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Abstracts

ALBERTO STRAMACCIONI, Educare il popolo, tra innovazione e tradizione, in un Dipartimento della Repubblica romana (1798-1799)

The author examines the experience of the so-called Roman Republic, which witnessed an attempt to transform what had previously been part of the Papal States, and thus a theocratic entity, into a democratic state, following the model of the French Revolution. The main thrust of that attempt was the construction of a republican Religion that was meant to replace the Catholic one.

Based on the archival documents and on contemporary publications the author argues that in the Department of the Trasimene there emerged a very special republican schooling, bent on spreading the values of the Nation as well as the principles of the Constitution, and on the insistence on terms such as democracy, liberty, equality with the aim of building a modern political culture.

What was unique according to the Author was the way in which this new religion was publicized. Whereas the contents of the regime's propaganda was clearly entirely new, the forms in which it was couched, in terms of words, rites, symbols and gestures were largely drawn or inspired by the same Catholic experience, precisely in the search for that very same popular legitimacy the Catholic Church had been so able to command.

This republican pedagogical rhetorical discourse was, in any case, able to initiate in the Papal States, as well as elsewhere, the formation of an Italian national character, which, after a long and tortuous evolution during the period of the Risorgimento, would bring about the creation of a unified Nation-State.

Keywords:

Roman Republic

Political religion

Jacobins

French Revolution

“Risorgimento”