

Nationalism, Europeanism, Cosmopolitanism: Layers of Identity in Italian History Teaching

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During the last twenty years Italian school has experienced a continuous set of reforms, which have only recently come to an end. During this process history programs have undergone – much more than any other school subject – deep changes mostly politically motivated. An initial opening to cosmopolitanism, introduced under a center-left government, has been criticized by politicians and historians because considered a threat to Italian identity, and the following center-right government has rejected and replaced it with a program based on Italian and European history and identity, also with a Christian color. The following governments have changed many times the programs, and the outcome is quite blurred, with the programs for the primary school more multicultural and those for the secondary school more Eurocentric. I will illustrate this process on the background of the educational policies of other European States.