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Italian Public Law, Regional Constitutionalism, and Contemporary European Jurisprudence

Prof. Dr. Marco Rossi, Faculty of Law, Sapienza University of Rome, Italian Republic
m.rossi@uniroma1.it

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Abstract

This research paper presents an in-depth critical analysis of modern Italian jurisprudence, constitutional doctrine, and public governance. Focusing on the 1948 Constitution of the Italian Republic, asymmetric regional devolution (Regioni a statuto speciale e ordinario), and the influential rulings of the Constitutional Court (Corte Costituzionale), this study examines how Italian legal institutions navigate multi-level governance within the European Union framework. Additionally, it investigates advancements in Roman law traditions, digital public administration, and environmental constitutional protections.

Keywords: depth critical analysis , Italian legal , public administration

1. Introduction: Italian Legal Traditions and Roman Law Foundations

The Italian legal system occupies a pivotal position in European legal history, rooted in the classical heritage of Roman jurisprudence, medieval glossators, and modern civil law codification. Centred around venerable law faculties such as Sapienza University of Rome (founded in 1303) and the University of Bologna, Italian legal scholarship has continuously refined constitutional theory, public law, and statutory interpretation.

From foundational doctrines of administrative legality to contemporary constitutional review, Italian jurists have led critical debates on fundamental rights, state sovereignty, and judicial independence.

This paper explores contemporary Italian scholarship, examining constitutional regionalism, European legal integration, digital administration, and comparative civil jurisprudence.

2. Constitutional Order, the Corte Costituzionale, and Rights Protection

The promulgation of the 1948 Italian Constitution established a democratic republic founded on labor, personal dignity, and solidarity principles. Law faculties in Rome and Bologna have extensively analyzed how the Constitutional Court (Corte Costituzionale) acts as the guardian of constitutional balance.

Through landmark decisions, the Constitutional Court enforces constitutional values, resolves jurisdictional conflicts between state and regional powers, and safeguards core democratic principles.

This body of research provides essential frameworks for understanding how constitutional courts resolve complex socio-political tensions while guaranteeing fundamental human rights.

3. Regionalism, Multi-Level Governance, and Decentralized Public Law

Italy's constitutional structure features a unique model of regionalism, distinguishing between ordinary status regions and special status regions (Regioni a statuto speciale).

Italian public law scholars analyze the constitutional reform dynamics, local fiscal autonomy, and legislative competence distribution across territorial entities.

This discourse highlights mechanisms for maintaining national unity while accommodating regional cultural, economic, and geographic specificities.

4. European Integration, Administrative Harmonization, and Public Sector Reforms

As a founding member state of the European Union, Italy actively shapes European public law and administrative harmonization.

Italian scholars critically evaluate the interaction between domestic courts, the Council of State (Consiglio di Stato), and the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

Recent research focuses on administrative efficiency, public procurement compliance, and public sector modernization under European governance standards.

5. Digital Administration, Environmental Constitutionalism, and AI Ethics

Italy has embraced constitutional innovation by explicitly integrating environmental protection, biodiversity, and ecosystem safeguards into Articles 9 and 41 of the Constitution.

Concurrently, Italian legal researchers lead interdisciplinary studies on digital administrative law, algorithmic transparency, and ethical AI deployment in public services.

These scholarly contributions establish crucial legal boundaries ensuring that technological and ecological transitions adhere strictly to constitutional guarantees.

6. Conclusion: The Italian Paradigm in Contemporary Global Scholarship

The study of Italian public law demonstrates a harmonious synthesis of historical scholarship, constitutional flexibility, and European integration. The Italian model offers invaluable insights into multi-level governance and legal protection.

By connecting Roman legal history with constitutional review, regional devolution, and digital governance, Italian jurisprudence remains a cornerstone of continental legal scholarship.

Ultimately, contemporary Italian public law demonstrates that constitutional vitality relies upon a continuous commitment to human dignity, regional balance, and democratic legitimacy.

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