

**MICHELE PELLEGRINI**

# THE WESTERN BORDER

**FROM LANGUE D'OC TO "NO TAV" MOVEMENT**

This is the second volume of the "border tetralogy" ("The eastern border" by Giorgio F. Siboni was published in February 2013) which will be followed by "The northern border" and "The southern border".

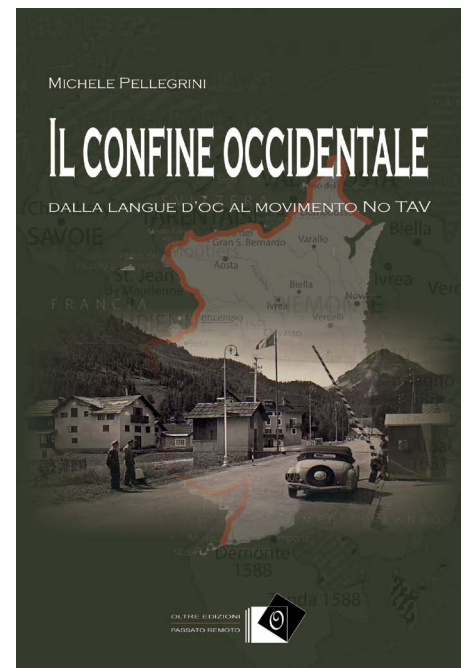
The lands where the Italian-French border have run for the past hundred and fifty years have been a range of different things: meeting passage-ways between different cultures and religious identities, the center of domination of the Ancient Regime that was for centuries a passage State with possessions here and beyond the Alps. It has been a world united by language and culture: with its heart, in the Alps, between Savoy and Piedmont, that was the Mont Cenis; it was in 1860 that a border from there was created for the first time, presented as an inevitable linear that partly ripped and scattered this human community. The mute witnesses of that border today are the countless "Bastiani fortresses" that melancholically watch over the Alpine peaks. For centuries men of the valleys of western Piedmont regarded France as a country of emigration which was to become an enemy following the entry of Italy into

the war alongside Germany in June 1940. The "coup de poignard dans le dos" was the reason of the French demands at the end of the war that, addressed initially also to Valle d'Aosta, forced Italy to give Briga and Tenda away following the Treaty of Paris of 1947.

The intent of this paper is to present complex topics to a non-expert audience, because despite the many deep and rapid changes that have occurred, far too much of the past continues to be registered in our present, so that we do not have the luxury of ignoring it.

#### The author

**Michele Pellegrini** (Milano, 1981) Graduated at the University of Milan in Medieval Church History and Heretical Movements (2004), he received his PhD in the History of Christianity and the Christian churches at the University of Padova (2008); he is an archivist and paleographer. As an author of several studies of medieval and modern history, his research looks at ecclesiastical institutions and the history of cultural and religious minorities, with a special interest in



central and northern Italy. He is an ordinary member of the Società Storica Lombarda and of the "Società Dalmata di Storia Patria", and also a member of the Scientific Committee of the series Ténnes - Edited by Leone.