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Abstracts

EUGENIO DI RIENZO, *Gioacchino Volpe, Lord Bentinck, Churchill e la Sicilia*

In May 1947, in the neo-fascist review «La Rivolta Ideale» by Giovanni Tonelli, Gioacchino Volpe published an article focused on the English plans, at the end of the Napoleonic rule in Italy, directed to build satellites States in the Peninsula in order to improve London's hegemony in Europe and mainly in the Mediterranean area.

Regarding to Sicily those plans got next to be realized thanks to the activity of the British proconsul Lord Bentinck, former governor of Madras in India, where United Kingdom had imposed its protectorate on many indigenous potentates. Lord Bentinck's plans about Sicily became a topical subject after 1945. As a matter of fact, at that time, the political phase of the first Sicilian «separatism» was over: a political phenomenon, considered by the Italian public opinion, openly supported by the occupying forces and by the American, Soviet and English Secret Services.

According to Volpe the British aimed at turning Sicily into a member, with Malta, Pantelleria, Cyprus and the Ionic Islands, of a Mediterranean Commonwealth. Volpe also was strongly fascinated by «these assumptions» and by «these suspicions» largely unfounded, but spread over a country just got out of the Second World War disaster.