

La riforma Gentile e la sua eredità (The Gentile Reform and its Legacy),
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The school reform drawn up by Minister Giovanni Gentile in 1923 was one of the most significant political acts in the first phase of the Fascist regime. It profoundly influenced the history of education in Italy in the 20th century. The government decrees, not debated by parliament, covered the entire school system and formed an organic whole. The volume I am presenting here contains a detailed examination of the various aspects of the reorganization of higher education in Italy sixty years after national unification and offers interesting analytical insights both concerning the history of the Italian university in the long term and from a comparative perspective to the history of higher education in the dictatorial regimes of the 20th century. The university planned by Gentile was based on an asymmetric relationship between robust political control at the top of the university system (broad powers of the minister, rectors appointed by the government, influence of the executive power on the choice of teachers, requirement of the oath and Italian citizenship for professors, previously not necessary) and the granting of limited administrative and teaching autonomy to universities; the attempt to reduce the number of university students, particularly affecting female students; and a slowing down of the growth in the number of universities.

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