



HISTORY
LAW &
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HISTORY

RELIGION, IDEOLOGY, POLITICS, AND LAW. A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH IN THE FRAME OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

edited by
Ulrico Agnati and Mario Varvaro



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PROCEEDINGS OF THE
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PREFACE

ULRICO AGNATI, MARIO VARVARO

The contemporary interconnected world showcases particularly tight knots, each made up by many threads. Having a deep knowledge of the threads is necessary to unravel the knots.

The secularized Western population has been awakened in recent years and has been forced to dismiss its self-referential confidence, discovering numerous knots to disentangle: one, of particular importance for social living in a globalized scenario, is that which tightly intertwines religion, ideology, politics, and law.

The scholars who contributed to this volume, even from different backgrounds, share an interest in this intertwining, due to their previous individual experiences in their research's fields.

Each scholar has faced a knot represented by a specific problem, more or less extensive, more or less dramatic and epochal. Therefore, the reciprocal influences of religion, politics, law, and ideology are shown by various and different angles.

The focus of the events discussed in the following pages spans over two millennia. The most recent events thoroughly analyzed date back to the eighteenth century, but numerous connections with contemporaneity appear in each essay, which examine situations that show analogies with the present and give possible suggestions for the future. Moreover, each paper pulls the strings of some processes, mechanisms and realities that are still flourishing today and that deserve to be fully understood through the study of their origins and developments in order to be governed.

In his commencement speech at Stanford University in 2005, Steve Jobs stated: "You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future". In various ways, the present collection of studies represents an attempt to connect some dots looking backwards and heading towards the future.

This *humus* gave birth to this book; it collects the Proceedings of the international congress about *Religion, Ideology, Politics, and Law. A Multi-disciplinary Approach in the Frame of European History* and reproduces the papers in the same chronological order as the speakers delivered their lectures. In fact, the Congress explored from an historical perspective the intertwining of religion, ideology, politics, and law in European history, from Greek times to the Enlightenment.

The discussion was carried out in an interdisciplinary way, involving various fields, such as ancient and medieval history, Roman and medieval and modern legal history, the history of Christianity and the Churches, the history of the Jews, the history of religions and ecclesiastical law with a particular focus on Islamic legal tradition.

The congress, held in Palermo on 5 of March 2020, was supported by several institutions: the Universities of Palermo, Parma, and Urbino 'Carlo Bo'; the Department of Culture Heritage of the University of Salento and the Department of History and Cultures of the University of Bologna; the Open Universiteit of the Netherlands; the European Academy of Religion and the Association for Religious Studies 'Giovanni XXIII' (*Associazione per le Scienze religiose Giovanni XXIII*); the Union of Jewish Communities in Italy (*Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche in Italia*) and the Sicilian Institute of Jewish Studies (*Istituto Siciliano di Studi Ebraici*); the Mayor, the Culture Department, and the Library System, Ethno-anthropological Spaces and City Archives (*Sistema bibliotecario Spazi etnoantropologici e Archivio Cittadino*) of the City of Palermo.

When we began to organize the congress, we planned an edition of the Proceedings which could be published both in a printed version and in open access.

We wish to thank Emanuela Prinziavalli for writing the introduction to the book, and the authors of the articles for their contributions.

We also would like to express our gratitude to the University of Palermo, the Open Universiteit of the Netherlands and the Department of Economy Society and Politics of the University of Urbino 'Carlo Bo' for the financial support of the editorial and publication costs of these Proceedings.

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1. Raimondo Santoro, *Per la storia dell'obligatio I.*, 2020.
2. Mario Varvaro (a cura di), *L'eredità di Salvatore Riccobono*, 2020.
3. Antonio Lindiner, *Credito immobiliare ai consumatori e obblighi di condotta degli intermediari*, 2021.
4. Ulrico Agnati and Mario Varvaro (eds.), *Religion, Ideology, Politics, and Law. A Multidisciplinary Approach in the Frame of European History*, 2022.

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One knot of critical importance for social living in the contemporary globalized scenario is that which tightly intertwines religion, ideology, politics, and law. In 2005 Steve Jobs stated: “You can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future”. The present collection of studies represents an attempt to connect some dots looking backwards and heading towards the future. It collects the results of numerous reasearches on this subject, discussed in the international congress about *Religion, Ideology, Politics, and Law. A Multidisciplinary Approach in the Frame of European History*, held in Palermo on 5 March 2020. The theme is considered from different angles and in various periods of European history, from Roman times to the Enlightenment, underscoring the numerous connections with contemporaneity. The interdisciplinary approach of these Proceedings involves fields such as ancient, medieval, and modern history, legal history, the history of religions and ecclesiastical law, with a further focus on Islamic legal tradition.