

HISTORY
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ANTONIO MARIA ORECCHIA

THE DIFFICULT UNITY

YESTERDAY'S HISTORY, TODAY'S NEWS

The book traces the Italian Risorgimento through its large and small incidents, the feelings, the great ideals but also the contradictions and clashes that existed between the different political and cultural souls living in that era: from the Napoleon's descent to the escapes, the exiles and pitchforks of young patriots; from the secret societies to the barricades of 1848; from Solferino to the expedition of the thousand. And also from Mazzini to Garibaldi, from Carlo Alberto to Vittorio Emanuele II, from Cavour to Giuseppe Verdi.

Ample space is left to allow the protagonists to speak through their writings, official and unofficial documents, the letters, reflections, hopes and disappointments, in search of the reasons that created and spread the idea of nation and of "Italy".

But, at the same time, also to the decisive choices that left a legacy of unsolved problems, many of which are still current: federalism and centralism, the issue of the South, and the complicated relationship with the Church.

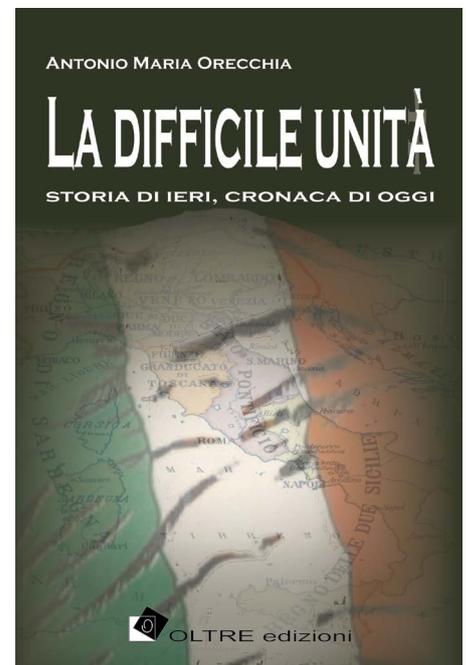
This is a chronological narrative that focuses on the failures and the victories, the passions and the deep meaning of the Risorgimento, the process of modernization that led Italians to conquer the modern freedoms of press and association, the guarantee of the rights, independence and representative institutions.

Finally, the book deals with what remains of the Risorgimento today, tracing the controversial debate in recent years on the main Italian newspapers featuring intellectuals, columnists and politicians of national fame.

A debate that has led many observers to write about an "Assault on the Risorgimento."

The author

Antonio Maria Orecchia teaches "Contemporary History" and "History of Movements and Political Parties" at the University dell'Insubria (Varese). He is involved in politics and institutions of contemporary Italy, and in particular the role of leading groups in the formation of Italian Unity. His publications include: *Federico Confal-*



nieri. Memorie (Milano 2004), *Gabrio Casati patrizio milanese patriota italiano* (Milano 2007); and *La Stampa e la Memoria. Le foibe, l'esodo e il confine orientale nelle pagine dei giornali lombardi agli albori della Repubblica* (Varese 2008).