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Abstracts

FEDERICO ROBBE, L'America di Indro Montanelli tra atlantismo, anticomunismo e disagio verso il culto del progresso, 1953-1956

In 1953 Indro Montanelli was sent for three months in the US as a correspondent for the «Corriere della Sera», and there he experienced many features of the American society. Moreover, Montanelli and the Pulitzer prize Edmund Stevens – who meanwhile was in Italy – wrote several letters each other. During the toughest period of Cold War, Montanelli had always showed an “Atlanticism”, even blaming the US – through «Il Borghese», edited by Leo Longanesi – to be too weak in the battle against Italian Communism. His extremism led to the attempt to create a «terrorist» anticommunist and antidemocratic organization. For this purpose the journalist tried to involve the US diplomacy, especially Ambassador Clare Boothe Luce in 1954. But the project failed and Montanelli started to be disappointed with the US. Then, after the direct experience of Budapest uprising in 1956, his anticommunism became softer, and he abandoned any subversive plan. At the same time he showed a growing disillusionment for the American socio-economic and cultural model. Montanelli had personally experienced in his journey the consequences of the “modernity”; and he was concerned about the widespread “progress worship”, which led to conformism and standardization. The essay, through many unpublished documents, from both Italian and American archives, tries to reconstruct this unstable relationship, showing how such relationship changed throughout the years, and how it ended up by being more based on skepticism than attraction.

Keywords:

*Indro Montanelli
Anti-Communism
Atlanticism*