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Abstracts

ANTONIO GRILLI, *Le carte Pisenti e la giustizia della Repubblica Sociale italiana (1943-1945)*

After the fall of the fascism in July 1943 and the following military collapse of Italy one month and a half later, Mussolini re-created in September 1943 in northern Italy the so called “Social Italian Republic”. At that time, all northern Italy was occupied by the Third Reich, and such an attempt to give a re-birth to the fascism under Nazi protection was welcomed not only by the German dictator, Adolf Hitler, but also by all these parts of the Italian fascism which claimed a return to the origins of the movement and a prosecution of the war together with Nazi Germany.

Nevertheless, the R.S.I. had also very soon to manage all the complexity of a state administration, which – in northern Italy – had been left without a lead after September 1943. Thus, the allegedly new “revolutionary” soul of Mussolini’s “social fascism” had to live together with the more practical exigency of a good administration.

This fact became particularly clear in the field of justice: the reconstruction of an efficient justice system bound to the rule of law was the aim of the new justice minister, Piero Pisenti, as well as of his team. They saw in the keeping alive of the principle of legality against any summary justice – imposed by the cruelties of the war – the best mean to justify the existence of the R.S.I. as the new “Italian state”.