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Abstracts

ETTORE CINNELLA, Il “compromesso storiografico”. Il PCI e il giudizio storico sull'URSS

Giuseppe Boffa (1923-1998) was one of the most famous intellectuals of the Italian Communist Party. Journalist and political observer, he frequently visited the Soviet Union as correspondent of «l'Unità», Italian Communist Party's official newspaper. Boffa also wrote several books on the history of Soviet communism. His two-volume history of the Soviet Union was even translated into Russian and secretly published in the USSR for the exclusive use of the Communist Party's officials.

The article examines in general Italian Communists' studies in Soviet history. In particular, the article is devoted to Boffa's activity both as a journalist and as an historian, in order to determine whether his works contributed to alter the myth of the USSR in the years of «Eurocommunism». The article also analyses Boffa's influence over the intellectual formation of Gorbachev, who thoroughly read Boffa's Storia dell'Unione Sovietica in its Russian edition and deeply appreciated his work.

Keywords:

Italian Communist Party

Giuseppe Boffa

Historiography of the Soviet Union