



Politics and Society in Italian Crime Fiction: An Historical Overview

By Barbara Pezzotti

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This book comprehensively covers the history of Italian crime fiction from its origins to the present. Using the concept of "moral rebellion," the author examines the ways in which Italian crime fiction has articulated the country's social and political changes. The book concentrates on such writers as Augusto de Angelis (1888-1944), Giorgio Scerbanenco (1911-1969), Leonardo Sciascia (1921-1989), Andrea Camilleri (b. 1925), Loriano Macchiavelli (b. 1934), Massimo Carlotto (b. 1956), and Marcello Fois (b. 1960). Through the analysis of writers belonging to differing crucial periods of Italy's history, this work reveals the many ways in which authors exploit the genre to reflect social transformation and dysfunction.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A timely and fascinating study of Italian crime fiction as politically committed art, it brilliantly illuminates how the genre both reflects and more importantly intervenes in the important social and political changes of the 20th and 21st centuries." --Andrew Pepper, Queen's University Belfast

"Through a careful reading of the works of some of the major writers of detective fiction from its origins to the present, Barbara Pezzotti provides a lucid and comprehensive overview of the development of the genre in Italy. She astutely demonstrates how, far from being pure escapism, Italian detective fiction has always aimed at being the nation's critical conscience, shedding light on and articulating a critique of its social disorders and dysfunctions. A crucial book to understand why the genre has become so important in the current literary landscape." --Luca Somigli, University of Toronto

"Interweaving history and context with full accounts of major authors, Pezzotti demonstrates for the first time how crime fiction has dynamically energized the social and political self-consciousness of modern Italy." --Stephen Knight, Melbourne University

About the Author

Barbara Pezzotti is an honorary research associate of the Australasian Centre for Italian Studies. Author of a 2012 book and several journal articles on Italian crime fiction and co-editor of a volume on international crime writing, she lives in New Zealand.

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