

SPRING 2026

CATALOGUE

New titles and
selected backlist

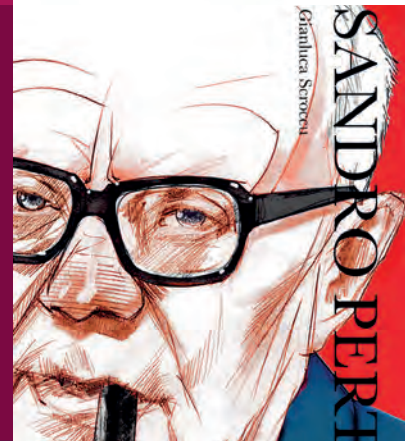
 **SALERNO EDITRICE**



Francesco Barbagallo

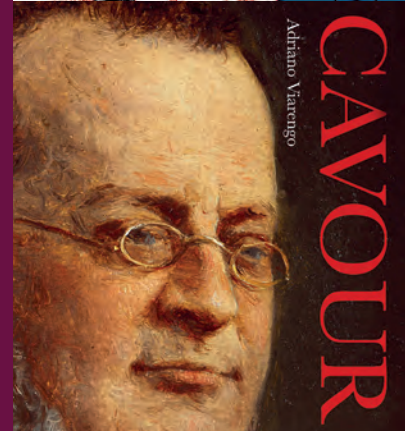
**IL MONDO
NEL CAOS**

BREVE STORIA DEL XXI SECOLO



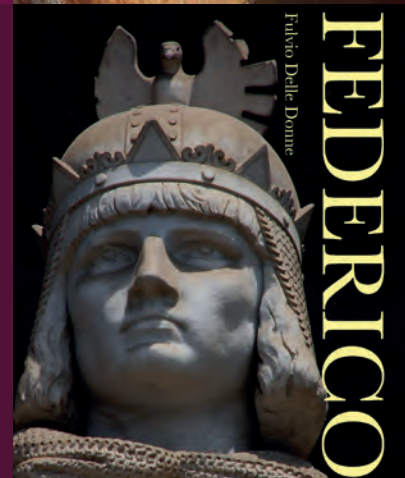
Gianluca Serocci

SANDRO PERI



Adriano Vitarbo

CAVOUR



Fulvio Delle Donne

FEDERICO

New Releases

Francesco Barbagallo • <i>The World in Chaos: A Brief History of the 21st Century</i>	4
Gianluca Scroccu • <i>Sandro Pertini (1896-1990)</i>	5
Adriano Viarengo • <i>Camillo Benso Cavour (1810-1861)</i>	6
Fulvio Delle Donne • <i>Frederick II (1194-1250)</i>	7
Maria Nadia Covini • <i>Bianca Maria Visconti (1425-1468)</i>	8
Marco Ciardi • <i>Avogadro (1776-1856)</i>	9
Eric Gobetti • <i>Invaders and Partisans: The Forgotten Italian Resistance in Montenegro</i>	10

Recent Backlist

Tommaso di Carpegna Falconieri • <i>History Overturned: Female Popes, Antipopes, Dwarves, and Ghosts</i>	12
Tommaso di Carpegna Falconieri • <i>Cola di Rienzo (New Edition)</i>	13
Tommaso Braccini • <i>Trebizond: The Enchanted Empire between History and Legend</i>	14
Umberto Roberto • <i>Domitian</i>	15
Ernst Behler & Aldo Venturelli • <i>Friedrich Nietzsche</i>	16
Guido Carpi • <i>Lenin</i>	17
Gregorio Sorgonà • <i>Giorgio Napolitano</i>	18
Francesca Romana Berno • <i>Luxuria: Tales of Banquets, Villas, and Other Indulgences in Ancient Rome</i>	19
Giacomo Todeschini • <i>Second-Hand: The Value of Things in the Middle Ages and the Modern Era</i>	20
Stefano Gasparri • <i>Power Rituals in Early Medieval Europe: The Iron Crown and Other Tales</i>	21
Marco Bresadola • <i>Galvani</i>	22
Sebastiano Angelo Granata • <i>Ferdinand of Bourbon</i>	23
Mariella Zoppi • <i>The Garden Lady: Gertrude Jekyll and the Freedom of Nature</i>	24



Francesco Barbagallo

The World in Chaos

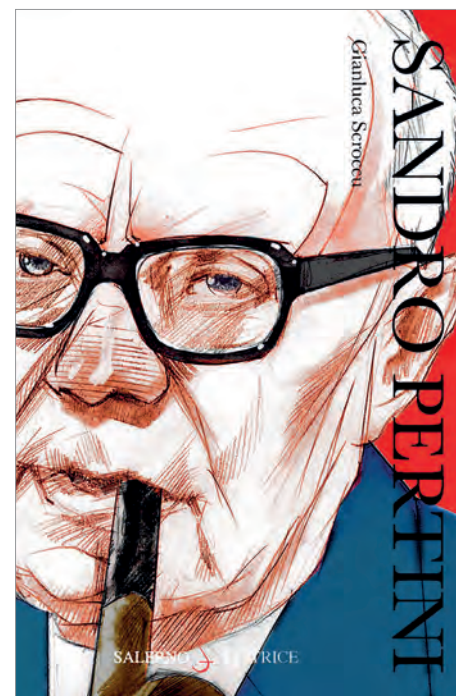
A Brief History of the 21st Century

The 21st century clearly signals a rupture with the previous century: the world finds itself at a major turning point in history and faces a major political crisis. Historical phenomena have taken on an exceptional intensity: market capitalism is giving way to surveillance capitalism; democracy's reach is shrinking; inequalities are growing; a new global order is being thrust upon us by force; and a shift from Western dominance to multipolar insecurity is underway. The political situation calls upon historians to interpret the current age. In this book, an experienced scholar seeks to guide readers through this difficult transition.

Francesco Barbagallo

is professor emeritus of Contemporary History at the Federico II University in Naples and was editor-in-chief of the journal "Studi Storici" (1983–2016).

pp. 144 • June-July 2026



Gianluca Scroccu

Sandro Pertini

(1896–1990)

"He has the soul of a crusader, and the crusader's spirit of sacrifice and dedication," Pietro Nenni wrote in his diaries on April 9, 1944, about his party comrade Sandro Pertini.

Pertini's consistency had been central to the courageous anti-fascist opposition, even when he was sentenced to a long prison sentence and confinement, as it was in the resistance struggle and in his commitment to Italian socialism post-1945. His relationship with his party would always be central. As a reformist socialist, he was an advocate of the left's unity. He held no leadership roles in the party, nor was he ever called to government roles for the centre-left, remaining a respected socialist leader but without any real power.

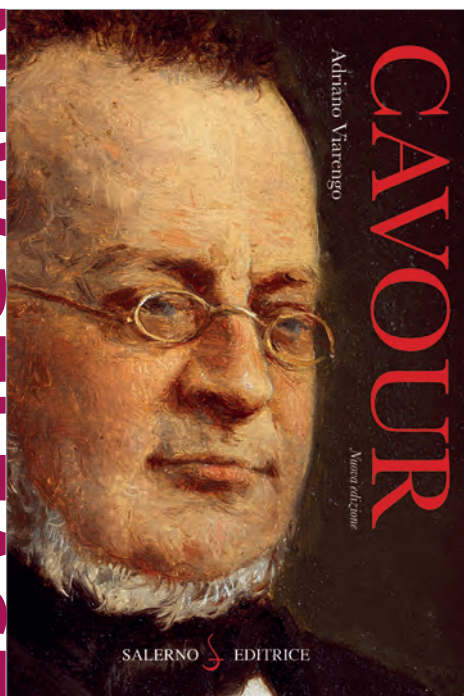
The turning point came in 1968, when he became a man of the institutions, first as President of the Chamber of Deputies, from 1968 to 1976, and then as President of the Republic, from 1978 to 1985. His seven-year presidential term played a heroic role in Italians' memory during the era of terrorism because—strengthened by citizens' support and his autonomy from the political class—he was able to interpret and defend the role of democratic institutions with authority.

Gianluca Scroccu

teaches Contemporary History at the University of Cagliari.

pp. 268





Adriano Viarengo

Camillo Benso Cavour

(1810–1861)

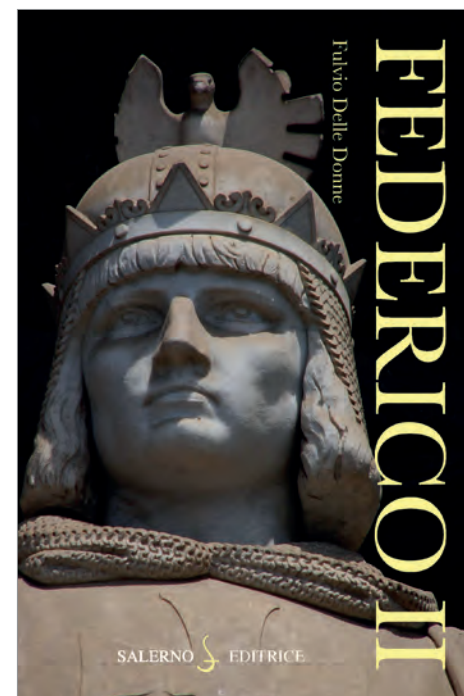
NEW EDITION

This biography of the leading personality of the history of Italian unification, the father of Risorgimento, reconstructs not only his public career—political successes, financial intrigues, conspiracies, national vision, and diplomatic skills—but also the complex psychology of the Turin statesman as he faced the challenges of the difficult choices that shaped the Italian state. The author draws on newspapers, Cavour's letters and diaries, and those of his friends, allies, and adversaries. What emerges is a comprehensive and up-to-date portrait of the nobleman, capturing the authoritarian temperament, the tenacious aspiration for change, and the frailties and uncertainties of a figure destined to go down in history as the political architect of the Risorgimento.

Adriano Viarengo

was editor and co-director of the "Rivista storia italiana." He studies the history of the Risorgimento, placing particular attention on liberal democratic figures and ideas.

pp. 580



Fulvio Delle Donne

Frederick II

(1194–1250)

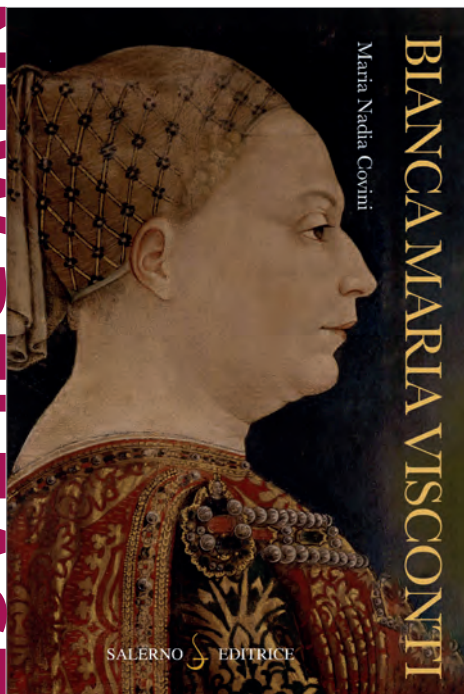


What makes an individual great and earns him eternal memory? Frederick II was the "last emperor of the Romans", according to Dante, due to the profound awareness of his role as leader of humanity. This critical profile outlines his stature through events in which even myth becomes history. By building a state, Frederick supported the era's revolutionary changes within a system featuring the convergence of law, politics, public buildings, new ideas of nobility, science, and poetry.

Fulvio Delle Donne

is a professor at the Federico II University in Naples.

pp. 336



Maria Nadia Covini

Bianca Maria Visconti

(1425–1468)

Bianca Maria Visconti played a decisive role in the life of the Signoria and then the Duchy of Milan, an equal among the ladies and princesses of her time. But if there is one exceptional item in her biography, it is her marriage to Francesco Sforza, the famous *condottiero*, whose rise to power as the Duke of Milan she facilitated. “La Bianca”, however, was never a secondary figure in Milanese social and political life: the recognized and legitimated daughter of the previous Duke of Milan, the wife of the valiant and successful warlord from 1441, the mother of many sons and daughters (she bore eight and lost two more), and later the Duchess of Milan, she was a leading figure. Never playing a merely supporting role, she was always at the forefront of the political scene: a prominent participant in the cultural landscape of Renaissance Italy, capable of acting with confidence in the fields of diplomacy, culture, and art.

Maria Nadia Covini

teaches Medieval History at the University of Milan. She has devoted numerous studies to the institutions of the Lombard Renaissance, including the Visconti and the Sforza families.

pp. 212

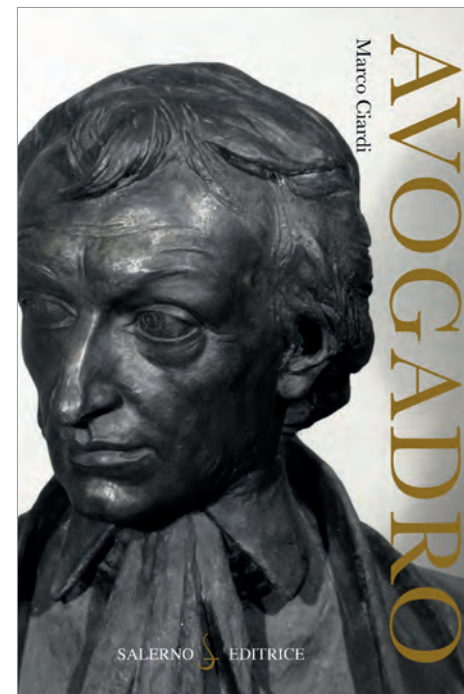
BY THE SAME AUTHOR



Ludovico Maria Sforza

pp. 296

ISBN 9788869738302



Marco Ciardi

Avogadro

(1776–1856)

The year 2026 marks the **250th anniversary of the birth** of Amedeo Avogadro, one of the world's most renowned scientists, whose name is linked to the famous “number” cited in every school textbook. In 1820, he obtained the first chair of “sublime physics” (i.e., mathematical physics) at the University of Turin. Having supported the revolutionary uprisings of 1821, he was removed from his position and did not regain his chair until 1834; he then taught for another 20 years. This is the first biography to explore not only his scientific work but also his personal story, spanning the crucial phases of history between the 18th and 19th centuries, from the French Revolution to the Risorgimento.

Marco Ciardi

teaches History of Science and Technology at the University of Florence and is the leading international specialist on Amedeo Avogadro

pp. 284



NEW RELEASE



Eric Gobetti

Invaders and Partisans

The Forgotten Italian Resistance in Montenegro

At dawn on September 9, 1943, on the outskirts of Nikšić in Montenegro, the artilleryman Sante Pelosin fired a cannon shot at a German unit advancing towards Italian-held positions. Two months later, 20,000 soldiers formed the Italian Garibaldi Partisan Division. And so began the Italian Resistance in Montenegro—a long-forgotten story of heroic and courageous choices. This book tells the tale of those men: first as occupying troops, responsible for a violent campaign of repression; then as partisans on foreign soil, surrounded by the mistrustful local population. Around half of the Italian resistance fighters died, yet the Garibaldi Division successfully returned home, with its weapons, in March 1945. This war story focuses on ordinary heroes who chose to fight Nazism beyond Italy's borders.

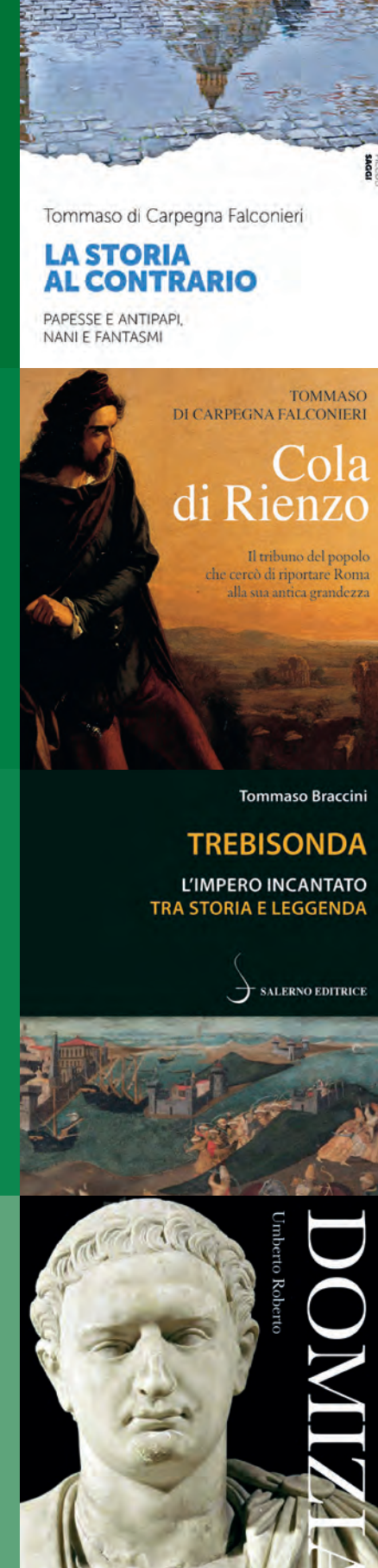
Eric Gobetti

is a freelance historian and a scholar of Fascism, World War II, resistance movements, and 20th-century Yugoslavian history.

pp. 180 • June-July 2026



RECENT BLACKLIST





Tommaso di Carpegna Falconieri

History Overturned

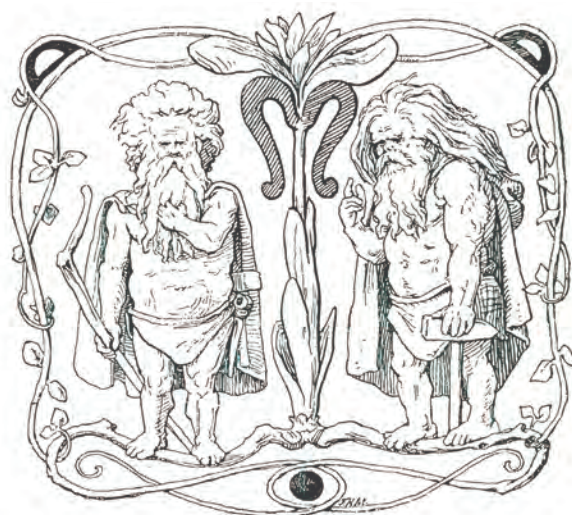
Female Popes, Antipopes, Dwarves, and Ghosts

The book helps readers to think about history in an entertaining way, as a walk along the border between truth and fiction, evidence and conjecture, reason and imagination. Featuring examples of “history overturned” – the medieval legend of Pope Joan, accounts of the great antipopes, the pseudo-essay on the phantom existence of a population of dwarves, the dreamworld where pure imagination reigns –, the text, with a light touch, highlights the extraordinary richness of the historical method.

Tommaso di Carpegna Falconieri

teaches Medieval History at the University of Urbino and is the president of the Società Romana di Storia Patria.

pp. 160



Tommaso di Carpegna Falconieri

Cola di Rienzo

The people's Tribune who tried to restore Rome to its ancient splendour

Cola di Rienzo (1313-1354) was the most famous Roman citizen of the Middle Ages. He was in contact with the pope, the emperor, and Francis Petrarch. He placed himself at the head of the Roman people, taking on the title of “Tribune Augustus”, with the aim to restore the city to its ancient splendour. The author reconstructs the life of this ambitious, contradictory, mysterious and elusive man, from his first appearance in the complex political world of the time to the violent popular uprising during which he met his tragic end. The last chapter provides an overview of Cola di Rienzo's myth over the ensuing centuries.

Tommaso di Carpegna Falconieri

teaches Medieval History at the University of Urbino and is the president of the Società Romana di Storia Patria.

pp. 196 • Previous edition: French rights sold





Tommaso Braccini

Trebizond

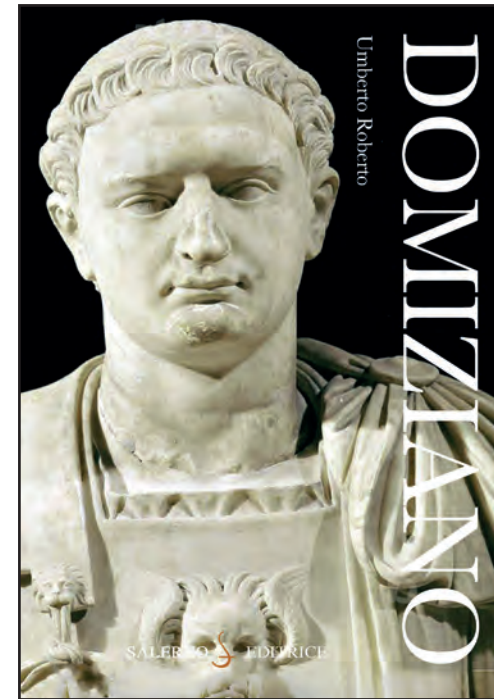
The Enchanted Empire
between History and Legend

«Of all medieval titles, none is more magical than that of Emperor of Trebizond». This is how Sir Steven Runciman, the great Byzantinist, summed up the thousand-year fascination of the last Greek empire, which was formed in 1204 and fell in 1461. In two and a half centuries it became an international crossroads, fabulously wealthy, the centre of trade, ambassadorships, intrigues, magic. The book traces the history and legend of a tiny empire in reality, but a super-power in the medieval and modern imagination.

Tommaso Braccini

teaches Classical Philology at the University of Siena.

pp. 196 • *Greek rights sold*



Umberto Roberto

Domitian

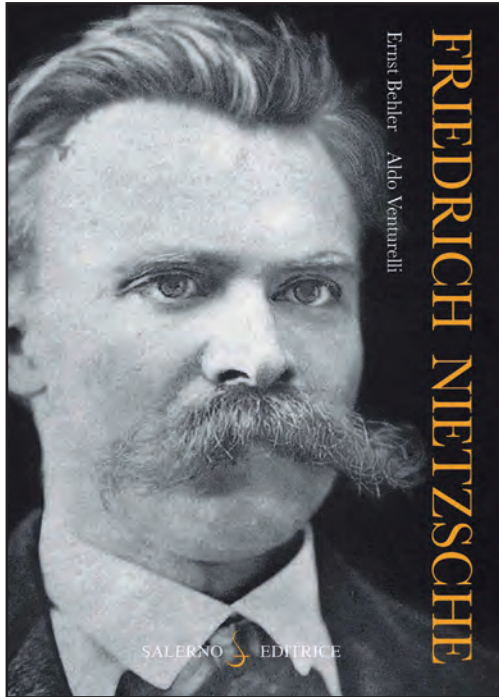
The story of Domitian (81-96 CE) is a disturbing case of historical manipulation. Descriptions of his 15-year reign have focused on his mistakes and faults, thus perpetuating an image of abominable and irredeemable cruelty. Domitian was actually a conscientious administrator and the prudent commander of an empire that he knew to be fragile and in danger. Nevertheless, his fate was shaped by tenuous alliances, intrigues, and plots that undermined his power. In the final years of his life, suspicion, fear, and isolation led Domitian to drift towards autocracy. Death came without honour amidst a conspiracy; not even the brutality of his end brought peace to the last of the Flavians. The condemnation of Domitian continues to characterise an entire period of Roman history.

Umberto Roberto

teaches Roman History at the Federico II University in Naples and heads the Italian Institute of Ancient History. He is an expert in imperial history, the history of late antiquity, and the history of historiography.

pp. 328



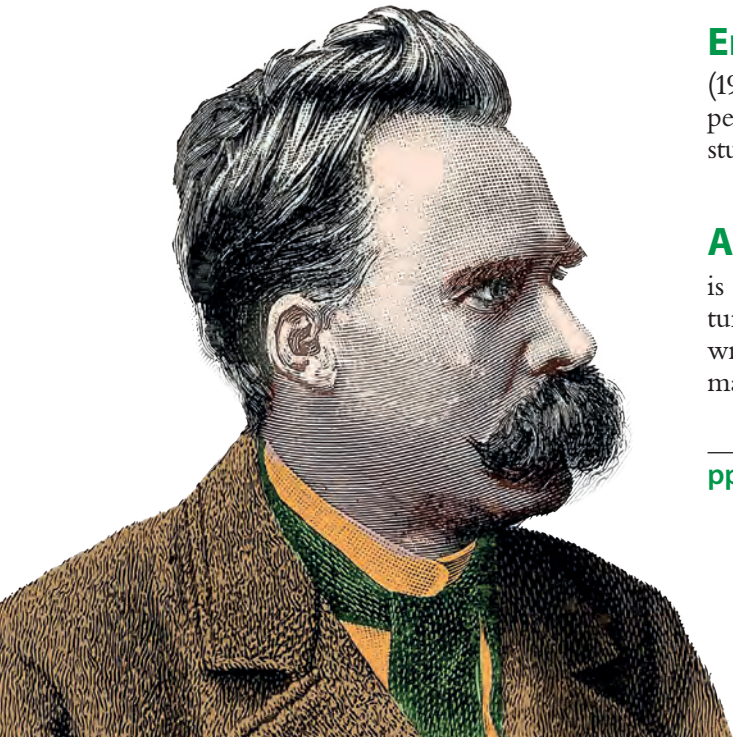


Ernst Behler
& Aldo Venturelli

Friedrich Nietzsche

A Philosophical Life,
the Pathos of Knowledge,
and the Contradictions
of Modernity

The Übermensch, the will to power, the Dionysian, and nihilism are some of the many ideas and theories evoked by the mere mention of Nietzsche, even though they are often reduced to empty platitudes. This book – in a new, carefully revised and updated edition – explores the enduringly enigmatic figure of Nietzsche through a historically and philologically grounded account of his life and philosophy.



Ernst Behler

(1926-1997) was a major scholar of European romanticism and the author of key studies devoted to Nietzsche's thinking.

Aldo Venturelli

is professor emeritus of German Literature at the University of Urbino and has written essays and books dealing with many facets of Nietzsche's thought.

pp. 308



Guido Carpi

Lenin

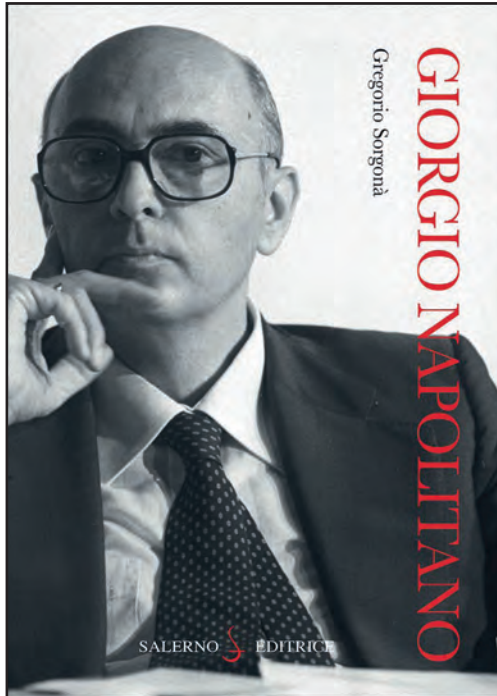
Lenin's biography is closely linked to the destiny of Russia. Alongside his political skills as a seasoned tactician, this book fully reveals his formidable strategic acumen, fuelled by his boundless utopianism, which left an indelible mark on the history of a people. This profile is the culmination of a decade of research and shorter publications by the author and aims to depict the broad historical context of the Bolshevik leader's political and intellectual evolution.

Guido Carpi

teaches Russian Literature at the Orientale University in Naples.

pp. 488





Gregorio Sargonà

Giorgio Napolitano

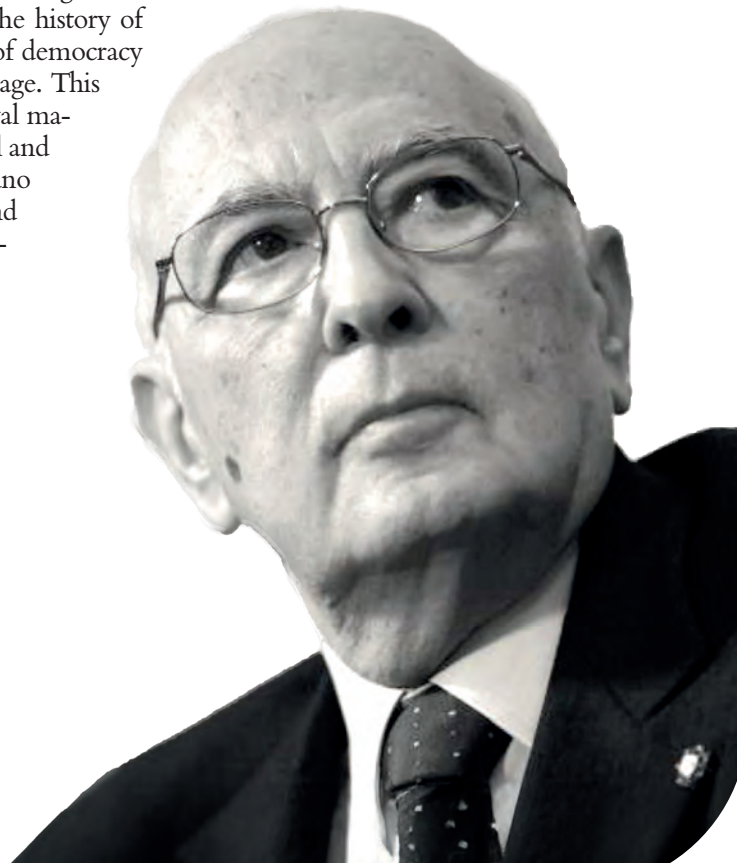
A Key Political and Institutional Figure in Contemporary Italy

Giorgio Napolitano was one of Italy's longest-serving politicians. His public career, spanning some seventy years, was intertwined with the history of the country, from the reconstruction of democracy on the ashes of fascism to the digital age. This book explores a vast amount of archival material and draws on the many historical and journalistic sources involving Napolitano and the history of the organisations and institutions in which he played an active role.

Gregorio Sargonà

is a researcher at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa

pp. 304



Francesca Romana Berno

Luxuria

Tales of Banquets, Villas, and Other Indulgences in Ancient Rome

Luxuria was the vice of excess in all its forms in ancient Rome. This book tells the stories of famous people – Lucullus, Nero, Cleopatra, Apicius – and introduces readers to both their public profligacy (during banquets and feasts) and private intemperance (undertaken behind the shelter provided by villas). The debauchery of emperors and philosophers accompanies readers through a wide range of personified immoralities that reflect the lustful imagination of the ancient world.

Francesca Romana Berno

teaches Latin Language and Literature at the Sapienza University in Rome. She studies the history of ideas and philosophical vocabulary and has worked extensively on Cicero, Ovid, and especially Seneca.

pp. 184





Giacomo Todeschini

Second-Hand

The Value of Things
in the Middle Ages
and the Modern Era



At the end of the Middle Ages, second-hand trade on a large scale emerged within a context of consumption growth, led by an expanding number of consumers. It was a pivotal phenomenon, reflecting the spread of a wide variety of retail goods, ranging from clothes to jewellery to household utensils. Considerable quantities of used, recycled, new, or apparently new objects invaded markets, activating trends in consumer behaviour, values, and prices that remain relevant today.

Giacomo Todeschini

formerly taught Medieval History at the University of Trieste.

pp. 216

BY THE SAME AUTHOR



*Like Water and Blood:
The Medieval Origins of
Economic Thought*

pp. 336

ISBN 9788829005000

Portuguese (Brazil) rights sold



Stefano Gasparri

Power Rituals in Early Medieval Europe

The Iron Crown
and Other Tales

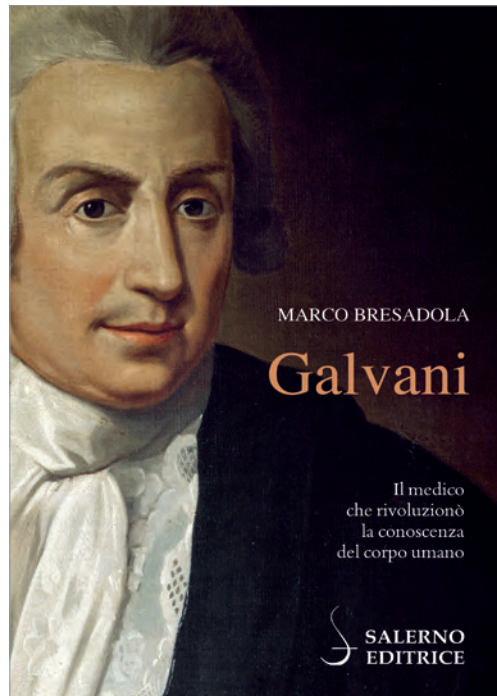
Rituals represent one of the most effective means to explore power in the early Middle Ages when the traditions of the late Roman Empire and barbarian military customs merged within a context increasingly shaped by religion. The author examines “power rituals”: hunting, war games, hairstyles, banquets, gift exchanges, and many others. These rituals conveyed an idea of society and its internal hierarchy that was shared – albeit with different perspectives – by rulers and aristocrats.

Stefano Gasparri

is a professor emeritus of Medieval History at the Ca' Foscari University in Venice and a former president of the Italian Society of Medieval Historians.

pp. 236





Marco Bresadola

Galvani

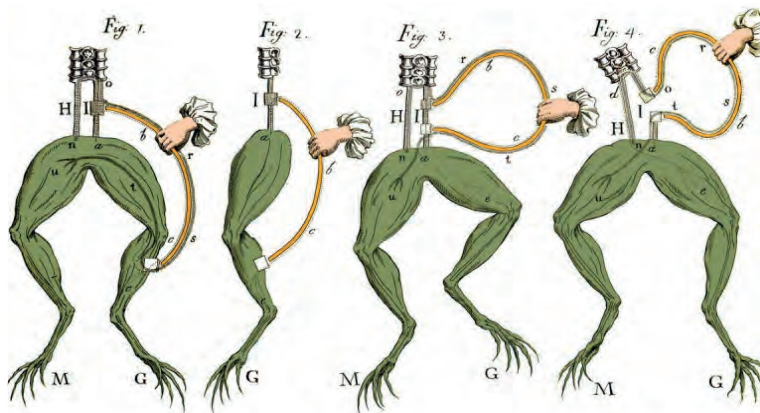
The Physician Who
Revolutionised Knowledge
of the Human Body

This book is the first modern biography of Luigi Galvani, whose experiments on frogs contributed to the birth of neuroscience. The author describes the life and work of the Bologna physician in the cultural context of the Age of Enlightenment, underscoring Galvani's academic ambitions, religious devotion, and experimental creativity. His work contributed to fundamental scientific discoveries, such as Alessandro Volta's battery, and outstanding literary innovations, such as Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

Marco Bresadola

teaches History and Communication of Science at the University of Ferrara. He has devoted more than 20 years to the study of Galvani's work, medicine and life sciences throughout the modern and contemporary ages.

pp. 236



Sebastiano Angelo
Granata

Ferdinand of Bourbon

A frequently cited personality, Ferdinand of Bourbon (1725-1825) – the “rascal king” according to his critics, an innovative sovereign in the eyes of his nostalgic supporters – has received little attention from historians. A complex monarch and a major figure of his age, he is often considered a puppet controlled by his father, his wife, his ministers, or the era's major powers. This book provides an overview of his life and focuses on his projects, passions, triumphs, and mistakes – an original portrait, both political and personal, set against the backdrop of a kingdom undergoing turbulent change.

Sebastiano Angelo Granata

teaches Contemporary History at the University of Catania. His research focuses on Southern Italy from the 18th to the 21st century.

pp. 280





Mariella Zoppi

The Garden Lady

Gertrude Jekyll
and the Freedom of Nature

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, Gertrude Jekyll was the first woman to take a professional interest in the world of gardens. With more than 400 creations to her name, she became a reference point for an entire generation and successfully turned her personal interests into an independent and profitable profession, so much so that she became an icon of emancipation in an area dominated by men. Thanks to her, the figure of the female gardener spread throughout England and drew attention to well-educated women featuring strong artistic training, specialised botanical skills, and practical knowledge developed through ceaseless effort in the field.

Mariella Zoppi

is an architect and a professor emeritus of Landscape Architecture at the University of Florence. She has developed urban plans, parks, and gardens in Italy and abroad, and taught at the University of California, Berkeley and Zhejiang Normal University.

pp. 200



Founded in 1972, Salerno editrice is essentially aimed at an audience of students, scholars and readers of non-fiction, especially historical non-fiction.

Starting from July 2023, the publishing company was acquired by Carocci editore, with the aim of enhancing its production and strengthening its position in the high-profile non-fiction market.

Viale di Villa Massimo, 47
00161 Roma
tel. 06 42 81 84 17

For Inquiries:

Foreign Rights

Marta Mazzucchelli

tel. +39 051 25 60 11

marta.mazzucchelli@mulino.it

www.salernoeditrice.it