

Nuova Rivista Storica

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Abstracts

FRANCO CARDINI - ELISA D'ANNIBALE - GERARDO NICOLSI - MARCELLO RINALDI - LORENZO TERZI, Benedetto Croce. Gli anni del fascismo

Croce initially supported Mussolini's Fascist government that took power in 1922. He later explained that he had hoped that the support for Mussolini in parliament would weaken the more fanatical Fascists who, he believed, were responsible for Matteotti's murder, and absorb the Fascist movement into the liberal system. Croce later described Fascism as «malattia morale» (literally "moral illness"). However, turning Gobetti's interpretation - the Fascism as "autobiography of the Nation" - Croce claimed that the Fascism had been a parenthesis on Italy's history, likening the "coup d'état" of 28 October 1922 to the invasion of the Hyksos (the barbarian rulers of Egypt in the years 1650-1550 before Christ). In fact, the Mussolini rise to power was the liberal elite's response to the forces that animated the revolutionary pressure of 1919-1920.

Keywords:

Political biography of Benedetto Croce 1922-1945

Italian liberal Conservatism

Rise of Fascism as Liberal elite's response to the social-political disorder and violence of «two-year red period» (1919-1920) and to menace of Italian Bolshevik Revolution