

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies
Persecution and Deportation in Western Europe
Anti-Jewish Legislation and Persecution of the Jews in Western Nazi Occupied Europe: some examples - The Persecution of the Italian Jews under Fascist rule.
Translation: *La Stampa Frontpage*

LA STAMPA:

The Racial Problem in Fascist Italy

Italy's present day population is of Aryan origin and its civilization is Aryan. The ancient purity of blood is the greatest title of nobility of the Italian Nation. Jews do not belong to the Italian race.

Rome, July 14th .

A group of Fascist academic scholars from Italian universities, under the patronage of the Ministry of Popular Culture has expressed the position of Fascism concerning the problems of race in the following terms:

1) **Human races exist.** --- The existence of human races is not just the fruit of an abstraction of our mind, but rather coincides with a physical reality that is material and perceivable with our senses. This reality is represented by masses, almost always imposing, of millions of people similar in physical and psychological characteristics, which have been inherited and continue to be inherited. Saying that human races exist does not imply a priori that superior or inferior human races exist, but only that different human races exist.

2) **There exist large races and small races.** --- One cannot only justify the existence of those major systematical groups that are commonly called races and are identified merely by a relative number of characteristics. One must also admit that minor systematical groups exist (as for example the Nordics, the Mediterraneans, etc), distinguished by a larger number of common characteristics. These groups, from a biological point of view, constitute the true races, the existence of which is an obvious truth.

3) **The concept of race is a purely biological concept.** --- Hence it is based on other considerations rather than concepts of People and Nation, which are founded essentially on historical, linguistic, and religious considerations. Nonetheless, racial differences are found at the roots of differences inherent to the terms People and Nation. If the Italians are different from the French, the Germans, the Turks, the Greeks, etc., it is not just because they have a different language and a different history. It is because these peoples have a different racial constitution: made up by

different proportions of different races which from very ancient times created different populations, whether one race had absolute dominance over the others, or all became harmoniously blended, or, finally, whether the different races still coexist unassimilated one to the other.

4) The population of contemporary Italy is Aryan in origin and its civilization is Aryan. --- This population has an Aryan civilization, it has inhabited our peninsula for several millennia; very little has remained of the civilizations of pre-Aryan peoples. The origin of present day Italians stems essentially from elements of those very races which constitute and have constituted the lively fabric of Europe.

5) The influx of huge masses of men in historical times is a myth. --- After the invasion of the Longobards, Italy has not seen any other notable movement of populations capable of influencing the racial features of the Nation. From this derives that while in other European nations the racial composition has varied notably even in modern times, in Italy, for the most part, today's racial composition is the same as it was thousands of years ago. Therefore, the 44 million of contemporary Italians are, in their absolute majority, the issues of families that have inhabited Italy for at least a millennium.

6) There exists by now a pure "Italian race". --- This statement is not based on a confusion between the biological concept of race and the historical-linguistic concept of People and Nation, but rather on the purest blood link which ties contemporary Italians to the generations that populated Italy for millennia. This ancient purity of blood is the greatest title of nobility of the Italian Nation.

7) It is time for the Italians to proclaim themselves openly racist. All the work that the regime in Italy has done up to this day can essentially be defined racism. Very frequent was always, in the speeches of Our Leader, the appeal to concepts of race. The question of racism in Italy should be treated from a purely biological point of view, without reference to philosophy or religion. The perception of racism in Italy ought to be essentially Italian and its direction Aryan-Nordic. This does not mean, however, that the theories of German racism should be introduced into Italy as they are, or that one should claim that Italians and Scandinavians are the same. It intends only to point out to the Italians a physical and especially psychological model of human race, which in its purely European characteristics, is separated completely from all of the non-European races. This means to elevate the Italians to an ideal of a superior self-consciousness and of a greater responsibility.

8) It is necessary to set a clear distinction between Mediterranean (Western) Europeans on the one side and Eastern and African on the other. --- Therefore, those theories that claim the African origin of some European populations and that include even Semitic and Hamitic populations in a common Mediterranean race, thereby establishing absolutely inadmissible relations and ideological sympathies, are to be deemed dangerous.

9) **The Jews do not belong to the Italian race.** --- Of those Semites who in the course of centuries have landed on the sacred soil of our homeland, nothing in general has remained. Even from the Arab occupation of Sicily, nothing has been left outside the remnants of some names; and for the rest, the process of assimilation has always been very rapid in Italy. The Jews represent the only population which has never assimilated in Italy since it is composed of non-European racial elements completely different from the elements from which the Italians have originated.

10) **The purely European physical and psychological characteristics of the Italians ought not to be altered in any way.** --- Union is admissible only with European races, in which case one cannot claim true and proper hybridism, given the fact that these races belong to a common stock and differ only in certain characteristics, while they are the same in many others. The purely European character of the Italians is altered by breeding with any other European race bearing a civilization different from the millenarian civilization of the Aryans.

The ten points concerning the race problem have no need of interpretation. They represent solid stands, the result of examination and studies conducted with strict method and fair judgment, free of systematic exasperations and also free of hesitation, of uncertainty, of condescension. The documented and exalted purity of the blood of our Nation cannot but fill our spirits with pride. It is a most precious good that must be conserved and reinforced. Those elements which are foreign to our race are extremely limited, but that is no excuse to lessen our duty to prevent and forbid infiltrations that any population always tends to bear.

The echo in Berlin

Berlin, July 14th. The evening papers have barely had the time to acknowledge the manifest of the race issued in Italy and have registered the fact, though without comments so far, in their tomorrow morning editions. From the important document, the fundamental points, amongst them the one regarding the Jews, have been highlighted.

Translated by Victor Stow