

# Nuova Rivista Storica

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## Abstracts

MARCELLO RINALDI, La riforma religiosa in Urss tra le due visite di Gorbaciov in Vaticano, 1989-1990. Le posizioni della Santa Sede e della stampa pontificia

*Mikhail Gorbachev meets John Paul II in Vatican for the first time on 1 December 1989. It is an historic event: a General Secretary of the CPSU, the highest political representative of atheistic communism, converses face to face with the Pope.*

*This conversation becomes immediately a real agreement, which Gorbachev promises at John Paul II to promulgate the Soviet Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organisations for the Vatican support to his policy and his reforms in the USSR. In fact the Holy See through the «L'Osservatore Romano» and «La Civiltà Cattolica» on one hand does not lose the opportunity to condemn the Marxist-Leninist Communism, on the other defends and encourages insistently Glasnost' and Perestrojka. The aim of the essay is to rebuild this Vatican political line towards Gorbachev's USSR until to 18 November 1990, when the General Secretary of the CPSU meets John Paul II in Vatican for the second time.*

*The Holy See considers Gorbachev as the Soviet leader looked for a long time able to protect the Catholics in the Soviet Union, especially the Uniate Church officially legitimated by the Soviet Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organisations on 1 October 1990. Furthermore, Gorbachev and his religious reforms represent the best political context in USSR for a new dialog with the Patriarch of Moscow in order to restart the Ecumenism between the Catholic Church and the Russian Orthodox Church.*

Keywords:

*Perestrojka*

*Soviet Religious Reform*

*Holy See*