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council. It was not among the negotiators (U.S., UK, France, Germany, Russia, China) in the Iran nuclear deal. Nor has it had any success in confrontations with India and Egypt over the treatment of Italian citizens. And its arcane judicial system hardly impressed global viewers during the endless Amanda Knox and Silvio Berlusconi trials. In short, the Republic has a major image problem. (In fairness, our own political circus and racial strife certainly don't make the U.S. a model democracy, either.)

As a practical response, the Republic sees its new strength in promoting individual Italians to prestigious posts in the European Union. Mario Draghi's appointment to head the Central European Bank was a coup. Frederica Mogherini's appointment as the EU's Foreign Secretary was also a boost for morale. The Republic is now bucking NATO and the U.S. to restore its good relations with Russia dating back to Silvio Berlusconi, the ousted prime minister whose social antics displeased the leftist parties but who





The Republic celebrates with an air force created by Fascists, a flag designed by Napoleon, and a monument built by the Savoy.

had managed to keep Italy on the world stage.

From the Ashes of Fascism

Ironically, the economic miracle that characterized Italy's post-war recovery was in no small part built on the foundation of Mussolini's much-reviled Corporate State. The leaders of the Republic found already in place giant industrial conglomerates such as the IRI (now divested) and AGIP (now ENI), and chemical giant Montecatini, which united government and the private sector to control Italy's industrial planning and limited resources. It was under Fascism that Italy weathered the Great Depression and became a major industrial nation. Would there be an Italian film industry without *Cinecitta*, the vast studios in Rome created by Mussolini? Its education system is a product of Fascist intellectual Giovanni Gentile. The military establishment that gives Italy a presence in the Mediterranean and as

peacekeepers around the world was created under the Savoy and battle-hardened under Fascism. Italy's industrial base and global reach, including aerospace technology, rest on a similar foundation. As much as leaders of the Republic would like to distance themselves from these roots, today's Italy would be a far less modern nation without them.

Contested Birth

The Second World War was a crisis for both Fascism and the Monarchy. The decision by King Victor Emanuel III to arrest Mussolini in 1943—but allowing him to be rescued by the Germans—demonstrated gross incompetence. This was compounded by the King's decision to join the Allies, leaving Italy and the Italian military at the mercy of a German invasion and its predictable revenge. The final straw was the King's flight from Rome rather than to resist the German onslaught. Chaos, invasion, and civil war were the result. With Mussolini restored as a Nazi puppet in northern Italy, that half of the country was ravaged by a brutal German occupation and horrific Allied bombings.

The 1946 referendum that ended the Savoy Kingdom and created the Republic was not a unanimous vote. The north wanted no part

The Republic has given up dreams of being a world power

of the Savoy. Even their home region of *Piemonte* opted for a Republic. In the south, where the Allied occupation was less severe, the monarchy still found substantial support. Added to this, both the U.S. and Italian Communists wanted the Savoy out.

Although the new Republic was freed of the Savoy and the Fascists, it still depended on the Vatican's heavy hand in Italian politics. The Lateran Treaty of 1929 had created an independent Vatican City but made Catholicism Italy's official religion. A King and a Pope were once essential parts of the Italian universe. But since 1946, the Republic has incrementally reduced the Vatican's influence, achieving a truly secular state. Nevertheless, Italy still lags behind other industrial nations in allowing radical departures from "traditional family" laws. And not having a state religion has opened the doors to 1.5 million Muslim residents with 500 mosques.

The Balancing Act Begins

The new Republic was launched with Cold War tensions at their height. The Communist Party

(Cont'd. on p. 31)



The referendum ballot that transformed the nation into a republic. Note the instructions in German for the benefit of the region of Alto Adige in the Alps. Hitler and Mussolini had agreed to transfer out the Germanic population (an amazing first for Hitler) but the Allies allowed them back.



The Missing Europeans

An Explanation for “the Browning” of America

by John Mancini & Alfred Cardone

It appears that the future looks bleak for ethnic Europeans. All signs point to a steady reduction in their reproduction rates around the world. (By mid-century, Americans of European descent are expected to be a minority. Not so among Africans, Asians, or Amerindians i.e., non-white Hispanic/Brazilians). But the sad fact is, the reason for this decline is very much our own doing.

Our research into the causes of European population decline point clearly to a 92-year period of murderous trauma, aptly called a holocaust.

From 1861 – 1953, ethnic Europeans went on a sickening rampage of war and genocide among themselves, which we estimate eliminated 225 million white people from today’s world population*. If you are wondering why America and Europe are being transformed by peoples of the Third World, look no further than the suicidal actions of our own ancestors coupled with the current low birth rate among ethnic Europeans. * (We use a conservative 1.12% growth rate per generation, i.e., every 25 years.)

These pivotal years encompass the American Civil War (1861), which some historians now claim consumed 750,000 whites, to the Red Terror perpetrated by Lenin and Stalin (1953), which liquidated 20 million whites. In between were the Spanish Civil War, two world wars, and Hitler’s murderous



Ideologues Hitler and Stalin caused a deficit of 124 million white people today. White racists, take note!

ending his DNA line. Meanwhile, his brother, who was not drafted, produced four children, nine grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. Had Luigi reproduced at this rate there might be an additional twenty-six Euro-Americans alive, who are now non-existent. In short, one fallen 22-year old male broke a reproduction chain that affects us to this day.

Those in the United States and Europe who lament the racial and ethnic changes overtaking us need look no further than their own leaders, past and

present, who put ideology before pragmatism. The carnage of war decimated European stock. Domestic U.S. and foreign social pressures then led to the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 under Lyndon Johnson. This new law replaced the quota system based on national origin, which had favored the dwindling European stock, and opened up immigration to the prolific non-White peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

But war was the prime mover of the demise of ethnic Europeans. All races and ethnic groups have succumbed to it, but ethnic Europeans have literally made killing a science. The Chinese may have invented gunpowder, but Europeans multiplied its deadliness. While the White race surely used this deadly technological advantage against “non-Whites” from the Age of Exploration to the Iraq War, this pales in comparison to what they inflicted upon themselves.

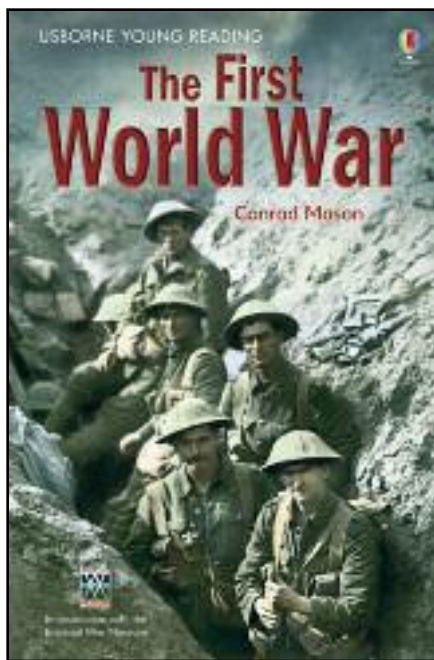
To grasp how Euro-Americans ate their “seed corn,” think of it in these terms: when the North and South fought over slavery, some 750,000 Whites lost their lives and another 450,000 were wounded in the struggle. A lesser number of Blacks

**We estimate 225 million
White people are missing
from the planet**

genocides.

These horrific events, unlike natural calamities, took mainly our young adult males – those of reproductive age – from the population. A very personal example is co-author John Mancini’s great uncle Luigi who was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1917 and killed on the Western Front the following year. He was unmarried at the time,

**“The war to end all wars”
was the launching pad for
White suicide in the
20th Century**



(36,000) died in the war. Those million-plus Whites were mostly unmarried or not fully reproducing. We estimate 50% of the wounded lost reproduction potential. Extrapolate those dead and wounded by six generations of unborn Whites and you potentially have 2.6 million missing Euro-Americans today. Meanwhile, the African American population, which was 4.4 million in 1860 was only shorted by 36,000, so continued to expand in relatively normal numbers.

Another understated factor in the growth of the non-White population in America was brought to light with DNA research. A recent study by Dr. Simon Gravel at McGill University in Montreal found that the average African American is almost 17% European. It is generally acknowledged that much of this mixing dates from slavery when White masters and overseers raided slave quarters. In short, African American females were producing for both races but very few offspring were considered White, even now.

The American Civil War was child's play compared to what transpired in the 20th Century. Two world wars destroyed 62 million ethnic Europeans. Again, extrapolate those millions of non-producing Whites and the world is missing 200 million ethnic Europeans today. That deficit is what is being made up by Asians, Africans, Central Americans, Hindus, and Muslims today.

Empowering Non-Whites

Although what ethnic Europeans have lost on the battlefield has reduced their own numbers, their colonial period provided to the undeveloped world a system of laws, a functioning civil service, infrastructure, public health and medicine that surely spurred the growth of other races on the planet. It is true that Euro-people disrupted an entire world, often exploiting and ravishing tribes and nations, but what is overlooked is how the West elevated millions of non-Whites and improved their health and nutrition while increasing childhood survival rates, even in the most backward regions of the world. Ethnic Europeans even gave them language skills enabling them to more easily emigrate to the West. Moreover, since the Second World War, the West has raised the living standards and financial power of the Third World through a system of global trade combined with substantial aid programs to strug-

gling societies. Despite these measures, millions of refugees and both legal and illegal immigrants continue to flee war, genocide, crime and poverty, seeking refuge in the West. As a result of prevailing low White birth rates, this massive migration from the developing world now has the power to demographically transform the Western nations.



Dr. Albert Schweitzer represents only a small part of how Western medicine, technology, and investment increased lifespans and survival rates in the Third World.

Despite the ultimate benefits of Western hegemony, Europeans are held responsible for willfully diminishing some populations in the past. Those who say, for example, that Europeans exterminated Amerindians confuse genocide with disease. While it is true that Amerindians were the victims of Western exploitation and conquest, they cannot blame the incidental introduction of smallpox, which was the main cause of their annihilation, on Europeans any more than Europeans can demonize Asians for the Black Death that wiped out 30% of Whites in

the 14th Century. Despite the rhetoric, the Amerindian population, usually identified as Hispanic but clearly of mixed blood, is still significant enough to be the dominant DNA entering our nation from Mexico, Central and South America.

Western medicine and technology saved millions of non-whites, multiplying their numbers

Another little-appreciated fact is how many Whites were sacrificed to save China from Japanese genocide. The Pacific War is generally seen as a White vs. Asian struggle. However, our war with Japan was caused by Japanese imperialism into Asia – Pearl Harbor was just a military strike to keep the U.S. from interfering in

Japan's "Co-Prosperity Sphere." In effect, we took the burden of war off the Chinese and soundly defeated their worst enemy, Japan.

It cost Euro-people some 200,000 war dead, again, the young men of U.S., British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand society who were removed from the White gene pool.

And what of the self-inflicted holocausts of non-Whites, as committed by the likes of Mao Tse Tung and Pol Pot, or the famines and religious wars on the Indian subcontinent? Haven't they reduced those populations? The short answer is that southern and eastern Asians started with huge societies. Horrific events, like the world wars and famines, had

less impact on their populations. Even today, after all the strife and
The Pacific War was provoked by the attack on Pearl Harbor but it ultimately saved China from Japanese conquest at a cost of 200,000 Whites lives. (Cont'd on p. 20)



A Kingdom Lost

Was Italy's Risorgimento a Brutal Conquest?

by John Mancini, Rosario Iaconis, & Don Fiore



His Highness King Ferdinand II of the Two Sicilies (1830 - 1859)

At Ellis Island, individuals arriving from Italy were not all equal. Italian was their nationality but “South Italian” was noted in the race/people column. At the start of the mass migrations (ca. 1880), Italy had only recently been reunified as nation.

The *Mezzogiorno* had, until then, been a separate country called the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Giuseppe Garibaldi and his Red Shirts precipitated the collapse of that kingdom and delivered the southern regions to their northern cousins. But the idea of a bifurcated Italy lived on.

It is easy to understand how any country can have regional variety. Britain, for example, is composed of three distinct ethnic groups – English, Scots, and Welsh. Our own nation once had clear cultural differences South to North, enough to cause a civil war. Italy was just as diverse.

In 2010, Italian journalist Pino Aprile published an explosive book titled *Terroni*. The term is a derogatory label for southern Italians, literally “people of the dirt,” perhaps hillbillies or rednecks would be an English equivalent. Aprile hales from Lazio, the region around Rome, and he is very much a rebel in the American sense of the word. He has set out a history few of us knew or understood concerning the era of Italy's reunification.



Journalist Pino Aprile, author of *Terroni*

For the most part, the book is an indictment of northern avarice and brutality. The rest is a recreation of an almost idyllic South ruled by enlightened Bourbon kings. In short, our southern ancestors had been living a tolerable life until the Northerners invaded. The mass migrations, starting in 1880, were to escape finan-



Most Italian Americans hail from regions within the Papal States or the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

cial ruin caused by the reunification. According to various authors, even Garibaldi later regretted some of the consequences of recreating Roman Italy. Aprile holds that it was a conquest and pillage, not a liberation. *Terroni* is a disturbing book on many levels. While many southern Italians welcomed Garibaldi as a fellow “Italian,” he was invading a sovereign nation, albeit one founded less than sixty years earlier. When the Savoy invaders encountered resistance during the mopping up phase of their conquest, they labeled it “banditry.” Aprile considered all these *banditi* resistance fighters. We learn of massacres by Savoy troops, the massive theft of the Kingdom's treasury upwards of 270 billion in today's euros, wholesale rape, and internment camps. Aprile estimates these predations took the lives of one million southern Italians, and asserts that resistance to Savoy rule only ended with the exodus of millions of southerners.

The Savoys labeled every Bourbon rebel a brigand

Essentially, only collaborators and the defeated remained in the conquered regions. He compares it to the American invasion of Iraq in counting deaths, exile, and the homeless. Were you to accept Aprile's hyperbole you would have to conclude that the pacification of southern Italy was on par with Nazi or Soviet atrocities, clearly, out of character for the Italian people – north or south.



In his book *Blood of My Blood*, scholar Richard Gambino recalls these events as related to him by his Sicilian grandparents. Reverence for Garibaldi remained, but few southerners had any use for the Savoys. Between new taxes

Savoy General Giuseppe Govone He used draconian methods against southern “banditti,” Sicilian mafiosi, and draft dodgers.



on donkeys and evictions from small land holdings, the new order brought dislocation and new burdens on the southern masses. But as Gambino makes clear, life under the Bourbons was not a bed of roses. Class oppression existed, as did a secret police and torture. Rebellions occurred in 1815 and 1848. Poverty, landed aristocracy, and banditry abounded. Geography still dictated how limited any prosperity would be – mountains, malarial marshes, and barren plains – all sapped the vitality of the masses. It wouldn't be until the Fascist era that land reclamation would make parts of the south habitable and exorcise the mafias.



The Bourbon Palace at Caserta is still impressive.

What Used To Be

Yet, it can be argued that the southern regions were the net losers of reunification, just as the American south was only a shadow of its former self after the Civil War and Reconstruction. Naples and Palermo were premier cities during the 18th and 19th Centuries. Their high culture and opulence were well-known throughout Europe and the Americas – part of the famous Grand Tour, a British rite of passage – a far cry from their reputations today. But what may be true of the South's urban elite does not always carry over to the urban and rural masses. One English traveler in 1828 labeled Naples the "*ragamuffin capital of the Italian south.*" The Savoy's did not bring the Mafia, Camorra, and Ndragheta, although some would suggest they multiplied with the poverty inflicted by reunification.

The Bourbons never instituted secular schooling – the illiteracy rate in their kingdom was nearly 100% among the masses. In fact, one of the most unpopular laws imposed on the South after reunification was the Coppino Law of 1877 which mandated public education. It was universally ignored. By 1899, southern Italian immigrants at Ellis Island ranked the highest of

all Europeans in illiteracy (46.6%). It was worse in 1901 with 62% illiteracy. Even the brutal methods of the Savoy's could not force education on the Bourbon south.

This is not to say that the South lacked intellect. The oldest public university in the world is the University of Naples, founded in 1224 by German Emperor Frederick II. Both the Neapolitan and Sicilian dialects were in the running for standard Italian (Florentine won out). In the 1600s and 1700s, the South produced "heretic" Giordano Bruno, who challenged Church dogma on the universe, and philosopher Giambattista Vico, who believed, unlike Karl Marx, that absolute equality would lead to chaos and a breakdown in society. Moreover, the region of Calabria—whose original name, Italia, became the nation's moniker—boasted a centuries-old legacy of innova-

Artistic genius was not confined to the north. Here, *The Veiled Christ* (1753), is an amazing demonstration of the "fine Italian hand" done by Neapolitan Giuseppe Sanmartino.



tion and learning, from mathematician Pythagoras to Tommaso Campanella, a defender of Galileo Galilei. The battle cry that ignited Italy's *Risorgimento* – "*Viva l'Italia*" – was uttered on Calabrian soil by the Venetian Bandiera brothers as they were executed by the Bourbon authorities in 1844.

The Bourbons never instituted public schooling

The science of vulcanology certainly began in the Kingdom with Vesuvius, Etna, and Stroboli. Archeology reached new heights with the unearthing of Pompeii in the 18th Century.

And, of course music and the arts were as strong in the south as the north. But, by and large, the Renaissance and Enlightenment had to penetrate the dense fog of the Bourbon and Church-dominated regions. Except for little known secular celebrations like Amalfi's participation in

Italy's medieval Maritime Regatta or Calabria's Renaissance *Palio di Diana*, most festivals in the former Bourbon and Papal regions revolved around religion. Church history and saints replaced the secular (and pagan) spirit of those regions. Italian Americans inherited this limited legacy.

Like their cousins in France, the Neapolitan Bourbons lived lavishly. At Caserta, outside of Naples, they built a palace to



Italy's first railroad was built by the Bourbons in 1839.

(Cont'd on p. 20)



The Other Side of Columbus

by Louis Cornaro

So much calumny has been heaped on Christopher Columbus that even many who once celebrated his holiday now question his legacy. Was he a murderous invader? Was he really the first to discover the New World? Was he really Italian? Does he deserve a national holiday?



It was called the Age of Exploration and it was dominated by Europeans. The only other contenders were the Arabs and Chinese. Commercial Arab dhows traversed the Indian Ocean, exploring and setting up trading posts on the eastern shore of Africa down to Madagascar and along the Indian subcontinent. While they can be considered explorers in the sense that they opened trade routes and colonized lands contiguous to their home turf of

the Middle East, their main achievement was establishing a monopoly of Asian spices. Unlike the Arabs, the Chinese during the Ming Dynasty went to sea to show their flag rather than secure trading. Sufficient documentation exists to credit the Chinese for launching a 500-ship fleet around 1421 manned by thousands of sailors and bureaucrats that toured the East Indies and the Indian Ocean. This fleet actually changed nothing of world history and was decommissioned when the Chinese emperor decided there was nothing of value outside his Middle Kingdom.

Some modern-day creative writers have parlayed this Chinese venture into a full-blown global changing event complete with a landing on North America in 1421 and a visit to Venice in 1434 to “ignite” the Renaissance. Such drivel merely aims to un-Whiten the Age of Exploration.

The Portuguese Model

Every school child learns how Portugal led Europe in circumnavigating Africa to outflank the Arab monopoly in spices. Indeed, Vasco Da Gama and a host of intrepid Portuguese showed Europeans how to create a new business model and cut out the middle man. It was Alfonso de Albuquerque who showed Europeans how to kick ass in Asia – from the Red Sea to Indonesia.

Albuquerque’s gunboat diplomacy butchered the Muslim competition and built a Portuguese empire of trading fortresses among the diverse peoples of Asia. His wealthy colony at Goa, an island along the Indian coast, lasted until 1961.

Portugal didn’t need Columbus, but Spain did. And if you think Christopher Columbus was a beast among the Amerindians, compared to his Portuguese counterparts in Africa and Asia, he was easily a saint.



Bartolomeo Columbus forbade murderous indigenous games.

No Secrets

Columbus was not a man of mystery. Enough documentation exists of his personal life, his voyages, and even his thoughts, to understand his true nature.

There is no denying that his voyages brought about three things: 1). the end of Amerindian isolation, 2). the global mixing of races, plants, fauna, and microbes, 3). the ascendancy of European power. None of these things happened before Columbus. And if you consider these bad things, then Columbus is to blame.

But let us examine the man and his place in history.

Columbus had four brothers: Bartolomeo, Giovanni, Pellegrino, and Giacomo and a sister, Bianchinetta

An Amazing Professional

Christopher Columbus was one with the sea. His experience before 1492 included voyages down the West African coast, the Mediterranean, and the North Atlantic to Iceland. Navigation, chart-making, and leadership were only some of his skills. In the days of sail he was

the master of winds, tides, stars, and currents. He spoke three languages, read Latin, and was a man with a sense of mission. His courage came from his deep Catholic faith and his unyielding belief in science. He was the personification of the Renaissance.

The Adventurer

Columbus kept logs of all his voyages and there are numerous Spanish and Italian eyewitnesses to them and to his thoughts. Columbus ranks among the most intrepid and versatile men of any epoch. His story was an adventure for the ages. He was continually confronted by conspiracies in his ranks, by the challenge of dealing humanely with natives, and by countless storms at sea. He was famously shipped home in chains for his treatment of Spanish rebels. Exonerated, he embarked on a fourth voyage,



during which he and his crew were shipwrecked on Jamaica for a year. He secured the help of natives by predicting a lunar eclipse which kept them in awe of his powers. Throughout his voyages he suffered from arthritis, gout, malaria, insomnia, and often depression, yet his indomitable will drove him on until his death in Spain at age 51.

A Strong Italian Family

There was actually a Columbus family involved with the New World enterprise. Christopher was far from a loner. His brothers Diego (Giacomo) and Bartolomé were essential to his voyages and the colonization of the Americas. In fact, they were the only men Columbus trusted to carry out his orders and to remain loyal. His brothers ruled in his absence and enforced Queen Isabel's mandate to treat indigenous people justly. In one instance Bartolomé stopped a Taíno gladiatorial game when players began killing each other. The brothers famously hung seven Spaniards for treason and mistreating the Taínos. Columbus's sons, Diego and Fernando, and nephew Giovanni, later carried on the Admiral's mission and defended his legacy. Those who would deny the Italic ethnicity of Columbus would also have to undo the DNA of his family.

His Holy Mission

Columbus gave equal importance to expanding Christianity as he did to trade. He wrote often how some Taínos were a most gentle and generous people, how they could be easily converted. With this in mind, he ordered



Columbus ordered a study of indigenous language and customs

Frey Ramón Pané to learn their language and mythologies. Pané produced a detailed study for Columbus in 1494. Seeking to understand the Indigenous people for the purpose of bringing them into the Christian fold is a side of Columbus that has not been revealed adequately.

A Leader Beset by Problems

Columbus's contract with the Spanish monarchy gave him regal powers on land and at sea. But he was always considered a foreigner among his Iberian subordinates. The original plan for any landfall he made was to establish a trading colony to obtain spices and precious metals from the native population. (Remember, whatever lands he found were thought to be islands off the Asian continent – the East Indies.)

His first setback was the wreck of the *Santa Maria* on Hispaniola (Dominican Republic/Haiti). The shipwreck led to meeting a local chieftain whose friendship inspired Columbus to build a fort-trading post (named *Navidad*) with the timbers, stores, and

crew of the *Santa Maria*. Leaving 39 crewmen at *Navidad* with the goodwill of the local chieftain, Columbus sailed back to Spain. When he returned on his second voyage, all the men were dead, murdered by another chieftain. Because his mission was not of conquest, Columbus continued his policy of trade and fair dealings with the indigenous people. He exacted no retribution.



Rebel Francisco Roldán instituted the *encomienda*, or feudal system, that made the natives serfs.

From Trade to War

But this return voyage brought hundreds of new colonists from Spain. Columbus set up trading posts among various tribes on the island. When one tribe wiped out a new outpost in 1495, killing another 40 Spaniards, Columbus could not ignore this act of war. He captured 1,600 of that tribe, enslaving them as war booty, which was common practice among Indigenous and European cultures, alike.

Columbus had little control over the waves of colonists sent by Spain. These included convicts and non-working hidalgos ("gentlemen"). Soon these colonists rebelled against the Admiral's policies. One, Francisco Roldán, violated the trading post concept to carve out his own feudal model, cheating the natives and forcing them to be serfs for his band of rebels. Columbus's attempts to arrest Roldán and restore order failed. Ultimately, Roldán's methods were grudgingly accepted by the Crown and by Columbus. By 1498, native hostility and uncontrolled colonists forever changed relations in the New World. In 1499, the monarchs usurped Columbus's monopoly, licensing other entrepreneurs to explore the Caribbean.

One Man/ One World

Columbus opened immigration to the New World. But Columbus did not initiate the African slave trade. Others did so to develop sugar cane plantations. Indigenous peoples could not fend off European or African immigration any more than we can exclude modern immigration to these shores today. Every nation and every continent has endured the trauma of invasion, unwanted immigration, interbreeding, and destruction of traditional culture. Vilifying one courageous man, who was clearly overwhelmed by circumstances, is to deny the ultimate wonder of what he accomplished for humanity.

"...my errors have not been committed with malicious intent...I have fallen into error through ignorance and by force..." - Cristoforo Colombo, in chains, 1502.

Francisco Roldán violated the Queen's Indian policy



The Iconic Italian

An Unfortunate Legacy

Icon: “A representation of a particular group of people, a place, or a period in history.”

by Anthony Vecchione & Rosario Iaconis

On a recent episode of the *Jonathan Ross Show*, the British talk show host asked actor Sylvester Stallone why he turned down the role of Han Solo in the original *Star Wars* movie. The speech-slurring Stallone told Ross that it wasn't a good fit. He said there was something wrong with Italians in space.



Cinema's Rocky Balboa statue at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, since moved to the sports complex

on a Mensa IQ test, it's also a good bet that Stallone is not familiar with Samantha Cristoforetti, the Italian astronaut who holds the record for the longest single space flight by a woman or New York native Michael Massimino, a veteran of two Space Shuttle missions.

Thanks in part to Stallone and his dumbed-down fictional Italian-American boxer from Philadelphia, when it comes to positive icons, the news for Italic people isn't very good.

No, it's not astronauts or doctors that are the iconic images generally associated with our ethnicity. We are Tony Manero of *Saturday Night Fever*, Chef Boy-ar-dee on those cans of limp pasta, Don Corleone of Mafia-lore, the mustachioed cook on pizza boxes, even the old organ-grinder with his trained monkey, or Mario & Luigi on kids' video games. Moving images like the mentally-challenged beach bums from the *Jersey Shore*, or the mass produced characters vomited from *The Godfather*,

“What are they gonna do, deliver pizzas,” he said. The actor, known for his dimwitted Rocky Balboa character, got quite a chuckle out of the audience.

As sure as the fictional Rocky wouldn't do well

GoodFellas, and *The Sopranos* scream “Italian” now.

Due to decades of negative depictions, our cultural default is gangsters, high school dropouts, no-neck slobs, or devious business villains who are “connected.” We are shady America's buzz words – Ponzi, Capone, RICO, Godfather, “reputed” or “crime family.” Anything remotely positive these days might have something to do only with food.



Locked In

Nowhere is one's legacy more unambiguous than in the media. The content of television programs, movies, and even video games reaches the masses and leaves indelible impressions. That is why, in many cases, racial, ethnic or religious groups take measures to control their image even if it means challenging First Amendment rights to freedom of speech.

For example, a 2007 prime-time television program entitled *Cane* about a Cuban-American family that operated a rum and sugar cane business in south Florida was cancelled after just one season. While

the show depicted Hispanics, for the most part, in a positive light, some advocacy groups viewed the program as promoting “some negative” stereotypes.

This was not the first time that pressure from outside groups contributed to the demise of a television show or

a commercial advertisement. Classic examples include *Amos and Andy* and *The Lone Ranger* (remember Tonto?).

Icons can include vocabulary like “Ponzi,” “RICO,” and “forgettaboudit!”



Sometimes the pressure to control image and promote positive iconic figures is subtler. A few years back radio talk show host Michael Savage expressed his displeasure about the HBO series *Luck*, a series on horseracing. It starred Dustin Hoffman as Ace Bernstein, a former gangster who was released from prison and intent on plotting the revenge of associates who had him sent away. Savage expressed displeasure with

Jewish actors playing negative characters, in particular gangsters. The bottom line: Hoffman shouldn't be playing a sleazy character more appropriate for a Martin Scorsese film.



Luck was cancelled, allegedly due to pressure from animal rights groups.

African-American, Hispanic, Jewish, Gay and Lesbian groups often engage in campaigns designed to remove negative depictions. Those initiatives are driven by the desire to create a positive legacy. A picture, as they say, is worth a thousand words. Madison Avenue thrives on the repetitive image. Commercial icons such as Aunt Jemina and Uncle Ben have undergone major transformations. Remember the Frito Bandito? He's long gone. But our "pizza cook" icon still conjures up the Italian immigrant.



Mysteriously, this passionate need by other groups to maintain the dignity of their culture and forbearers seems to escape the vast majority of Italian Americans. In fact, it's often Italian American admen, writers, and filmmakers who are responsible for perpetuating negative self-images. The result: our younger generations have been shaped by them, reducing their self-awareness to an endless loop of negative images.

Our fellow Institute member Mario Ignagni recently monitored cable TV offerings for one hundred days to gauge the frequency of mafia-studded programs (see page 29). He found a total of 783 mob/criminal offerings, an average of about 8 per day. These included feature films and documentaries often repeated over a 24-hour cycle. Mafia fans, as well as insomniacs and channel surfers, can always find Italian criminals to reinforce popular perceptions. Josef Goebbels could only envy the magnitude of this relentless propaganda.

While many Italian Americans seem to understand the upgrading of images of other groups, why not their own? A frequent excuse is that we don't have a thin skin, or we don't like political correctness, or "everyone knows" that most Italian Americans aren't like the icons and characters depicted in the media.

On the contrary, most Americans are convinced that Italian Americans are related to the negative characters that dominate the media. A national Zogby study once reported that 75 percent of Americans polled believe that Italian Americans have a unique familiarity with organized crime. And while many Italian Americans condemn stereotypes in private, in public they often quote lines from *The Godfather* and *The Sopranos*, and proclaim these works to be veritable sagas of their ethnic history. Are they not fueling the flames?

awful phrase —“a hit” with the advent of *The Godfather*. That includes both Puzo's lurid potboiler and Coppola's melodramatic tripe of a film. Apparently, there is no intellectual side in being Italian American. Everything you ever wanted to know about Italic culture can be found in movies, in sitcoms, and in the various icons created for us. Some believe that these negatives are offset by our cuisine and the myriad chefs and restaurateurs that fill the TV screen so often. What a trade-off!

A Sad Tale

How did we get to this point? That book hasn't been written yet. It would have to begin with the fall of the Roman Empire, if you can believe that. It was then that Italians lost "cohesiveness" as authors Norman Davies and Peter Turchin both note in separate studies.



Chico Marx

It was downhill from there, particularly for southern Italians. Except for a surge of Italian American pride during the First World War (when Italy was an ally) and the early years of Fascism, total assimilation into America's northern European ("white") culture was always an elusive goal of Italians, made harder when labeled "enemy aliens" during the Second World War. The reintroduction of the Mafia into Italy by the U.S. military

— coupled with a boatload of

British war propaganda tropes that linger to this day — made the very idea of a noble Italian heritage problematic. Then, along came Puzo's and Coppola's enticing alternate universe of "heroic" Italian American gangsters.

Italian icons have an amazing staying power

Snapshots of Frank Sinatra, Joe DiMaggio, and Fiorello LaGuardia may give us senior citizens something to be proud about, but they are meaningless to the coming generations. Giants like A.P. Giannini (founder of Bank of America), Ferdinand Pecora (1930's scourge of Wall Street), and even Geraldine Ferraro (first female candidate for Vice President) are from the Dark Ages. They have less impact on the current and future Italian American image than the immortal icons of which we speak.

With a self-inflicted ignorance of their own ethnic history — from the vast Roman Empire to discovering and helping create America — there is no evidence that Italian Americans have the will to end chronic, harmful portrayals in the media. Instead, our mixed-ethnic progeny will have to make do with a kitchen heritage — a tragic scenario for a classical and gifted people.

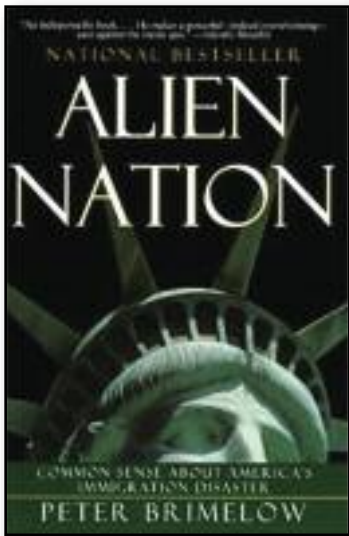


our mixed-ethnic progeny will have to make do with a kitchen heritage — a tragic scenario for a classical and gifted people.

In truth, the Italian heritage took—please pardon the



Missing Europeans (from p. 13)



This 1995 book explained the consequences of the 1965 Immigration Law

miserly, there are still 1.6 billion Chinese and 1.6 billion South Asians (India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh) and almost a billion sub-Saharan Africans. (By 2060, the population of sub-Saharan Africa could be as large as 2.7 billion people, according to the World Bank.) By contrast, there are only 584 million Whites in Europe and 246 million Whites* in the U.S. Add to this Australia's White population of 22 million (out of 24 million) and New Zealand's 3.3 million Whites (out of 4.5 million). But the future clearly does not favor the Euro-peoples with only 855 million worldwide.

*(Note: the Census Bureau counts all Caucasians as "white," which includes people of North African and Middle Eastern origin, and possibly South Asians.)

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965

This downward spiral was only brought home to us since 1965 when the U.S. Congress passed a landmark immigration law. That law set aside the traditional quotas that favored European countries and opened the door to the Third World. Not only did it welcome all races but it allowed in relatives – near and distant – of the immigrants with no quotas to regulate the new inflow. The resulting flood of old, poor, and unskilled has radically changed both the

The U.S. Census breakdown by race/ethnicity is antiquated and misleading: "white" isn't exclusively Euro-American

ethnic and Christian character of the U.S. That change is certainly not yet complete.

Since 1965, both the U.S. and Europe have been inundated with non-White immigrants. In effect, the world is beating a path to the only places where strangers are welcomed and society is open to any sort of cultural diversity or religious variety. Westerners have put the onus of tolerance on themselves, with little or no judgement of other nations' cultural or religious bigotry. The West has opted to fill the gaps created by its self-inflicted genocide with anyone who wants access to the most advanced and most tolerant civilization that ever existed on the planet.

No one should be surprised by the changes.

A Kingdom Lost (from p. 15)

rival Versailles. But they also patronized the arts with magnificent opera houses in key cities like Palermo, Catania, and Naples. Likewise, the Church went on a building spree after the Reformation to project its power, both in the Bourbon Kingdom and in the Papal States (Lazio, Umbria, Le Marche). Nearly every town in southern Italy and Sicily has a baroque church from this era. It was a powerful message to the illiterate masses that the Church was central to their existence. Throughout the *Mezzogiorno*, church and state spent enormous sums on churches and government buildings, money that came from taxes and internal tariffs. By not building schools and infrastructure, the Bourbons socked away the billions of dollars that eventually paid off northern debts after the conquest.



Under Bourbon and Church rule, southern Italians abandoned many of their ancient pagan and secular festivals. However, Amalfi still recalls its medieval maritime power with a regatta, above.

Calabria retains its Renaissance Palio di Diana, below.



Industry and technology was not wholly absent from the south, but certainly not on the scale of the north. Naples had gaslight in 1839. Sicily was a world exporter of sulfur and fruits. Calabria had iron foundries, Campania and Basilicata had silk and cotton factories. Stabia, near Naples, produced ships, cannons, rails, and locomotives. It seems that many of these industrial complexes were either shut down after the Savoy takeover or shipped north.

And, it was in the sleepy *Mezzogiorno*, not in the energetic, progressive North, where the steam locomotive made its initial appearance on the peninsula. This momentous event occurred when the first Italian rail line, a five-mile track between Naples and Portici, went into service on October 3, 1839. (The Northerners, not about to be outdone, were not far behind. In less than a year, they built a railroad of their own with the inauguration of a Milan to Monza line.)

Anyone familiar with the U.S. Marine Hymn will recall the line, "to the shores of Tripoli." This occurred during the Barbary War (1801-1805) when President

(Cont'd. on p. 25)



Raising Hell!

Troublemakers, Part 2

In our last issue we opened the door to another side of being *Italic* – speaking your mind. Often described as non-conformist, stubborn, or opinionated, *Italic* people may exhibit these traits but, by and large, they lean heavily toward order, routine, and tradition. Yet, every now and then, a rebel arises who refuses to toe the line. It is not a coincidence that Italians have been anarchists, Communists, and have even created Fascism. Although they have settled into the American routine by espousing standard political viewpoints – Democrat/Republican – they can sometimes surprise you.

by Bill Dal Cerro & John Mancini

The general view of many Italian Americans, as overheard at childhood dinner tables or at public gala dinners, is that public protests are somehow undignified, even “un-American.” As the sons and daughters of Italian immigrants, their collective cry seems to be, “We should be grateful to America for giving us so many opportunities.” The historical reality is actually the opposite: In general, America exploited Italian workers, perhaps as equally as its media mocked them (and still does). If anything, America owes a debt of gratitude—even a simple “Thank You”—to Italian Americans for their hard work, creativity, entrepreneurship, family values, and patriotism.

The truth is *Italic* culture, both in Italy and America, boasts a robust tradition of “troublemakers” who, out of a love for their country, could not stand still and abide social injustice or a dereliction from humanistic values.

Mario Savio: Campus Rebel

This year’s U.S. presidential campaign was shaken up by independent Senator Bernie Sanders from Vermont, who railed against America’s growing income inequality and other



Mario Savio introduced turmoil to American campuses.

American mother, Savio was a shy, studious boy who, taking a cue from his devoutly Catholic parents, had thoughts about becoming a priest. But two incidents in high school seemed to have challenged his world-view.

The first was viewing photographs of the Nazi Holocaust, the sheer inhumanity of which left a deep impression on him. And, when a teacher once mockingly called out his name during class (“Mar-ee-o Sav-ee-o!”), Savio was told by his father to stop speaking Italian, to start using his middle name (Robert) and to try and “fit in” — in short, to be “an American.”

Savio was also active in the civil rights struggle during the ‘60s

But, after Savio graduated from Martin Van Buren High School in Queens in 1960s—at the top of his class—he began using “Mario” again, clearly an early sign at reclaiming his own identity and his sense of independence.

Graduating from Queens College in 1963, Savio’s world-view continued to expand. During that summer, he went with a Catholic relief agency to Mexico to work with the poor. He enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley that fall, where his activism included protesting job discrimination against African Americans in San Francisco (for which he was briefly arrested) and, during the summer of 1964, helping register African Americans to vote in Mississippi (for which he and two other activists were beaten up by

shortcomings. But similar stands against racial and income inequality, militarization, and youthful disaffection were first given voice by Mario Savio, leader of the Student Free Speech Movement on the University of Berkeley campus in the 1960s.

Born in New York on December 8, 1942, to a Sicilian-born father and Italian

(Cont’d. on p. 26)



approximately 4% of the entire population of Canada, compared to 17 million in the USA, or 5% of the population. Given its size, the Italian Canadian community has done very well for itself. In Ontario, home to approximately 35% of Canadians, they have been dominant in the building industry for decades, partly due to the existence of an agency known as COSTI (for *Centro Organizzativo Scuole Tecniche Italiane*). Founded in a church basement in 1952, the original aim of COSTI was to teach skilled Italian immigrants sufficient English to pass provincial licensing tests and get jobs in their respective trades. So successful was the COSTI model that the agency now employs 350 people, offers services in 63 different languages, from 17 locations, serving 40,000 multi-ethnic immigrants to the Greater Toronto Area each year.



Hon. Peter Bosa (left): first Italian Canada senator.
 Charles Caccia (right): first Italian Canadian federal cabinet minister.
 Both owe their appointments to French Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau (1968-1979, 1980-1984).

Of course, individual Italian Canadians have made their mark in a wide range of fields. To name just three: Frank Iacobucci was for thirteen years a justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, then chair of Torstar, which publishes the *Toronto Star*, Canada's largest newspaper. The University of Toronto's Centre for Italian Canadian Studies is named after him. In the world of finance, Dominic D'Alessandro was for fifteen years president and CEO of Manulife Financial, voted by his peers as "Canada's Outstanding CEO of the Year 2002" and "Canada's Most Respected CEO" in 2004. In matters of planning law in Ontario, no one is more respected than Leo Longo.

Italian Canadians tend to vote for the Liberal Party



Better Language Preservation

Of course, the key to maintaining our community is a shared heritage through language. In this regard, Italian Canadians in Ontario have benefited from the work of organizations such as the *Centro Scuola e Cultura Italiana* which has for over forty years been the tireless promoter of Italian language classes on a

As in the U.S. some Italian Canadians were interned during the Second World War. Unlike here, Italian Canadians were later given an apology and funding for a documentary (left).

arrangement remains in place in Ontario, where I live. There are twenty-two publicly-funded Catholic elementary schools and three Catholic high schools in my area. And, because the bulk of the residents are Roman Catholic Italians, Italian language courses are part of the mandatory (i.e., non-elective) curriculum. As far as I know, no parent has ever complained about their child being forced to study Italian!

Political Profile

When it comes to politics, Italian Canadians generally vote Liberal, equivalent to Democratic in the States, at least at the federal level. It was former Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau (1968-1979 and 1980-1984) with whom Italian Canadians fell in love. They recently honored his memory by helping make his son

Justin the prime minister. Trudeau *pere* appointed the very first Italian Canadian senator, the *friulano* Peter Bosa, and the first federal cabinet minister (the *milanese* Charles Caccia). Later on, as many as eight Italian Canadians served as federal cabinet ministers under Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin.

At the provincial level (at least in Ontario), Italian Canadians tended to support the Progressive Conservative Party, which had a 43-year-long lock on the provincial government, until it was finally ousted by the Liberals in 1985. In my city of Vaughan, the Liberal Gregory Sorbara became the first Italian Canadian cabinet minister in Ontario, later served as the provincial Minister of Finance, and is now chancellor of York University. Currently, five Liberal Italian Canadians serve in the provincial ("state") cabinet. Six years ago the Liberal-dominated Assembly proclaimed June to be Italian Heritage Month.

Toronto, Ontario has never had an Italian Canadian mayor, and the prospect of having one in the near future seems slim to nil. (In contrast, my old hometown, San Francisco, had Angelo Rossi,

(Cont'd. on p. 24)



World War II, Revisited

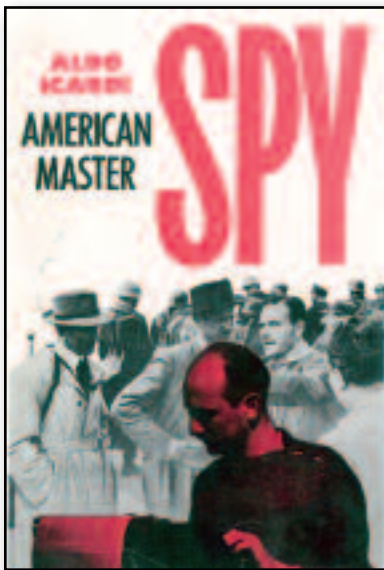
by Louis Cornaro

Those familiar with Italian American heroes from the Second World War, such as John Basilone (Medal of Honor), Don Gentile (air ace), Henry Mucci, and Louis Zamperini (Unbroken), may not know of Lt. Aldo Icardi. His story might have been the stuff of legend had he not parachuted into a nest of feuding Italian partisans in 1944.*

**Led the rescue of Bataan prisoners*

A Real Spy Mystery

Icardi was part of an OSS team sent to northern Italy with \$16,000 to be divided up among the various partisan groups. Each group represented a different Italian political party, united only in their hatred of Fascists and Germans. Icardi's team was composed of leader Major William Holohan and six other Italians and Italian Americans.



Icardi's 1954 book detailing his side of the Holohan murder in occupied Italy.

Moscатели, who would later be honored by the Italian Republic and serve in Parliament.

Aldo Icardi's problems began when his superior, Major Holohan, disappeared during the months-long mission. His body was found after the war with two bullet holes in his head. Investigations by both the Carabinieri and the U.S. Army uncovered con-



Icardi's U.S. trial made the frontpage. Icardi was convicted of murder, *in absentia*, by an Italian court.

flicting testimony by members of Holohan's team and Italian partisans. But they all pointed a finger at Icardi and Sgt. Carl LoDolce as the murderers. Naturally, Icardi, who was now a civilian, was shocked by the charge, especially since LoDolce initially made the admission, but later recanted it.

What was Icardi's alleged motive in killing his commanding officer? Supposedly, Icardi believed Holohan was an anti-Communist and was shortchanging Moscatelli's Communist group. By assassinating Holohan, the Communists would receive their fair share of OSS money and arms.

Major Holohan was, in fact, anti-Communist, but there was never any proof of Icardi even having Communist sympathies. But, after Holohan's disappearance, Moscatelli's group did get a larger share of U.S. aid.

One British agent rated Italy's partisans: "20% for liberation, 80% for Russia"

Icardi was 22-years old at the time, a Pittsburgh native who was recruited by the OSS (Office of Strategic Services) forerunner of the CIA, because he spoke the local dialect of the Italian province of Novara.

Among the partisan groups was a Communist formation led by Vincenzo "Cino"

All of this came out after the war and during the Cold War. Aldo Icardi was sucked into that political vortex from 1951 to 1956, fighting legal battles in both the U.S. and Italy. He was subjected to a relentless Congressional investigation by McCarthyites, charged with perjury for "lying" to the committee, eventually standing trial. Meanwhile, he was actually convicted *in absentia* for murdering Holohan by an Italian court, no doubt bent on protecting local Italian Communists. At one point, the Italian prosecutor called Icardi "the trans-Atlantic gangster." Fortunately, Icardi resisted extradition and never had to return to Italy.

Through it all, Icardi remained steadfast in his innocence, eventually writing a book detailing his OSS mission and refuting all allegations. He hired famed attorney Edward Bennett Williams to defend him in the 1956 perjury trial (U.S. vs Icardi). (Among Williams's later clients were union leader Jimmy Hoffa, John Hinckley, who shot President Ronald Reagan, Frank Sinatra, and Hugh Hefner. He famously said he would defend anyone if they paid him upfront. That philosophy helped him in acquiring the

(Cont'd. on p. 25)



from 1931 to 1944, even before Fiorello La Guardia was elected mayor of New York in 1934). Perhaps that is a measure of how far Italian Canadians are behind Italian Americans in some ways.

A Canadian “Salad”

In the United States, your motto is *E pluribus unum*, or “one from many.” It hints at an expectation that all of those who come to America will eventually become one people. And while that expectation is duplicated to a degree in Canada, there is a difference north of the border.

Upon winning the French & Indian War in 1759, the British laid the groundwork for what would be described, two hundred years later, as a “bi-lingual and bi-cultural nation.” When it came time for Canadians to write a new constitution in 1982, one that was to include a charter of rights and freedoms (roughly equivalent to the American Bill of Rights), it broadened Canada’s English/French base, so other ethnic groups could preserve their respective heritages without being branded “un-Canadian.” Put another way, Canada should not be a melting pot, so much as a salad, in which each of the “ingredients” can still be distinguished,



When the victorious British passed the Quebec Act in 1774, granting French Catholics equal rights, it inflamed the 13 Colonies. The Act gave Quebec contested western lands and enhanced the Catholic threat to the mainly Protestant colonies. The Act helped foment the American Revolution.

one from the other. The relative ease with which Canadians received and settled 30,000 Syrian refugees in three short months last winter is, perhaps, the best demonstration of how much they value freedom and tolerance.

Italian-French Relations

Historically, the relations between Italian immigrants and French Canadians in Quebec have been poor. When the great social transformation (read secularization) of Quebec started in the 1960s, Italian Canadians wanted their children to be educated in English language schools, as they thought fluency in that language promised greater success in life, anywhere in Canada.

However, protection of the French language became a rallying point for Quebec separatists and to that end French Canadian nationalists succeeded in imposing a rule that

only if your parent was educated in English could an Italian Canadian child be so educated. (It is important to note that Quebec only has one official language – French.) So most Italians were forced to attend French schools. Effectively, that means that many, many Italians in Quebec are tri-lingual, picking

up their parents language at home, schooled in French, and learning English on their own. However, they function professionally in French. That at least is my perception of the situation.

Most Italian Canadians in Quebec prefer to learn English

Clearly, because of the post-war timing of their immigration, developments in transportation and communications technologies that allow frequent contact with Italy, and given the absence of a strict definition of what is a “Canadian,” Italian Canadians have a better chance of retaining their *italianità* than Italian Americans, but whether they succeed or not in the end depends on millions of everyday decisions, made by individual Italian Canadians. Only time will tell.

* * *

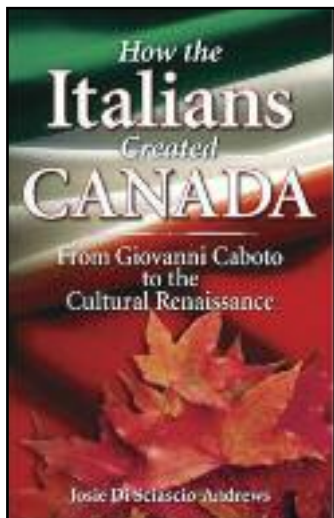
TONY CARELLA is a graduate in Honours Modern History from St. Michael’s College in the University of Toronto and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has served for seventeen years as a municipal councillor in the City of Vaughan, where he lives with his wife, Dr. Franca Damiani Carella—a native of the Italian city of Zara, now Zadar, Croatia—who emigrated to Canada in the mid-1950s.

[Ed. We wish to thank Institute Analysts Bob Masullo and Bill Dal Cerro for meeting with Tony Carella on his home turf, initiating this Forum piece.]

Canadian Profile



Josie Di Scascio-Andrews was born in the Abruzzo region, came to Ontario, Canada as a child. She speaks Italian, French, and English. She is a published poet and author of the 2008 book *How the Italians Created Canada*.



World War II, (cont'd. from p. 23)



Icardi, left, leaves court with famous attorney Edward Bennett Williams.

Baltimore Orioles and an interest in the Washington Redskins.)

The perjury trial ended in an acquittal with the judge censoring the U.S. Congressional committee for going beyond its legislative function. The U.S. did not appeal the decision and Icardi was never bothered again.

So who did kill Major Holohan in 1944? According to his book, *One Man's Freedom* in 1962, attorney Williams wrote that the U.S. Army's Criminal Investigation Division had pinned the murder on Communist partisan leader Vincenzo Moscatelli, "a man of few scruples who was capable of weakening the opposite party in order to enrich his group." Moreover, Williams traveled to Italy in preparation for the perjury trial and actually had lunch with Moscatelli, who "...readily conceded that the Communist partisans had eliminated Holohan, and he defended it as a necessary act...Holohan was an obstructionist who had to be removed."

If anything is to be gleaned from this story it is how ruthless Italian Communists were during the last days of the war. According to a new book by British author Max Hastings (*The Secret War*, HarperCollins, p.27), the Communists foresaw a revolution after the defeat of Fascism. He quoted an OSS report stating that of all the partisan groups the operative worked with in northwest Italy "20 per cent [were] for Liberation and 80 per cent [were] for Russia. We soon found that they were burying the German arms they had captured."



Vincenzo Moscatelli, "a man of few scruples."

The post-war Italian Republic had little choice but to honor even the most brutal of Communist partisans, including Vincenzo Moscatelli. □

[Ed. We revisit the WW II peace treaty that ended Italy's nightmare on page 27.]

Lost Kingdom, (cont'd. from p. 20)

Jefferson allied our nation with the Bourbon Kingdom to neutralize the North African pirate states. The Two Sicilies had the largest merchant fleet in the Mediterranean, even launching the first screw-driven steamship there in 1847.

Our ancestors in Lazio, Umbria, and Le Marche were living under a theocracy

While Aprile cites the northern conquest as the primary cause of the mass exodus from the south, other factors contributed to it, such as earthquakes, eruptions, malaria, cholera, drought, and overpopulation. Yet, there is no denying that there was a clash during the reunification. The north was intent on competing with its European rivals Germany, France, and Britain, both in industrialization and colonial expansion. It saw the south as a resource in those aims.



For those who yearn to restore Bourbon rule, these would be your sovereigns today: Prince Carlo and Princess Camilla

bellum South. It's not the full story.

Because the vast majority of migrating Italians came to our shores during the decades immediately following the *Risorgimento*, they were actually the scions of Bourbon and Papal Italy in culture and outlook more so than the "new" Italy. This reality should be considered in truly understanding Italian American culture and mindset.





southern thugs).

As an aside, it should be noted that Savio wasn't the only Italian American campaigning for civil rights in the Deep South. Two activist priests were Catholic icons in the movement: Fr. James Groppi from Milwaukee and Father Geno Baroni from Pennsylvania both marched with Dr. Martin Luther King in Selma, Alabama, in 1964. So did popular singer Tony Bennett (born Benedetto). And Viola Liuzzo (néé Gregg), the southern belle wife of an Italian American labor leader, was killed in Mississippi and became an early martyr for the cause. (In stereotypical fashion, the FBI ran a "mafia" smear campaign against her husband to discredit her shortly before her murder.)

When he returned to Berkeley in the fall, Savio discovered that political protests, and even political fundraising, had been banned on the campus. Savio led a massive sit-in, and, via his speeches to the protesting students, became the *de facto* leader of what became the Free Speech Movement.

Savio's shining moment came on December 2, 1964 in Sproul Hall on the university's campus. Speaking in front of 4,000 people, the passionate Savio—who, amazingly, had a pronounced stutter as a child—delivered his famous "operation of the machine" oratory, a key speech in protest history.

Alluding to American society and its institutions, Savio said, *"There's a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part. You can't even take passively part! And you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels...upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop! And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it, that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all!"*

In 1965, Savio bowed out of the Free Speech Movement, partly concerned over its leadership scuffles, partly because he married fellow Free Speech member Suzanne Goldberg. When asked by a reporter covering his wedding what he and his wife would like as a present, Savio replied, *"We would like President Johnson to remove all of our troops from Vietnam."*

After a brief foray into politics in 1968, where he lost a California state senate race to a liberal Democrat, Savio divorced Goldberg a few years later, which set off a battle with depression. He worked odd jobs and teaching gigs before marrying another colleague from



Aptly named the Radical Party, founder Marco Pannella's group brought down many Italian traditions.

Pannella upset everything in Italy, from the Church to drug laws

In 1997, the steps of Sproul Plaza at Berkeley were renamed the "Mario Savio Steps." In 2012, the Sebastopol City Council renamed its downtown plaza the "Mario Savio Free Speech Plaza." A month later, Sonoma State University, where he taught in the 1990s, dedicated a "Mario Savio Speakers' Corner" on the campus.

And if you ever visit the Constitution Museum in Philadelphia, type in Savio's name on a computerized keyboard and both a photo and biography of him appear before you—a fitting tribute from a machine to a man.

Marco Pannella: Remaking Italy

If Savio was a young precursor to the 74 year old Bernie Sanders, then Italy's Marco Pannella was Bernie Sanders on steroids. It is no exaggeration to state that Pannella was a one-man wrecking crew. Savio and Sanders merely urged America to

change its status quo; Pannella actually changed Italy—that is, he was the driving force behind every major social change initiative, from legalizing abortion and divorce to civil rights for gays and drug legalization.

Born in the Abruzzo (Teramo) as Giacinto Pannella in 1930 to an Italian father and French-Swiss mother, Pannella wasn't just a radical in attitude; his actual political party was called *il Partito Radicale*. Starting out as a journalist from 1960 -1963, he soon branched out into Italy's political sphere, where his penchant for civil disobedience (he admired both Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King) made him a perpetual thorn-in-the-side to both religious and political leaders for nearly five decades.

Sometimes Pannella's theatrics were serious, such as his hunger strikes to protest issues like world hunger, the death penalty, and even prison over-crowding in Italy (the last of which, in April 2014, caused Pope Francis, whom Pannella admired, to call him on the phone begging him to desist).

(Cont'd. on p. 28)



World War II, Revisited (cont'd. from p.25)

In 1947, the newly constituted Italian Republic was forced to sign a peace treaty officially ending the Second World War.

Those who believe that switching sides in 1943 was a stroke of genius or a noble act to save the honor of Italy can judge those perspectives against the reality of what Italy was required to do to rejoin the family of nations.

The surrender may have saved the south from extended Allied bombing but it led to a civil war and brutal German retribution.

It appears that neither Italy's 18-month sacrifice as a "co-belligent" ally, nor its partisan resistance, earned it any better terms than the original unconditional surrender. You judge.

Treaty of Peace

February 1947

Territorial changes

Loss of all African colonies: Libya, Ethiopia, Eritrea

To Yugoslavia: the Istria peninsula except for the city of Trieste, the Adriatic islands of Cherso, Lussino, Lastovo and Pelagosa; the enclave territory of Zara in Dalmatia; of the city of Fiume and most of the region known as the Slovenian Littoral.

To Greece: the Dodecanese islands (Acquired by Italy in the Italo-Turk War of 1912)

To France: Alpine towns of Briga and Tenda, at the Franco-Italian border;

To China: the Concession in Tientsin held by Italy since 1901 Boxer Rebellion

Reparations (in 2016 dollars)

Italy was obliged to pay some \$3.4 Billion in war reparations (article 74):

- \$1 Billion to Yugoslavia
- \$896 Million to Greece
- \$854 Million to the Soviet Union
- \$213 Million to Ethiopia
- \$43 Million to Albania

Military clauses

Italy was banned from possessing, building or experimenting with atomic weapons, guided missiles, guns with a range of over 30 km, non-contact naval mines and torpedoes as well as manned torpedoes.

The military of Italy was limited in size. Italy was allowed a maximum of 200 tanks.

The Italian navy was reduced. Some warships were awarded to the governments of the Soviet Union, the United States, the United Kingdom and France. Italy was ordered to scuttle all its submarines and was banned from acquiring new battleships, submarines and aircraft carriers. The navy was limited to a maximum force of 25,000 personnel.

The Italian army was limited to a size of 185,000 personnel plus 65,000 Carabinieri for a maximum total of 250,000 personnel.

The Italian air force was limited to 200 fighters and reconnaissance aircraft plus 150 transport, air-rescue, and training aircraft. It was banned from owning and operating bomber aircraft. The number of air force personnel was limited to 25,000.

Political clauses

Article 17 of the treaty banned Fascist organizations ("whether political, military, or semi-military") in Italy.

Annexes

A subsequent annex to the treaty provided for the cultural autonomy of the German minority in South Tyrol. (Note: No such guarantees were given to Italians who were forced to flee *en mass* from Italian lands given to Yugoslavia)



Italy was allowed to keep its naval training ship Amerigo Vespucci, commissioned in 1931.



Sometimes, his theatrics were silly, such as urging porno queen Ilona Stoller to run for the Italian Parliament. To everyone's surprise, even Pannella's, she won. Stoller proceeded to embarrass the nation by going topless during meetings and volunteering to sleep with Saddam Hussein for world peace.

And, finally, Pannella's theatrics were sometimes blasphemous, such as, in 1996, dressing as Santa Claus and handing out free samples of hashish to passers-by in Piazza Navona, protesting Italy's onerous drug laws. He was sentenced to three months in prison, later reduced to a small fine.

His social life was as radical as his public life. Pannella lived in an "open" relationship with gynecologist Mirella Paracchini— "without jealousy," he once bragged to a reporter. In 2010, in an interview with the Milan newspaper *Corriere della Sera*, Pannella admitted to also having affairs with men. And, despite his atheism and anti-Vatican stances, he and Pope Francis remained good friends until Pannella's death in May of this year.

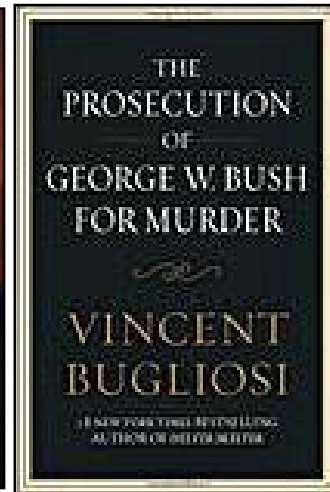
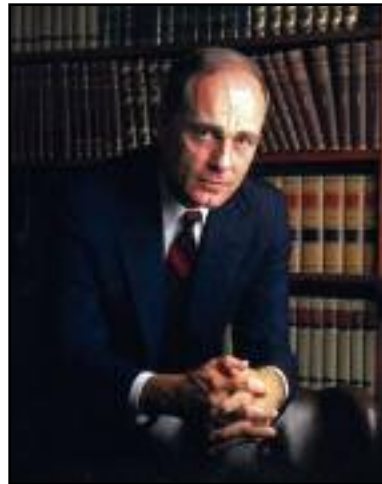
Vincent Bugliosi: A Higher Authority

If you recall the Tate-LaBianca murders of 1969, it was Vincent Bugliosi who prosecuted the Manson crime family for Los Angeles County. Those heinous murders captured the attention of the world, especially the killing of actress Sharon Tate, who was pregnant at the time. Bugliosi memorialized the crime and trial in his book *Helter Skelter*.

Toward the end of his life, Bugliosi became obsessed with the Iraq War of 2003, considering it a war crime committed by George W. Bush. In 2008, he published *The Prosecution of George W. Bush For Murder*, detailing in some 300 pages how former President Bush misled the nation and caused the deaths of 4,000 Americans (as well as producing thousands of disabled vets), an estimated 100,000 Iraqis, as well a horrific refugee crisis and worsening international terrorism.

Although the book made it to the *NY Times Bestseller List*, it failed to ignite any judicial actions. In fact, none of Bush's cabinet or the neo-cons who fomented the Iraq War were held accountable for a war that most Americans now wish never happened. The old saying, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions," doesn't even apply here, according to Bugliosi, who counters that the war was malicious from the start. He further asks why President Bill Clinton was the subject of numerous attempts to impeach him, from Whitewater to Lewinski, while George W Bush's pre-emptive war did not warrant so much as an investigation.

Using his skills as a prosecutor (he won 21 out of 21 murder cases), Bugliosi built a case against Bush, from his obsession with the war



Bugliosi's last project was his most controversial.

as a religious crusade to his fraud in obtaining Congressional consent to invade Iraq. Bush further ignored warnings from the Army Chief of Staff about the size of an occupation force, from the United Nations inspection team that there were no Weapons of Mass Destruction, and from our NATO allies – especially France, which was ridiculed by our tabloid press.

Anyone who reads the book sees Bugliosi's own visceral disdain for Bush and his enablers. As an analogy, he points out that once captured, Saddam Hussein was convicted and hanged only on a charge that he executed 102 people who were implicated in an

assassination attempt on Hussein in 1982. He was not hanged for genocide of Kurds or the tens of thousands of deaths from the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s. Bush's crimes, according to Bugliosi, were far greater than what Hussein was hanged for.

Needless to say, Bugliosi stuck his neck out with this book. He was lucky to find one publisher when the entire industry

turned its back on him. In 2008, he was called to testify before a House Judiciary Committee hearing on Executive Power. A documentary was made of his book in Canada in 2012 but never found an audience here. Perhaps the near impeachment of Richard Nixon for Watergate and Bill Clinton's failed impeachment for perjury, as well as the failure to find a culprits in the Wall Street collapse of 2008, has exhausted our nation's concern for accountability.

However, if there is ever a "national conversation" about the Iraq War and why the West is so hated by radical Muslims, Bugliosi's book provides insights into these subjects.

Bugliosi died in May, 2015, at age 80.

(Cont'd. on p. 30)

He took down the Manson Crime Family and examined everything from the JFK murder to the Iraq War



An Unrelenting Message

When Does Entertainment Become Ethnic Profiling?

The following report is based on a 100-day monitoring of cable TV showings. It concludes that an average of 8 programs each 24-hours sends the message to viewers that crime is an integral part of Italian American culture.

Imagine, if you will, that eight programs each day were about alcoholism in the Irish American community or about con men in the Jewish American community. In short, think of any ethnic group and its stereotype being broadcast in a continuous loop on TV – eight programs a day.

Some may call it entertainment, some may call it art. In the end, it is a message – overt or subliminal.

by Mario Ignagni

Sociologists tell us that stereotyping becomes problematic, particularly for impressionable young people, when it is negative and pervasive. Yet, there are those who minimize the problem of media stereotyping based on the rationale that people can tell the difference between movie portrayals and real life. To suggest there is little or no potential harm to young Italian Americans from such a major exposure to negative stereotyping is contrary to both common sense and well-established behavioral science, which confirms that the perception of oneself and of others can be significantly shaped by negative stereotyping.

Old mob movies never die, it would seem, but get new life on Cable TV. Portrayals of Italian Americans as thieves and murderers, including *The Godfather*, *Goodfellas*, and *Casino* are commonplace, with an entire week sometimes devoted to such fare (“Mob Week” on the American Movie Channel). In addition to these well-known standards, many lesser-known movies, based on essentially the same theme, appear often. It is also noteworthy that the events depicted in the documentary/docudrama offerings identified in the survey took place on average over 50 years ago.

Over a 100-day period, from May to August, 2016, offerings of some 50 Comcast channels were monitored. Only movies incorporating or suggesting Italic criminal behavior were included in the survey results. By “showings,” we



mean one or repeated broadcasts. There can be little doubt that the widespread proliferation of mob-theme offerings by the entertainment media is potentially harmful, and there can be little expectation that an end to this is in sight.

The results are summarized as feature movies or documentaries:

- 786 mob/criminal offerings were aired over the 100-day period, an average of about 8 per day.
- 72 were mob movies, with a total of 652 showings
- 48 were mob documentary/docudramas, with a total of 134. The number of showings over successive 10-day intervals averaged 80 showings per interval.
- The ten mob/criminal movies with the greatest number of showings were: *Be Cool* (44 times), *Corky Romano* (33 times), *Get Shorty* (31 times), *Harlem Nights* (31 times), *The Departed* (27 times), *Black Mass* (26 times), *Cop Land* (26 times), *Raging Bull* (22 times), *The Freshman* (21 times) and *Midnight Run* (20 times).
- Approximately 3/4 of all movies identified in the survey were purely fictional, with the majority of the rest being highly fictionalized accounts of real events.
- The release dates of the movies identified in the survey spanned almost 85 years (1931 to 2015), with only one fifth of them having being made in this century. Those were mainly in the mob documentary/docudrama genre which started about 2006.
- Approximately 2/3 of the 786 mob/criminal showings during the survey period were aired by AHC, REELZ, AMC, STARZ, HBO and MAX (the last three having multiple channels from which to choose).
- Three channels, AHC, REELZ, and AMC were identified as the main purveyors of mob documentaries and docudramas, such as *The Mafia's Greatest Hits*, *Mobsters* and *The Making of the Mob*, that appear to have been created exclusively for these channels, which regularly feature them. Turner Classic Movies is the main purveyor of very old mob-theme movies, such as *Little Caesar* (1931), together with pre-*Godfather*-vintage mob/criminal movies.
- AMC appears to have a monopoly on major mob-theme movies such as *The Godfather 1,2,3* and *Casino*.



Phil Girdaldi: Israeli Foe

Ex-CIA agent Phil Girdaldi has spent decades trying to undo Israeli influence over U.S. foreign policy. His essays can be easily found on the internet – well written, reasoned observations on how AIPAC (American-Israel Public Affairs Committee) and other lobbying vehicles for the Israeli government have adversely affected



Girdaldi, a former CIA agent, feels U.S. foreign policy is determined too much by Israeli interests.

our relations with the world. such a gift is made to a nation that is not a formal ally – no such treaty exists, nor is Israel a member of NATO. He also wonders why AIPAC and many Jewish organizations that lobby for Israel are not required to register as agents for a foreign government.

The recent agreement signed in September, 2016 granting Israel nearly \$40 billion in military equipment over ten years is just one of Girdaldi's nightmares. He questions why AIPAC and the other groups merely ignore him. Few Americans know he exists and fewer follow his postings (Girdaldi neither tweets nor indulges in social media.) Yet, he soldiers on, easily setting himself up for the smear of "anti-Semite."

Notwithstanding labels, Girdaldi believes the country cannot continue to be misled by Israeli interests. He was against the Iraq War, believes in justice for Palestinians, was for the Iran Nuclear Agreement, and is deeply disturbed how the Obama Administration has recreated a Cold War with Russia.

As for the November elections, Girdaldi predicts: "...whoever triumphs will soon be receiving a nice all expenses paid luxury trip to Israel to learn all about Benjamin Netanyahu's views regarding what more Washington can do to support him and his government. The 'educational seminars' are organized by the Israel Lobby, more specifically by a tax exempt entity referred to as the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF), which is a part of the hardline American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)."

On Israel's anti-Iranian stance, Girdaldi writes: "It also errs in crediting Iran with 'spreading instability around the world.' That honor belongs to the United States, ably assisted by Israel."

Finally, he often quotes fellow conservative Patrick Buchanan's characterization of the U.S. Congress as "Israeli occupied territory."

Joe Arpaio: "America's Sheriff"

The Italic people have been producing troublemakers on both sides of the political spectrum. Often in the news is Sheriff Joe Arpaio, of Maricopa County, AZ. Famous for his unyielding hunt for illegal aliens, Arpaio has fans and critics galore. Last August, a federal judge referred him for prosecution for racial profiling – ignoring a previous court order to stop asking Hispanics traffic violators to produce proof of citizenship. Arpaio insists that for whatever reason a suspect is questioned, illegal aliens have already violated American law by being in the country. He faces a 6-month prison sentence if convicted of contempt of court.

Deemed "America's Sheriff" by his admirers, Arpaio, at 84, is one of the oldest troublemakers in the Italic community. He has become the symbol of racism or patriotism, depending on your bent. He is up for reelection as County Sheriff in November – his seventh term. That he is still physically and mentally able to continue public service while fending off judges makes him remarkable, if not admirable.



Arpaio, 84, has blended a no-nonsense Italian attitude with a Code of the West behavior.

Raised by his young, widowed Italian father (Joe's mother died while giving birth), Arpaio was a WWII vet and started his career as a police officer in Las Vegas, in 1957. He soon signed up with the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency), a position he held for 25 years before being stationed in Arizona. He then turned to local law enforcement, where, in the 1990s, he was elected to his current job and shrewdly used the media (including his own, in-house radio station, K-JOE, which plays opera music and Frank Sinatra songs) to promote both his take-no-guff persona and, more importantly, the controversial issue of illegal immigration.

Though Sheriff Joe got the media attention he wanted—chiefly through stunts such as making prisoners wear pink underwear or work in outdoor tents under plus-100 degree heat—he never backed down from a fight. Media folk may hate him but the local people love him, particularly his zeal in promoting the safety of American citizens. Fans of Sheriff Joe feel that he has their back, an attitude fully in keeping with the code of Westerners stretching back over 100 years.

Would Girdaldi and Arpaio be considered patriots were it not for political agendas?



The Republic at 70 (cont'd. from p.11)

was now legal and fears of a parliamentary coup by them always played in the minds of Italians and Americans alike. This was the era of the Christian Democratic Party, anchored firmly in Italy's traditional values. But it was also the time of fractional parties and shifting parliamentary alliances. Governments rose and fell as voting blocs shifted. Italy was infamous for its "musical chair" governments, i.e., prime ministers and cabinets that lasted months, not years.

The first test of the Republic came in 1947 when the Istrian peninsula at Italy's northeast corner was conceded to Communist Yugoslavia by the Allies. Despite the Republic's mobilizing



Italy's loss of the Istrian peninsula was a major blow to the Republic.

Italian American political support, the U.S. Senate ratified the peace settlement (see page 27), leaving only the city of Trieste in Italian hands. Italians had expected better treatment for switching sides in 1943, since Istria had an Italic presence since the Bronze Age. But even Italian

Communists were accomplices to their Yugoslav comrades in dismantling their own nation. (Among the refugees of Istria were chef Lidia Bastianich and racer Mario Andretti.)

The Republic now realized that keeping Communism at bay was a prerequisite for survival. But, in the 1970s, the so-called "Opening to the Left" saw Communists as Cabinet ministers. The decades that followed were turbulent beyond anyone's expectation. Both the left and right challenged the existence of the new Republic. Named the "Years of Lead" (as in bullets), the Republic was challenged to its core. Communist Red Brigades terrorized Italy with bombings and kidnappings, culminating in the abduction and murder of the beloved statesman Aldo Moro in 1978. Neo-Fascists and Masons also plotted the Republic's demise leading to the infamous bombing of the Bologna train station in 1980, killing 85 innocents.

However, the Republic rallied to crush the Red Brigades, rescuing the kidnapped American General James Dozier in a lightning raid in 1982. In a nationally televised speech, U.S. President Ronald Reagan said that "the Italians have acquitted themselves with honor."

But the Mafia reared its fetid head in the 1980s with the murder of Italian judges Falcone and Borsellino. Though

it has made significant progress against Mafia terrorism, the Republic is still plagued by a bevy of organized crime syndicates: the Mafia, Camorra, Ndrangheta, and Sacred Crown. Earlier this year, Rome, the capital of the nation, was accused of being *Mafia Capitale* for blatant corruption.

In the 1990s, the old North-South wound reopened with the coming of the Northern League (*Lega Nord*), a movement to detach the wealthy regions of the north from those in the *Mezzogiorno*. Italians were reverting to the pre-monarchy attitude that Italy was a mere "geographical expression." The Republic responded with "devolution," an increase in regional authority, what we would call "states' rights."

Ultimately, the Northern League's founder and leader, Umberto Bossi, stepped down when he was found to be complicit in a web of regional corruption and kickbacks. Today's *Lega Nord*, led by Matteo Salvini, has changed the party's focus from secession to anti-immigration and rants against minorities.



A tribute to the judges murdered by the Mafia in Sicily.

Lest we overestimate this so-called fracturing of the Italian nation, it is far less ominous than the separatist movements in Belgium, Spain, or the United Kingdom. Italy may appear to teeter, but she still rests on a solid Roman foundation.

Let Europe Do It!

The Italian Republic has borne its share of tribulations, yet it lacks any unifying ideology. It continues to be a laboratory for political experimentation. The lack of patriotism is apparent except during international soccer matches. Italians eagerly complain about their country to any foreign journalist. Utter disrespect is visible in the ubiquitous graffiti spray painted even on monuments to Mazzini, Garibaldi, and other founding fathers.

Over the years, major and minor parties have undergone name changes to distance themselves from scandals or to reinvent themselves. The Communist Party split into the "Refounded Communists" and the "Democratic Party of the Left," which in turn morphed into the Democratic Party – Prime Minister Matteo Renzi is of this party. Unlike France, which is now on its Fifth Republic, Italy prefers to tinker with nomenclature and logos rather than convene a constitutional convention. At the moment, Renzi has his chips on a referendum to remake Italy's upper chamber, the Senate, ostensibly to make the government more effective.

(Cont'd. on p. 32)

The Republic has survived everything thrown at it





The low point in U.S.-Italy relations occurred during the Achille Lauro hijacking in 1985.

Prime Minister Bettino Craxi (right) ordered Italian troops to surround the hijackers' plane at the Air Base in Sigonella, Sicily to resist U.S. troops who were ordered by President Reagan to take custody of the hijackers. The confrontation (left) ended in Italy's favor.



A principal difference between the old Monarchy and the Republic is how each viewed the country's role on the international stage. From the reign of Umberto I (1878) until 1945, the Kingdom of Italy insisted on projecting Great Power status, for which Italy was in many ways not yet equipped. The Italian Republic appears to have rejected the idea of Great Power status and wants Italy to play a more or less neutral role in international affairs.

The Republic, like many post-war European nations, embraced the concept of a united Europe to eliminate conflict, abolish tariffs, and create a third bloc in world politics. As Italy struggled with decades of political instability, corruption, heavy debt, and inter-party strife, a European Union seemed to be the last hope of disciplining the nation. In short, Italians no longer had faith in going it alone and saw Europe as the super authority necessary to control their proclivities. They also didn't want to miss the unity train.

The Republic gladly traded its inflated *lire* for solid euros, gleefully eliminating three zeros in a single stroke. But with the euro and tighter fiscal policies, the Republic found itself in a fiscal straight-jacket. To its northern European partners, Italy was not much better than Greece or Spain – debt-ridden, corrupt, and lax in tax collections. The discipline Italian leaders yearned for now came with a vengeance. Still, Italy has never requested nor needed a bailout, unlike the original fiscal “P.I.G.S.” (Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain.)

And the Republic sought the protection of the mighty United States. If Fascist Italy became a puppet of Nazi Germany, the Italian Republic would be hard-pressed to deny it still dances to a German tune – Angela Merkel this time – and defers readily to America. Italian journalist Claudio Gallo sees his nation as merely a military bastion for U.S. dominance of the Mediterranean – a staging area for U.S. interests in North Africa and the Middle East. Italy's role in the Mediterranean these days is more Coast Guard than Navy. But, like other NATO allies, Italy saves billions on defense under the American umbrella.

The one area the Republic insists on playing with the big boys is space research, not merely for the global prestige but to hone its skills in high-tech industries. Aerospace technology traces its roots

to the 1920s and 30s to men like Gaetano Crocco, a pioneer in rocket propulsion, and Luigi Broglio who led the launch of Italy's first satellite in 1964. That launch, in fact, made Italy the third space competitor after the USSR and the USA.

La Dolce Vita

“The sweet life,” became an Italian post-war theme. It was a reaction to the relentless call for discipline, hard work, and sacrifice of the prior regime.

Italians today wants to project an image of serenity even as their country is rated #61 out of 168 on the “perceived” corruption scale, or as whole regions are stereotyped as mafia strongholds. To offset these perceptions, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi seems to be in a race with Pope Francis to demonstrate Italian saintliness.

Recently, he ordered the retrieval of 300 bodies entombed on the Mediterranean Sea floor—African victims of an ill-fated attempt to sneak into Sicily—a morbid and costly gesture, to many.

Like the Slow Food Movement, which began in Italy, Italians believe themselves to be the last hope of humanity in preserving tradition. They tend to see their future in the arts rather than the gritty world of geopolitics. With a declining birthrate and an enduring financial squeeze, the Italian Republic cannot afford to be more than a destination for tourists and purveyor of luxury goods. In 2015, Milan hosted the World Food Exhibit—a harbinger of the new Italy.

The Republic's future depends greatly on how the European Union fares. Once again, Italy has tied its fortunes to its neighbors and the supranational system that has tamed nationalism. But Italians will always have the gifts bequeathed to them by Roman Italy – the physical remnants of empire, a diversity of talent, an amazing ability to adapt, and a creativity second to none on the planet. Nevertheless, the Republic is risking a diminution of its role. It must not resign itself to being merely “Eataly” or a merchant of luxury for the world. It needs to find its place among the world powers, to influence world affairs – “to teach the ways of peace,” as Virgil urged – rather than riding on others' coattails.

The Republic must not resign itself to being merely “Eataly”





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