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AMENDOLA

Through an accurate reconstruction of the life and philosophy of Giovanni Amendola, the author gives us the key to analyze his political thought according to which the modern liberal democracy is founded on the surpass of the individualistic principle of classical liberalism and on a conception of the religion as a philosophical and non-confessional Christianity.

The political democracy of Amendola is rooted in the radicalism of the 'Risorgimento' in which he situates the reformism of the Socialist Party, which he joined teenager. Through the analysis of his thought and of his political and biographical events such as the war experience – that revealed his interventionist illusions and his dream of a “Great national politics” – the author highlights the turn in the radical direction of his conception of democracy, founded on the acknowledgment of the irreparable catastrophe of all the Italian national leadership.

Giovanni Amendola traces the no return line between the liberal and laical Italy of the 'Risorgimento' and the beginning of the Italy of mass parties. His misfortune in historiography is due to the structure of the Italian political system whose conflicts always end up in the populism and in the rejection of the European liberal democracy of which Amendola was the biggest representative.

ALFREDO CAPONE is a member of the scientific comity of the Genealogical Italian Society. He has taught Contemporary History at the University of Roma Tre.

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