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“Italian Futures,” Part II

Risorgimento, Then and Now

A User’s Manual

The rationale for Part II is given in the editors’ introduction. In addition to this “User’s Manual,” Part II contains three headings.

--Prologue to Paul Ginsborg’s *Salviamo l’Italia*, the book from which we took occasion to organize an international Video Roundtable under the rubric, “Salviamo l’Italia?” While the discussion recorded in the Roundtable was based on the participants’ readings of the book as a whole, the Prologue lays out many of its basic concerns. It is to be hoped that a complete English translation will appear in the near future.

--Video Roundtable, Links and Summary. The Roundtable was introduced by Randolph Starn who jointly chaired the proceedings with Lucy Riall, at that time Visiting Lecturer in the Chair of Italian Culture at UC Berkeley. John Agnew (UCLA) participated in Berkeley. Joining us from the Video Conference Room at NYU’s Villa La Pietra in Florence were Paul Ginsborg himself, Alberto Maria Banti, and Silvana Patriarca. For technical reasons, the Roundtable is divided into a series of numbered links of between 15 and 25 minutes apiece. The contents of each segment are indicated beside the links, and are then given in extensive written summaries to allow the user to consult specific portions of the proceedings. Regrettably, while the proceedings are clearly audible, another technical issue resulted in an uneven visual record of the two sites of the Roundtable: while the participants in Florence are shown on the full screen throughout, those in Berkeley appear only in a smaller inset box.

--Response to Ginsborg’s book and to the conference proceedings by Adrian Lyttelton.

The most natural sequence for following Part II would be: Ginsborg Prologue,, Video Conference summary and clips, Lyttelton response; but each of these items may be accessed separately at the reader/viewer’s discretion.

It remains to thank those who made this special segment of “Italian Futures” possible: Paul Ginsborg for permitting us to publish the English version of his Prologue, the six participants in the Roundtable itself (and the members of the audience at the time, particularly those who then asked the questions recorded in the video); Adrian Lyttelton for agreeing to respond post facto and on short notice; Scott Vento and Dave Kapsiak of UC Berkeley’s Educational Technology Services who were responsible for technical arrangements in Berkeley; Marina Romani who handled other aspects of the event; Professor Jane Tylus who arranged for the use of the Villa La Pietra facilities; Elisabetta Clementi and Mario Carcasci of the La Pietra staff; Angela Reginato and Regina Longo who processed the video for posting on *CIS*.