

“MAKING ITALIANS”: THE NEW NATION, 1870-1920

Coordinator: Don Ray

We follow Italy through a period between triumph and disaster: from the final 1870 unification to the years just before Fascism. In this often forgotten period, the new nation's confused origins, its rawness and stark regional divisions left it struggling to catch up with the established European powers. Would it overcome its sense of inferiority by looking inward--or outward? Would Italy forget its great cultural heritage, or even the Church, in the rush to modernity? Could it forge a national mission without losing its liberal values? We encounter the era's anxieties via its commentators as well as its artists--especially Collodi (*Pinocchio*), Verga and Pirandello in literature, and De Chirico and later the Futurists in painting.

Readings and other Materials/Online Services:

There will be a coursepack of some 250 pages, plus a couple of works on YouTube and a few paintings to view at MOMA.

Don Ray has coordinated a few study groups and likes the challenge of multidisciplinary exploration. He has an old fondness for Italy, its language and art.

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Week	Read/View
1. Risorgimento	Website on Unification of Italy Duggan, <u><i>A Concise History of Italy</i></u> , 2014 pp. 129-43
2. "Making Italians"	Patriarca, <u><i>Italian Vices</i></u> , selections La Voce 1909 op-ed: "Monuments and books"
3. Pinocchio	Collodi, <u><i>Adventures of Pinocchio</i></u> , Ch. 1-15
4. Mezzogiorno (the South)	Fortunato, <u><i>Voce</i></u> , 1910 "The two Italies" Villari, sels from <u><i>Le Lettere Meridionali</i></u> , 1878

- Pellizzari, Giornale d'Italia, 6/25, 1911
"The 50-year [Jubilee] seen from the balcony"
5. Verga
and Verismo Verga, "Picturesque Lives, short story
"Cavalleria Rusticana," short story
and view it as an opera (e.g., on YouTube)
6. Pirandello 3-4 selected stories from Novelle per un anno
7. Pirandello TBA
8. De Chirico Metaphysical Art, reading
Look at his 4 paintings at MOMA and jot
down your specific impressions
9. Montessori Montessori, Spontaneous Activity in Education
(1916), selections from Ch. I-IV, ff.
Stewart-Steinberg, The Pinocchio Effect
from Chap. 7: "Social Maria"
10. Nationalism
and war D'Annunzio, selection
Prezzolini, Voce 1914, "We go to war"
11. Futurism Marinetti poem
Boccioni, Futurist Painting Sculpture, sels.
12. Did Risorgimento
lead to Fascism? D. Mack Smith, "Prehistory of fascism," pp 103-23