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Abstracts

EUGENIO DI RIENZO – EMILIO GIN, *20 luglio 1944: «Operazione Valchiria». Un putsch nazional-bolscevico?*

The failed plot to assassinate Hitler on July 20, 1944 has usually been viewed as the last attempt to overthrow the Nazi regime for the purpose of signing a separate peace with the western Allies. In this article the Authors, stressing the conspiracy's composite nature, try to inquire the hypothesis that the true goals of the *putsch* were mainly soviet-oriented. Yet toward the end of the war, Wehrmacht Major Joachim Kuhn revealed to Russian intelligence that Stauffenberg's plan meant to eliminate Hitler in order to arrange an armistice with the Soviet Union. The strategic partnership with Moscow was viewed as the sole mean to avoid the dismemberment of Germany promised by the Anglo-Saxon Powers in their public statements. At the end of the conflict, the Italian journalist Indro Montanelli firstly collected somewhat disorderly, interesting rumours about the composition of the various political groups of the plot. Drawing extensively from archival evidence and bibliographical comparison the Authors now produce new hints about the pro-Soviet soul of the conspiracy. The «spirit of Tauroggen», revived in the close military collaboration with Russia since the Weimar period to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, resulted to be still alive in the ranks of the *Wehrmacht* making more natural the adherence to the plot for many senior officers. As resulted from the American and British diplomatic documents, the pro-Soviet bias of Stauffenberg himself was not unknown amongst the ranks of the Oss and Anglo-American political circles. This fact contributes to explain Stalin's ambiguous stances about the future of Germany during the entire course of the war and his bargain with the Allies on the subject of a second front in Europe. Controversies on the subject of a separate peace were on the agenda of all the political groups in the dying Third Reich and the contradictory peace feelers put in being well demonstrate the degree of chaos that surrounded Hitler's *régime* last months. It appears indicative that Himmler's repression against the conspirators of *Operation Walküre* and their families underscore the mainly «National-Bolshevik» matrix of Stauffenberg's *putsch*.