

Italian Conservatism from the 1900s to Our Days

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In the 21st century in Italy a conservative thought has developed characterized by numerous authors, thinkers, journalists and philosophers who have written works and carried out typical instances of conservatism. While many of them have not called themselves conservatives, in retrospect we can identify them as such. Conservative thought has not been limited only to culture but has also affected politics despite the fact that in Italy there has never been a large party that has explicitly defined itself as conservative.

At the beginning of the twentieth century a particular ferment developed in the city of Florence with the birth of some important magazines animated by Giovanni Papini, Ardengo Soffici and Giuseppe Prezzolini. Prezzolini is, together with the journalist Indro Montanelli, the main Italian conservative of the twentieth century, author of dozens of books including "Il Manifesto dei conservatori" and "Intervista sulla "Destra. Another important conservative is the publisher Leo Longanesi active between the end of the 1920s and 1957, the year in which he died.

After the Second World War, among the main conservatives, we can remember the writer Ennio Flaiano, the publisher Giovanni Volpe, the intellectual Alfredo Cattabiani but also a book like "Il Gattopardo" by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa is a typically conservative novel. In parallel to the cultural world, politics has also interfaced with the conservative world and since the postwar period, various political parties have had a conservative soul starting with the party that governed Italy from the end of the Second World War until 1992: the Christian Democracy. The Italian Social Movement (MSI) also had a conservative component within it but it has always been isolated because it is considered a post-fascist party.

In 1994, with the so-called "Fiuggi turning point", a new party, Alleanza Nazionale, was born and is perhaps the party that has come closest to conservative thought. It later evolved into the PDL (People of liberties) which also included classical liberal components. Today the two main parties that carry out conservative demands are the Brothers of Italy and the League. Fratelli d'Italia is a party in all respects of the right, while the Lega is a post-ideological political force with a conservative component within it.