

Summaries

Mirco Dondi, *Out of fascism: the legal framework of the administrative purge (1943-1946)*

The purge in Italian Public Administration is a theme that caused strong divisions in antifascist coalition and in Italian society during and after the Second World War. We can see a gap between special laws about purge and their practical applications, with different levels of severity according to the place, the period and the judging commissions.

After the liberation of the whole Country, a transverse idea prevails in the main parties in order to mitigate the processes of cleansing. The purge involved too many people, included clerks in the lower levels. In these terms, purge would have been long and inexecutable. Conservative press created a wide discontent against new antifascist laws, especially in the center and in the south of Italy. Vatican and conservative public opinion will make it impossible to even cleansing limited to senior staff.

The fail of the purge was a defeat for antifascism. It takes a long time to face the consequences of the fascist regime. At the end, all employees were confirmed in service, renouncing to a partial renovation of the State apparatus.

Simona Salustri, *Closing the books on Vichy: the purge in France*

The paper aims to explain how the purge in France was marked by contradictions, which had an impact on a divided public memory.

Starting from the analysis of the term and its historical origins, the essay examines the various stages of the purge: from the “wild purge” to the legal purge proposing an excursus on proceedings and results in the administrative, professional and economic branches.

The paper focuses also on the different historiographical phases, that since the end of the war works on these themes developing a number of studies, books and articles.

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Roberta Mira, *L'epurazione in Germania (1945-1950)*

The article discusses the early years after World War II in defeated Germany, focusing not so much on the punishment of Nazi criminals and on issues related to the trial held by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg and the subsequent criminal proceedings, as on the more general process of denazification of the country. The essay presents the main acquisitions of the mainly German-speaking historiography, to provide the Italian public with information on a subject that remains largely inaccessible in Italy. After a brief part on criminal justice, the article examines the denazification in the four occupation zones into which Germany was divided after the war. In the first three zones, the US – especially –, British and French – with some caveats – started a purge campaign that would allow them to remove National-socialism from wide areas of Germany's administration and society; but this campaign soon ran aground due to material difficulties and to changes in the international political scenery. The denazification was progressively mitigated and most of the Germans were classified as mere Nazi-sympathizers, who went largely absolved. In the Soviet zone apparently the purge had a greater success, but even in this area the denazification process was inconsistent and, as in the West zones, it was tied to the international and internal politics.

Dirk Luyten, *Dealing with collaboration in Belgium after the Second World War*

Belgians collaborating with the Germans were punished after the Liberation in September 1944 by the military justice system. The instrument was the penal law and since September 1945 the civic purge for minor acts of collaboration. Convicted collaborators lost a set of rights. Punishment of collaboration was a bone of contention between left (socialists, liberals, communists) and right (catholics) and later between the Dutch and French speaking part of the country. Amnesty was never granted, but as a consequence of measures for mitigation starting in 1948, the real effects of the post war purges were gradually wiped out.

Heloísa Paulo, “*E depois do Adeus*”... *Purge and press and censorship laws after april 25*

On the evening of 24 April 1974, the song *E Depois do Adeus* (After the Farewell) was broadcast on Portuguese radio as a signal to start the military coup against the dictatorship. It was the end of the fascist regime, which had lasted for 48 years. New legislation put an end to censorship and the press constantly reported on the work carried out by the committees. However, the members of these committees were soon accused of carrying out political persecutions and new laws were enforced to avoid this type of abuse, but these in fact facilitated impunity. The purpose of this article is to analyse the laws and procedures which marked the revolutionary period and the development of Portuguese society in the years immediately after 1974.

Pau Casanellas e Steven Forti, *Democracia a regañadientes. Changes and continuities in Spain after Franco*

The process of recovering from Franco's dictatorship in Spain started in November 1975. This event allowed Spain to establish institutions comparable to those in the surrounding countries. Nevertheless, the nature of the process – lead by francoist elites reluctant to democracy and pushed by strikes and demonstrations – affected the result. Although there were important changes, those who support and were part of one of the longest dictatorship in Western Europe in the XX century, were never judged. That said, this judgment was never among the demands of those who were part of antifrancoism.