

Abstract of doctoral dissertation

Italian prose in the "black twenty years" (1922–1943). A study of writer's attitudes

The objective of this work was to present the attitudes of selected Italian writers towards fascism during the "black twenty years" (1922–1943). The reconstruction of these attitudes was based on an analysis of source documented biographical facts and literary work (mainly prose) of the concerned writers. In research, the author tried to reveal facts previously unknown, as well as to verify the opinions that might be considered incorrect or incomplete at present. This made it possible to modify the commonly accepted opinions about the allegedly unambiguously anti-fascist attitude of some Italian intellectuals. Among them, the profiles of writers such as Vitaliano Brancati, Dino Buzzati, Gabriele d'Annunzio, Grazia Deledda, Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, Alberto Moravia, Cesare Pavese, Pitigrilli and Ignazio Silone were presented. The results of the archival research on selected artists (especially in the Central Archives of the State in Rome) were confronted with the state of the research to date (mainly Polish and Italian), but above all with other sources: press, personal documents and literary works.

The dissertation was divided into two parts. The first one contains some methodological observations, in which the types of sources used in the paper are discussed. The second part of the dissertation entitled *Italian Writers towards fascism* is a presentation of the profiles of the authors – their views, motivations, behaviors. There are three chapters distinguished here, whose problem profile considers writers according to a certain type of their attitude towards fascism: servant, neutral (clever?) and allegedly anti-fascist (currently controversial due to recently revealed documents). Letters from writers to Benito Mussolini turned out to be an important research trail. They revealed the enormous power of influence that government awards and various subsidies (*sovvenzioni*) had in the process of winning over people of culture by the regime. The phenomenon of this entanglement was presented in the dissertation on the basis of archival documents, which have not been included in the research so far.

The conducted analysis of representative facts from the biographies of selected Italian writers, necessary for the overall characterization of their relations with fascism, allowed to show that the attitude of the Italian intellectual in the examined period was often characterized by inconsistency (differently motivated) and often conformism.

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