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Abstracts

PAOLO BUCHIGNANI, Una purga staliniana nell'Italia degli anni Cinquanta. La reazione del PCI all'eresia «Magnacucchi»

This essay examines the very tough Stalinist-like reaction of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) to the dissent expressed in 1951 by Aldo Cucchi and Valdo Magnani, two high-profile Members of Parliament from the Emilia region who had been valorous partisans. The events are recounted in detail on the basis of several historical documents, and closely related both to the international context (affected by the tense beginning of the Cold War, the Korean War, and the Stalinist repressions in Eastern Europe) and, above all, to the internal politics of the PCI, which was dominated by indisputable Soviet influence. The party politics and the power struggles (in particular the clash between the secretary Togliatti and the two deputy secretaries, Secchia and Longo) provide the background to the "Magnacucchi" affair, but can in turn also shed significant light on them.

Keywords:

Ideological Heresy Purge Power Struggles in Italian Communist Party (PCI) Soviet influence Cold War