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## Foreword

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The second edition of our English-language “Yearbook”, which we present here, consolidates the project launched over a year ago by the journal *Italia contemporanea* with the support of the Istituto Nazionale Ferruccio Parri and the publisher FrancoAngeli. With this new edition, the journal renews the practice of translating into English a selection of research articles and shorter discussion articles that the journal has published, in Italian, in the previous year. This initiative continues to represent a valuable form of transnational dissemination of the research and the historiographical and methodological debates that usually appear in the pages of *Italia contemporanea*. Indeed, the journal hopes to continue to make an innovative contribution to the project of making Italian historiography more competitive by overcoming the scarce global knowledge of its language and encouraging intellectual exchange with scholars of Italian history based abroad.

Containing five research articles and four shorter discussion articles, the Yearbook 2021 is the result of a careful selection of contributions that have already been published in the journal’s open access section. The selected texts shed light on a variety of themes, issues, and historiographical and methodological approaches. Some have been chosen for their capacity to enhance a comparative, transnational or global reading of Italian history, others because they represent the lines of research and original approaches that the journal intends to promote: the history of labour and industry; racism as an ideological, scientific and social construction; the Second World War and the management of its dramatic legacy in the post-war period; the development of social policies in Republican Italy and the intersection of normative-legislative dimensions, intellectual and political debates, and socio-cultural dynamics; the many faces and historical cycles of the Resistance and anti-fascism as a reference point (to be redefined) for new political movements in the second half of the twentieth century; social history and the methodological issues that it continues to raise, including the intertwining of micro and macro perspectives and “games of scale”.

It should be noted that editing a journal that proudly continues to call itself “Italia contemporanea” constantly confronts us with the problem of how to reconcile national, regional and local scales, offering a dynamic overview capable of locating themes and issues in the most appropriate contexts and restoring their interconnections — or even their deviations and specificities — in comparison to the global framework. Our authors visibly share this problematic perspective, highlighting the force of the global turn but also the growing need not to neglect the materiality of the contexts in which social actors move.

Furthermore, by linguistically enhancing — so to speak — our open access section, thus making it even more capable of dialoguing with the world, we once again set ourselves the task of communicating and disseminating historical research that may transcend purely academic concerns and foster opportunities for discussion and critical awareness of the present time and the context in which we, as scholars, daily operate. In sum, another reason for us to continue talking about “Italia contemporanea”.