

# Nuova Rivista Storica

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## Abstracts

GIULIANO CAROLI, La conferenza quadripartita di Berlino del 1954 e il progetto sovietico per la sicurezza europea. Valutazioni italiane

The summit in Berlin of January-February 1954, was the first test of the East-West relationships after the Stalin's death, and was the scene of long and intense interviews among the four Ministers of Foreign Affairs: United States of America, the URSS, Great Britain and French, officially about the possible reunification of Germany, which in reality everyone knew was by now unlikely. In the circle of the discussions among J.F. Dulles, V. Molotov, A. Eden and G. Bidault there was no agreement, because the Western and Soviet positions disagreed about the procedures of such a reunification. Moreover in order to defend his position in the complex games of the Kremlin, Molotov surprisingly proposed a Conference on European security that would have resulted in a Pan-European security system. Western foreign ministers refused the proposal, fearing a strike against Nato. The Italian government, mainly listening to its diplomats' advice, took a great deal of interest in the Berlin interviews. Italy sided with the Western positions but saw its participation at a distance as a means for strengthening its role in the western alliance. Moreover, although rejecting Molotov's proposal, Italian observers began to see it also as a possible opportunity to overcome the narrow limits of the East-West confrontation and the obstacles to a more dynamic and autonomous European policy.