

Hegel and Italian Political Thought: The Ethical State

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This paper explores the contribution of the political thought and political praxis of Italian Hegelians, most of whom were from the South, to the building of the new Italian State. Many of them had first served the Kingdom of Italy in the Southern provinces during the delicate transition period, then in the central government and parliament in the early years of state-building, between 1861 and the 1880s, serving as representatives in both of the main parties, the Historical Right (Destra Storica) and the Historical Left (Sinistra Storica). It also explores the reshaping of the Hegelian theory of the State, reinterpreted as it was by Italian Hegelians, and how it served the new Italian political context and contributed to the understanding and designing of the new Italian State.