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## MAZARIN: SKILFUL MASTERMIND OF EUROPEAN POLITICS OR PALE STUNT OF RICHELIEU?

The figure of Mazarin as a skilful mastermind of the European politics, although undoubtedly truth in some way, is partial and probably results from his eventful life. In this biography the author investigates his real role in that particular phase of the French and European history represented by the transition to the absolute monarchy. Far from being a kind of weak double of his predecessor Richelieu, the Cardinal was equipped with a marked individuality. His political model was more “Roman” than “French”, learned in his youth to the service of the Holy See. An absolutist model, unable of understanding a reality that did not exist in Rome, enhancing the diplomatic mediation and the exercise of patronage, completely alien from a planning reform. Emerges the portrait of a politician who conceived his action as an art, a very refined practice, in faithful service to a sovereign.

**STEFANO TABACCHI** is parliamentary adviser of the Chamber of Deputies. For Salerno Editrice has already published *Maria de' Medici*, 2012.

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