The Church in the trenches

SALERNO EDITRICE

The Great War and the rethinking of the role of the Church in the Italian society.

The European Catholicism reacted in a schizophrenic way to the Great War. On the one hand, Benedict XV, and with him the Holy See, marries a neutral line, on the other hand each national episcopate justify armed intervention.
The Great War brings to the fore the issue of the relationship between the church and the world. In fact, the commitment in the first line of about 25 thousand priests among soldiers has had unimaginable consequences on their lives. For the first time the priests are immersed in the world with its human drama. While in seminary formation prevailed the logic of creating institutions isolated from the world in the conflict, the clash with the harsh reality reveals a deep sense of sharing for the human suffering. Nothing is as it was before.

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