

Nuova Rivista Storica

Anno CVI, Maggio-Agosto 2022, Fascicolo II

Abstracts

CLAUDIO STAITI, L'episcopato siciliano e la Grande Guerra: le Diocesi dell'isola e il contributo al «fronte interno»

The article aims to investigate how the dioceses of Sicily witnessed the years of the First World War and, in particular, how the bishops of the island contributed to the “home front”, through charity, propaganda and assistance. During the Great War, Sicilian bishops and clergy were active not only in religious activities to comfort the combatants and to honour the fallen, but also in activities to support the soldiers and their families taking care of the education of orphans, for example. The bishops were also interested in obtaining news about the fate of Sicilian soldiers taken prisoner. Moreover, they also helped, together with the clergy, to educate the population through speeches and homilies. The work of the bishops also involved prisoners and refugees who were hosted in the island. The work put in place by the Sicilian dioceses constituted a proof of the fidelity of the local church to the national state and, at the same time, the affirmation of a new awareness of the role of the Catholics.

Keywords:

First World War

Sicily

Catholic Church