War and Genocide, Reconstruction and Change: The Global Pontificate of Pius XII, 1939–1958

Research Meeting
Rome, 14 – 16 June 2021

Livestream
Registration is required:
14.6. and 16.6. École Française de Rome
For registration, please check the website of the École française de Rome

15.6. German Historical Institute in Rome
For registration please send an e-mail to info-event@dhi-roma.it (deadline: 14 June 2021).

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With support of

In March 2020, the Vatican has opened its archives for the pontificate of Pius XII. Long-awaited within the scholarly community, these new sources will allow historians to address a whole range of topics that extend beyond Eugenio Pacelli’s biography and relate to greater questions of global politics as well as twentieth-century social and economic history. This shared conference of the German Historical Institute and the École Française in Rome will now offer new archival perspectives on this period.

Pius XII steered the Catholic Church not only through the mass violence of the Second World War and the Holocaust, but also through the period of post-war reconstruction, the Cold War, and finally into a new era of globalization. This pontificate, in other words, stands amidst of the “Age of Extremes” that forced Catholics to situate themselves in relation to conflicting ideologies, totalitarianism, democracy, and modernity. Although a period of accelerating secularization, the pontificate also witnessed the re-emergence of the Catholic Church as an influential global force.

Fig.: Pius XII, visiting the San Lorenzo district of Rome after a bombing, 13 August 1943 (© Wikimedia Commons).
Monday, 14 June 2021, 9.00 am – 18.00 pm
École française de Rome

9.00  Brigitte Marin | Director of the EFR
Martin Baumeister | Director of the DHI
Sergio Pagano | Prefect of the Vatican Apostolic Archive
Address of Welcome

9.15  Nina Valbousquet | Roma & Simon Unger-Alvi | Roma
Research Questions on Pius XII

I - Archival Opportunities

9.30  Giovanni Coco | Città del Vaticano
Scrivere e riscrivere la Storia. L’apertura degli Archivi Vaticani per il pontificato di Pio XII

Suzanne Brown-Fleming | Washington
Il Papa Tedesco: Eugenio Pacelli and Germany

Sascha Hinkel | Münster, Jörg Hönschemeyer | Roma
The Man Eugenio Pacelli in the Online Edition of his Nuncial Reports from Germany: A Digital Approach

11.00 Break

II - Snapshots of a Papacy: Power and Media

11.30  Camilla Tenaglia | Trento
Card. Eugenio Pacelli becomes Pius XII: the Mediatization of a Papal Election

Michael Berkowitz | London
The Making of Pius XII – by Sammy Schulman?

René Schlott | Potsdam
The Death of Pope Pius XII as a Global Event

13.00 Lunch Break

III - Church Government and Authority

14.30  Elisabeth Richter | Münster
Censoring Books during the Turbulent Years of War and beyond: the Index of Forbidden Books during the Pontificate of Pius XII

Fabien Archambault | Limoges
L’excommunication des communistes en 1949

Stefan Samerski | München
The Saints of the Pope – Canonization and Beatification in the Age of Pius XII

16.00 Break

IV - The Church and the Holocaust

16.30  Hubert Wolf | Münster
Asking the Pope for Help. A Critical Online Edition

18.00  Tommaso Dell’Era | Viterbo
Anti-Jewish Prejudices and Theological Definition of Racism: their Impact on the Catholic Church’s Attitudes during the Shoah

Elena Mazzini | Firenze
The Local Church, the Holy See and the Rescue Practices. The Aids to the Jews during the Nazi-Fascist Occupation of Florence in light of New Archival Knowledge

Alessandro Santagata | Padova
Il cattolicesimo italiano nella Resistenza (1943–1945): stato della ricerca e nuove prospettive

Tuesday, 15 June 2021, 11.00 am – 19.30 pm
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V - Postwar Reconstruction

11.00  Gianfranco Armando | Città del Vaticano
Gli archivi della POA e dell’ONARMO: Chiesa cattolica e ricostruzione post-bellica

Rosario Forlenza | Roma, Bjorn Thomassen | Roskilde
Pius XII and the Emergence of Christian Democracy in Post-World War II Europe

Camille Mahé | Paris
The Role of the Pontificia Commissione di Assistenza in the Reconstruction of Italy in the Second Post-War Period

Marie Levant | Paris
Pius XII and the Middle East: General Background and Case Studies

12.30 Lunch Break

VI - A Global Church in the Postwar Era

14.00  Olivier Sibre | Paris
The Holy See and the New World: Asia-Pacific (China, Korea, Japan) from 1945 to 1955

Jaime Pensado | Notre Dame, Indiana
The Radicalization of Latin American Catholic Students During the Postwar Era
Wednesday, 16 June 2021, 11.00 am – 16.00 pm
École française de Rome

VIII - Cold War and Communism

11.00 José Ramón Rodríguez Lago | Vigo
The Iberian Axis. The Catholic Factor and the Role Played by the Vatican and the United States in Spain and Portugal between 1939 and 1958

Emilia Hrabovec | Bratislava
La Santa Sede e la Cecoslovacchia nel contesto dell’inizio della guerra fredda 1945–1949

Marion Dotter | München
Watching the Iron Curtain’s Descent: Perception and Reaction of the Holy See to the Development of a Communist Rule in East Central Europe

Cécile Gonçalves | Paris
Global Anticommunism and the Dogma of the Assumption in Salazarist Portugal

12.30 Lunch Break

IX - Political and Cultural Changes: Toward Vatican II

14.00 Rachel Johnston-White | Groningen
The Catholic Church and the Question of Authority, 1939–1962

Michael O’Sullivan | Poughkeepsie, New York
Sex and Birth Control in West Germany: Reacting to Pius XII’s Speeches on the Rhythm Method

Kristien Suenens | Leuven
The Vatican Archives and Transformations of Convent Life in Post-War Belgium

Liviana Gazzetta | Roma
Mondo cattolico italiano e cittadinanza femminile durante il pontificato di Pio XII (1939–1958)

15.30 Nina Valbousquet | Roma &
— Simon Unger-Alvi | Roma
16.00 Concluding Remarks