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(1932-1943)

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The European Axis policy remains largely unwritten. Little is known about the factors that united or divided the Fascist regime and the Nazi Reich regarding the post-war order. Furthermore, even less is known about the Italian plans for a fascist Europe, which wartime events soon relegated to the margins of Axis policy. This book reconstructs the debate on the new European order developed from the 1930s to the spring of 1943 by Fascist politicians, philosophers, writers, anthropologists, and geographers. The debate progressed alongside the evolution of the international framework and in parallel with the war. The diachronic examination of these projects, where distinctive elements of Fascist ideology were instrumentally entwined with Latin and Catholic tradition, allows us to recover the thread of relations between Italy and Germany and between Italy and the minor allies of the Axis. The very choice of words - Fascist Europe, Axis Europe, Catholic Europe or Europe of Nations - reflects a shift in the balance of power: from collaboration to competition, from fear to an attempt to regain prominence. In 1943, the idea of a Europe of nations with an

explicitly anti-German intent was the final, unrealistic assertion toward a new order where Axis Europe was not just Nazi Europe.